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OEO Report Shows Jews, Primarily Elderly Jews, Underserved In Anti-Poverty Programs

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6 (JTA)--The Office of Economic Opportunity, investigating charges that Jewish poor in New York City are systematically denied participation in anti-poverty programs, has found that poverty program staff personnel supplied information that was not matched by "authoritative" data regarding Jews on the lower East Side and in the city's Morrisians and Brownsville sections. The OEO said in its report to Rep. James H. Scheuer (D., N.Y.) who demanded the investigation, that in four other areas of the city program personnel were "unable to furnish an estimated ethnic or religious breakdown on the number of participants." In making the document public, Scheuer said, "This report clearly indicates that Jews—particularly elderly Jews—are being underserved by OEO programs in New York." The Congressman added, "I can state from my own experience that the situation regarding elderly Jews is equally applicable to the elderly of other faiths and ethnic groups in the city—particularly the Irish and Italians."

The investigation initiated by Scheuer stemmed from charges by S. Elly Rosen, executive director of the Association of Jewish Anti-Poverty Workers, who testified June 25 before an ad hoc subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor. Officials of the New York City Human Resources Administration informed Scheuer on Aug. 2 that Rosen's testimony was "fundamentally correct." Rosen had also complained that Jewish youngsters from poor families seeking to register for youth group activities in city anti-poverty projects were harassed, physically assaulted and told they did not belong in the programs which benefit mostly blacks and Puerto Ricans. The HRA is to submit its findings by Wednesday. The General Accounting Office will comment on both the OEO and HRA reports by Friday, Scheuer said that if the reports substantiated Rosen's allegations he would seek legislation to rectify the situation. The OEO report said that all efforts to locate valid statistical data on the location, number and income of Jews in New York City were "fruitless." The report cited as an example the lower East Side where anti-poverty staff people contended that "there were less than 1000 income eligible Jews" while "more authoritative data from a census bureau study and another from the Department of Labor plus information from local settlement houses indicate considerably more."

The report said a similar situation existed in Morrisiana in The Bronx and Brownsville in Brooklyn "where staff indicated there were no eligible Jews, yet local Jewish leaders and sociologists contend there is an appreciable number of impoverished elderly Jews living in the areas." The report said Rosen's allegation that Jews are systematically excluded from the city's anti-poverty program, while "imprecise, is not totally devoid of validity." Two designated poverty areas—Williamsburg and Crown Heights—have "good Jewish participation as recipients." In Far Rockaway, 90,000 of a population of 97,000 are estimated to be Jewish and of these approximately 18,000 are impoverished elderly Jews. But the Far Rockaway poverty program limits its services to five small target areas consisting of 5000 poor of whom 90 percent are blacks, eight percent Puerto Rican and only two percent white and predominantly Jewish, the report said. It found a similar situation to exist in Coney Island where the poverty program serves 40,000 poor, 70 percent of whom are black or Puerto Rican. Yet most of the remaining residents in Coney Island are low income, elderly Jews. The report indicated that "whereas and insofar as Jews are excluded from poverty program participation it is less because they are Jewish than because they are elderly."

International Probe Into Terrorist Attempts To Blow Up Two El Al Airliners

TEL AVIV, Sept. 6 (JTA)—An international investigation was continuing today into terrorist attempts to blow up two El Al airliners in midair over Europe last week. Although most of the details are still lacking, it was learned today that disaster was averted only because the activating devices in two suitcases filled with explosives failed to function. It was also learned that the suitcases were brought aboard the planes by innocent passengers—two young girls, one from Holland and one from Peru—who were apparently duped into doing it by unidentified young men they had recently met. Airports all over Europe have been alerted meanwhile against possible new sabotage attempts. International intelligence agencies have already warned governments and aviation authorities of the possibility of renewed sabotage activity by Arab terrorists who, no longer able to strike at Israel from Jordan or Lebanon, may make targets of El Al or other planes. At the same time, El Al announced that it would institute new strict security measures and Israel's Cabinet discussed the airline's security measures. Shimon Peres, Minister of Transport and Communications, stated after the Cabinet meeting that the sabotage efforts represented a new means of terrorism despite the fact that they had been unsuccessful. The new sabotage attempts coincided almost to the day with last year's multiple hijacking of one British and two American airliners by terrorists of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the aborted attempt to seize an El Al jet in the air over Britain. According to an unconfirmed report here today, a hijack attempt against another El Al jet was foiled at London Airport last week.

The report said that a toy pistol was smuggled aboard the airliner inside a cake by a girl who claimed she received it from an unknown person. Aviation officials believe the attempt may have been a "dry run" by a terrorist group to test El Al security measures which have since been tightened. The first inkling that anything untoward had occurred came last Friday when the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported that policemen were inspecting passengers' luggage at the customs checkpoints at Lydda Airport. According to information disclosed today, the explosives were placed aboard El Al jets last week in London and Rome. In one instance a Dutch girl unknowingly carried an explosive-filled suitcase aboard an Israel-bound El Al jet at the request of a young man described as a "hippie" type whom she had met at a travel agency. According to the girl's story he proposed marriage and both decided to go to Israel. Shortly before their departure, however, the man said he couldn't make the same plane but would follow her on the next. He asked her to take one suitcase for him so that he could avoid paying overweight charges. The girl boarded the plane without disclosing that she was carrying luggage of unknown content. But she told the story to a young Israeli passenger and at his suggestion they delivered the mysterious suitcase to security authorities when they landed at Lydda. There the suitcase was found to contain explosives. The

Peruvian girl told a similar story of how she was befriended by a dark haired young man who managed to switch suitcases with her on the way to the airport. That suitcase was also filled with explosives and had a defective activating device. Authorities here are convinced that both girls are innocent inasmuch as they would not knowingly have taken such deadly devices aboard a plane in which they were passengers.

El Al Passengers Undergo Intensive Security Check At Heathrow Airport

LONDON, Sept. 6 (JTA)--Two hundred passengers boarding an El Al jumbo jet flight to Israel were delayed for more than two hours at Heathrow Airport today as security officers carried out a meticulous search of parcels, examined shoes and even checked pens for concealed explosives. The intensive security check was carried out in the wake of yesterday's disclosure that Arab terrorists attempted to blow up two El Al Boeing 707 jets last week. Today's passengers queued up to be frisked by uniformed police. Two armed guards travelled on the airliner to protect it from a possible hijack attempt. Passengers on a BOAC VC-10 flight to Israel went through an electronic check of their persons and had their luggage examined before boarding the plane.

Lydda Airport Paralyzed By Strike Of 800 Civil Aviation Workers

TEL AVIV, Sept. 6 (JTA)--Lydda Airport was paralyzed by a sudden strike of 800 civil aviation workers this afternoon. The employees left their jobs without warning to protest alleged red tape in meeting their wage demands. Incoming flights were diverted to airfields in other countries. Planes ready to take off discharged their passengers. El Al ordered its planes at foreign airports not to take off for Israel until the strike ends and has instructed all passengers not to come to Lydda until further notice. The strikers said they would handle emergency landings and military planes. The wildcat strike at Lydda exacerbated the situation caused by the continuing strike of customs officials which has halted all cargo movements at the airport and on the docks of Ashdod. The customs officers manned their posts only to check passenger luggage for explosives in the aftermath of terrorist attempts to blow up two El Al jets last week. But goods overflowed the warehouses at Lydda and Ashdod and some were piled outside. Meanwhile, 26 customs inspectors stationed at the Jordan River bridges returned to work last night after being threatened with prison terms if they continued their strike. The officials, though civilians, have been seconded to the military government and are under its authority. When they defied a back-to-work order issued Friday by Brig. Gen. Raphael Vardi, they were summarily tried by a military court and sentenced to prison terms. But they were offered pardons if they returned to work immediately. The act brought a public outcry against the military trial of civilians.

Heads Of Two Israeli Delegations To USSR Say They Were Treated Cordially By Hosts

PARIS, Sept. 6 (JTA)--The heads of two Israeli delegations that arrived here yesterday after attending international conferences in the Soviet Union reported that their groups were treated with utmost cordiality and friendliness by their Russian hosts. Prof. Mark Mozes, whose nine-man group of Israeli doctors spent two weeks in the USSR, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "if anything, we were given friendlier and more cordial treatment than the other delegations." Prof. A. Pines, whose three-member delegation attended an international conference on the history of science in Moscow, reported that the organizers--the Soviet delegation--had asked him to chair one session and that the Israeli flag, along with flags of other nations, was flown outside the conference building throughout the gathering. Prof. Mozes refused to speculate on the political implications of the Soviet attitude toward the visiting Israeli doctors who attended a conference of surgeons and toured parts of Russia. "I can only report objectively what I have seen. It is not for me to draw the implications of these gestures," Dr. Mozes said. He said that the Soviet hosts at times seemed to go out of their way to extend "as friendly an attitude as possible" to their Israeli colleagues. He reported that he was invited by the Dean of the Medical School to be his luncheon guest. "The Dean and his three top assistants took me to lunch and discussed with me freely, without the slightest inhibitions, all the subjects which I raised, medical or more general," Dr. Mozes said. "All the questions I asked were freely answered. As far as I know, no other foreign delegate received such a personal invitation."

Dr. Mozes described his delegation's visit to the memorial at Babi Yar in the Ukrainian village where 40,000 Jews were massacred by the Nazis during World War II. He said his group was accompanied on the tour by 20 other delegates from different countries. An inscription on the memorial in Russian states: "To the memory of the 90,000 people murdered here by the Nazis." There is no mention of the religion of the victims, Prof. Mozes reported, but the Intourist guide who accompanied them said the victims included 40,000 Jews and 50,000 others. "At no point did he seem to want to hide the identity of the victims," Prof. Mozes said. Asked to comment about the recent arrival in Israel of human bones, allegedly the bones of Jewish victims of Babi Yar brought to Israel by four American students, Prof. Mozes said "This simply seems to be impossible. It is absurd. The bones of the victims were buried by the Nazis who poured chemical substances over them until they disintegrated. The site itself is covered with flowers and trees and it seems out of the question that human bones could be found here." (The students who brought the bones to Israel claimed to have found them at Babi Yar and smuggled them out of Russia. The bones were buried in Israel with full religious rites by the Chief Rabbinate which apparently accepted the story without question.)

CO Arrested After Failing To Report At Recruiting Office

JERUSALEM, Sept. 6 (JTA)--An 18-year-old conscientious objector who failed to present himself at the recruiting office when his draft date came up, was arrested last night after a two-week search by police. The youngster, Reuben Lessman of Jerusalem, was one of four COs who published an open letter to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan last month refusing military service because they didn't want to become "oppressors." Another of the four, Dov Gall, presented himself for induction. The others, Gloria Neumann of Tel Aviv and Miss Irit Yaacobi of Jerusalem are scheduled for induction next month.

Anti-Semite Beats Father Of Defendant In First Leningrad Trial

TEL AVIV, Sept. 6 (JTA)--An anti-Semitic Russian neighbor beat up Moshe Mandeleovich, the father of Yosif Mandeleovich, one of the defendants in the first Leningrad trial, it was learned here today. According to the report the neighbor who had frequently expressed hostility toward Jews broke into the Mandeleovich's flat, pushed his wife aside and attacked the elderly man. Mandeleovich was hospitalized and his wife was sent home after treatment. A daughter summoned police who arrested the neighbor but released him a short while later, the report said.

Eban: Israel Ready To Use Security Council As Forum On Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Sept. 6 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said in a television interview last night that Israel was ready to use the Security Council as a forum for making her stand on Jerusalem known to the world. The Foreign Minister rejected a proposal by Yitzhak Rabin of the National Religious Party that Israel boycott Security Council sessions on Jerusalem. He said that such a course would exaggerate the importance of the UN as a body able to impose decisions but underrate its importance as a loud-speaker to the world. "Israel intends to make the fullest possible use of this means to make her stand known," Eban said. He suggested that the Security Council look into the situation in Belfast, Northern Ireland, instead of Jerusalem "where tranquility and peaceful relations have reigned for months and years now." Eban warned that hostilities may break out in the Middle East if the Arabs were encouraged by continued U.S. failure to supply Israel with Phantom jets and imagined that the military balance had shifted in their favor. He commented on U.S. Secretary of State Rogers' remark at a press conference in Washington on Friday that an effort would be made to reach an agreement on reopening the Suez Canal by the end of this year. Eban observed that four months is not too short or too long a time and does not suggest that the U.S. intends to exert pressure on Israel. Israeli officials did not comment directly on Rogers' press conference remark that what Israel has done so far "is not viable insofar as an agreement is concerned." But Foreign Ministry sources recalled that Rogers had stated, before his visit to Israel last May, that proposals for an interim settlement submitted by Israel were a basis for negotiations.

Militant Soviet Jewish Youth Unafraid To Speak Their Minds Publicly, Says Smolar

NEW YORK, Sept. 6 (JTA)--The "courage" of today's militant Soviet youth "is the difference between them and the other generations of (Soviet) Jews," according to Boris Smolar, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "They don't mince words," he continues. "They say what's on their mind, and they say it very courageously, and they say it in the presence of non-Jewish colleagues--who, by the way, sympathize with them." The aim of Soviet Jewish youth, notes Smolar, is simply to discover "Who are we?" The JTA Editor Emeritus makes these comments in an interview to be telecast Wednesday morning on WPIX's "Jewish Dimension" program. Smolar tells host Jerry Goodman, executive director of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, that anti-Semitism in the USSR is "very strong" and is "encouraged" by the government, but that it is not the "physical" kind of anti-Semitism practiced by the Nazis.

It is strongest, he says, in the Ukraine, which is a "special situation" because it has long been known as "the breadbasket of Russia." There, he says, the secessionists who had freedom of operation under the Polish regime are "masking their secessionist ambitions with intensified anti-Semitism." Smolar is the author of "Soviet Jewry: Today and Tomorrow," just published by Macmillan and scheduled for release Sept. 16. The other guest on the program, presented by the American Jewish Committee, is Richard Maass, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. He says of Soviet militants: "In this country they would not be considered militant at all. They would simply be on the lower end of the spectrum of the civil rights demonstrator." They are not anti-Soviet, he contends, and do not condemn "the Russian system as such." They want only one thing: "They want out." The Soviet Jewish protest movement, Maass continues, has "grown to rather large proportions" and is still growing, and increased anti-Semitism has in fact "caused it to rise up and to assert itself."

Three Black Panthers Released From Jail Pending Trial

JERUSALEM, Sept. 6 (JTA)--Three members of the Black Panthers, including leaders Saadia Marciano and Charlie Bliton, were released from jail today although they had been remanded to custody for five days after giving themselves up in Zion Square last week. The Panthers were wanted in connection with an illegal demonstration in Jerusalem two weeks ago that ended in a pitched battle with police. A police spokesman said they were also under suspicion of theft. He said there was no point keeping them in custody before their trial due to begin in a few days.

Zadok Says Israel Prepared To Negotiate With Arab States

PARIS, Sept. 6 (JTA)--The president of Israel's Parliamentary Committee for Security and Foreign Affairs, Chaim Zadok, stressed that Israel is prepared to negotiate at any moment with the Arab states and also described the current cease-fire as "an important and positive step" towards peace. Zadok's declaration, at the session of the Interparliamentary Union, came in reply to attacks from a number of Arab states including the Kuwaiti delegate who in his address described Israel as "Zionist Nazis." The Israeli delegation voted on behalf of the Indian resolution which condemned the Pakistani atrocities in the East Pakistan crisis.

David Rivlin Assumes Post As Consul General Of Israel In New York

NEW YORK, Sept. 6 (JTA)--David Rivlin arrived here Thursday night to take up his post as Consul General of Israel in New York. He replaces Rehavam Amir who left New York recently to take up the post of Ambassador of Israel in Bangkok, Thailand. During the last two years the 48-year-old diplomat served in Jerusalem as Political Secretary to the Foreign Minister. His previous diplomatic assignments were Consul in New York and Philadelphia, Consul General in Montreal and spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. Before joining the Israeli Foreign Ministry Rivlin worked as a journalist and radio commentator. He established and directed the Broadcasting Station of the Israel Defense Forces.

Schroeder's Visit To Israel Fails To Spark Demonstrations

JERUSALEM, Sept. 6 (JTA)--Gerhard Schroeder, the former West German Foreign Minister who once belonged to the Nazi Party and the SA (stormtroopers) was received by Deputy Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Navon today after touring Jerusalem. Schroeder's arrival at Lydda Airport yesterday was without incident although a group of concentration camp survivors and resistance fighters protested his invitation and threatened to demonstrate. The German diplomat did not visit the Yad Vashem memorial to Nazi victims where West Germany's incumbent Foreign Minister, Walter Scheel laid a wreath on his visit here in July. Scheel was a target of demonstrators and hecklers but Schroeder's visit has aroused only mild controversy. In contrast to the SS, membership in the SA is not automatically associated with war crimes.

ZOA Convention Permits Kahane To Speak: JDL Leader Calls For Aliya

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 6 (JTA)--The Zionist Organization of America last night became the first major Jewish organization to give a platform to Rabbi Meir Kahane, national chairman of the Jewish Defense League, Rabbi Kahane, who turned up here uninvited and unexpected, addressed 1000 delegates at a plenary session of the ZOA's annual convention for 20 minutes after ZOA president Herman Weisman told the convention, "It is essential to the democratic process to give a fair opportunity to be heard to those with whom we don't agree." Rabbi Kahane, who had requested the right to speak, discussed aliya--immigration to Israel--and his audience was attentive and courteous. He made no reference to Prof. Mikhail Zand, the Soviet Jewish emigre scholar who appeared at the ZOA convention as guest of honor at an earlier session and blasted the "violent tactics" of the JDL which he said were alienating Russian intellectuals sympathetic to Soviet Jewry's struggle for emigration rights. The main point of Rabbi Kahane's speech was that American Jews must emigrate to Israel because of an alleged rise of anti-Semitism in the United States. According to him, the future of American Jews is "bleak." He contended that "In prosperity, those who dislike us are just quiet haters, but when life becomes hard--as it is today--they become active haters." He warned that American Jewry faced the prospect of another holocaust. Requesting the floor in rebuttal, Weisman urged that those Jews who want to go to Israel do so, but he added, "We strongly reject the premise that the conditions and status of Jews in America are jeopardized. Jews, or any other group, have no legitimate basis for apprehension" because "the right to be different is too well entrenched in the national and constitutional life of the U.S."

Weisman, who was re-elected by the convention to a second one-year term as ZOA president, said that offering Rabbi Kahane the right to address the convention "does not alter my attitude of disapproval of that for which Kahane has made himself famous... demonstrations which besides being illegal stimulate the false and harmful opinion that Jews sanction violence and disorder." At an earlier session, Rep. Gerald Ford, House Minority Leader, said that the weapons Israel needs from the United States for its defense must be made available to it not by bargaining processes each year but through a durable long-range plan. "Whatever diminishes the long-range security of the United States diminishes the long-range security of Israel in the free world," he declared. The Michigan Republican emphasized that President Nixon's policy "is and will continue to be to strengthen the forces of peace and political stability throughout the Middle East and to reduce the risk of direct U.S.-Soviet military confrontation in that area." He criticized "the inconsistency of some members of Congress who shout how they would strengthen Israel and then vote to weaken the United States" by opposing funds for advanced research on new weapons and for production line weapons. The ZOA announced a project to convert the agricultural high school in the Kfar Silver complex in Israel to a center of secondary education designed primarily to serve disadvantaged youths from North Africa and other Moslem countries. Weisman said the project was aimed at narrowing the gulf between Oriental and Western Jews in Israel and would help meet Israel's needs for a growing force of skilled labor.

Leon Ilutovich, the ZOA's national executive director, said the plan called for enlarging the campus to accommodate 1000 students instead of the present 400. He said it would also enable the ZOA to expand its summer programs at Kfar Silver for American youths. Another event at the convention was the presentation of the Jewish National Fund's 70th anniversary silver medal to Dr. Emanuel Neumann, a past president of the ZOA. Abram Salomon reported that the Jewish National Fund has since 1901 planted 100 million trees, reclaimed 125,000 acres and built 1,500 miles of roads in Palestine and later Israel. Salomon, executive vice president of the JNF, also announced that Jewish leaders from 20 countries plus Israel will convene Oct. 17 in the Casino in Basel, Switzerland, where the JNF was initiated. In resolutions adopted at the closing session, the convention voiced opposition to any scheme initiated by the USSR or the Arab states at the United Nations which would "deprive Israel of the ability to defend itself and uphold its legitimate rights;" called on the President and Congress to provide Israel with the necessary weapons for its defense on a regular basis; opposed any interim arrangement to reopen the Suez Canal which would permit Egyptian forces to cross into the Sinai; stated its "complete accord" with Israel's rejection of the Rogers Plan and the Jarring proposals "which seek to impose upon Israel a solution which would deprive it of its inherent rights."

Israeli Youth Becoming Americanized With Concern For Marijuana, Long Hair

ZIEGLERVILLE, Pa., Sept. 6 (JTA)--Israel's young generation is becoming acculturated to "Americanism" with its concern for "pop songs, long hair and marijuana," according to the Israeli Vice Consul in Philadelphia, Zvi Gabay, who just returned from leave in Israel following a three-year tour of duty abroad. Gabay spoke disapprovingly yesterday about the cultural situation in Israel at a World Union of Jewish Students' workshop session here dealing with "Jews in Islamic Societies." The workshop was part of the program of the first international Jewish student seminar ever held in America. Some 280 students from around the world are attending the five-day conference which began Thursday and ends tonight. It was organized by WUJS, a federation of Jewish student organizations in more than 30 countries. The more than two dozen workshop participants discussed the conflict in Israel between the Ashkenazi culture of the European Jews, and the Sephardic culture of the Middle Eastern and Oriental Jews. Gabay said that Israeli youth are adopting the culture of American youth, not Ashkenazi or Sephardic culture. But when someone suggested that this development would be "the death of Israel," 21-year-old Yaffa Goldstein of Bnei Brak, a Bar Ilan University student said reassuringly, "It will pass" and noted that pop culture is a universal phenomenon. Several participants, particularly Israeli and Americans, talked about the merits of striving for a melting pot culture as opposed to allowing different groups in Israel to assert their distinct cultural identities.

It was pointed out that Israeli education stresses European Jewish history but only minimally delves into the history of Jews in the Orient and Middle Eastern countries. Miss Goldstein said schools should provide a homogeneous education which would cover both cultures. But another Bar Ilan student, Shimon Ochayon, 25, of Beersheba, who came to Israel from Morocco at the age of nine, insisted that any combination of the two traditions be "representative" of each and not a "compromise." Ochayon criticized the attempt by Tel Aviv's Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren, former chief chaplain of Israel's armed forces, to synthesize the two cultures' religious traditions in the Army prayer book. He said the alidur is a synthesis of the nusach Ashkenazi and the nusach Sephardi, both of which actually are European traditions and does not really include the minhag Sephardi which reflects Oriental Sephardic traditions.