



# daily news bulletin

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## SPECIAL TO JTA

### CHRISTIAN SCHOLAR RAPS NEW PLAY

#### AS POTENTIALLY ANTI-JEWISH

'Jesus Christ, Superstar' Blames

Jewish Priesthood For Jesus'

Suffering, Crucifixion

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (JTA)--"Jesus Christ, Superstar," the rock opera opening on Broadway tomorrow night, has been criticized by a Presbyterian scholar as "less than fair in depicting the role of Jewish individuals and institutions in the Passion of Jesus, as we know it from the New Testament." The critic, Dr. Gerald S. Strober, active in intergroup affairs and consultant on religious curriculum to the American Jewish Committee, claims that the show "unambiguously lays the primary responsibility for Jesus' suffering and crucifixion to the Jewish priesthood...portrayed as hideously inhuman and satanically evil; contemptuous, callous and bloodthirsty." This concept, he says, is not borne out by the New Testament.

Dr. Strober attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, received his master's degree in Jewish culture from New York University, has been pastor of the Surrey (N.H.) Congregational Church, has served on the staff of an inner-city church in Brooklyn, and has been acting director of the History Department at Barrington (R.I.) College. A spokesman for the AJCommittee described him as "a prominent Protestant educator." Dr. Strober, who prepared his seven-page analysis of "Superstar" at the request of the AJCommittee, comments:

"In some cases, the emotional coloring is deepened to make Jewish individuals and their acts appear more sinister than the gospel record warrants. In other cases, historical facts are enlarged, modified or glossed over so as to create black-vs.-white contrasts where the record indicates only grays. These changes may have been made innocently for dramatic reasons, but their potential for harm remains." Dr. Strober, who read the text of the show--available in the complete original cast album--and attended several preview performances, adds that "Even more important, perhaps, the play bypasses the transcendental meaning of the Passion, by 'shuff(ing) the responsibility (for Jesus' death) among the various human agents' instead of 'encouraging the audience to identify with the crucifiers.'"

#### Seen As Possible Backward Step

At another point, Dr. Strober notes, "the priests are shown manhandling and punching Jesus and joining Herod in a dance that mocks him"--a sequence that "is freely invented," since "according to Luke 23:6-11, the chief priests stood by as Herod questioned Jesus, following their accusation." In another scene, the educator writes, the production "wordlessly yet unmistakably implicates the priests in the crucifixion sentence upon Jesus," without, he says, biblical authority. Pontius Pilate, continues Dr. Strober, is depicted as "the image of reason and patience...a rather weak but well-meaning man who sympathizes with Jesus from the moment he meets him and is kept from helping him only by the demands of the mob."

Dr. Strober states: "This entire portrait of Pilate, designed to minimize his role in Jesus' scourging, trial and death and thereby maximize

that of Jesus' Jewish antagonists, is wildly unscriptural and unhistorical. Roman and other sources leave no doubt that Pilate was an exceptionally harsh governor even by the far from lenient standards of Roman occupation government." Dr. Strober also comments: "It may be worth noting that in the current performance the role of Judas, a victim of Jewish perfidy, is played by a black man."

The educator concedes that "Jesus Christ, Superstar" avoids the worst pitfalls into which earlier works of the type have fallen," in that "it does not repeat the myth of the Jews as Christ killers condemned by God for all time; it does not claim that all Jews of Jesus' time knew him and forsook him." But, Dr. Strober concludes, "In arbitrarily laying nearly all the blame on a group which the viewer knows to be Jewish whether the text says so or not, 'Jesus Christ, Superstar' is, if nothing else, insufficiently thoughtful, potentially mischievous and possibly a backward step on the road toward improved Christian-Jewish relations."

#### Borders On Oberammergau Passion Play

Copies of the Strober report have been sent to thousands of Jewish community leaders and to all the New York media critics as part of an "intensive educational campaign," according to Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs of the AJCommittee, who in an introduction says he hopes the study "will help sensitize the reader to the issues and thereby contribute to the advancement of Christian-Jewish understanding in the context of the popular arts." Rabbi Tanenbaum added to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the show, which he saw in preview, was "potentially a very harmful thing...a defamation of Jews." He said the production "undermines the belief in the divinity of Jesus" and "perpetuates the myth of the Jews' primary responsibility for the death of Jesus."

Jews, he continued, "are the villains of the piece," and "we stand behind every word in the (Strober) document." An AJCommittee spokesman labeled "completely untrue" a claim to the JTA by a spokesman for producer Robert Stigwood that religious leaders have been "generally enthusiastic" about "Superstar." The AJCommittee spokesman quoted from two letters to Rabbi Tanenbaum--one from Rabbi Leon Fram of Detroit, calling the show "anti-Semitic," and one from Sidney Lawrence, head of the Kansas City Jewish Community Relations Bureau, concluding that the "anti-Semitic overtones...border on the sins of Oberammergau," a reference to the German Passion Play. The producer's spokesman said the album of "Superstar" has already sold three million copies. Rabbi Tanenbaum reported that the show is sold out until February.

#### GRENADE EXPLOSION AT WALLING WALL INJURES 16; THREE FROM US

JERUSALEM, Oct. 11 (JTA)--Worshippers flocked to the Walling Wall today but one of the access routes remained sealed off as a result of Saturday night's grenade explosion which injured 13 Jews and three Arabs. The injured included two American students, Regina Fox, 26, of San Francisco and Judith Kasten, 18, of New York

City, both enrolled at Tel Aviv University. Jack Greenblatt, 29, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. who arrived in Israel as an immigrant last August was still in the hospital yesterday. His condition was described as serious but not grave. Others hospitalized were Irina Vranova, 17, a recent immigrant from the Soviet Union and Rachel Goldberg, six, whose conditions were described as satisfactory. A narrow alley leading to the Wailing Wall was closed to the public immediately after the blast.

Police have detained 68 Arabs for questioning, most of them residents of the area. The incident did not deter worshippers and tourists who packed the plaza at the Wailing Wall last night to usher in the Simchat Torah festival. Police estimated the crowd at more than 10,000. Israel's Minister for Religious Affairs, Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, blamed the grenade incident on last month's Security Council resolution condemning Israeli activities in Jerusalem which, he claimed encouraged the terrorist attackers. Warhaftig said the incident proved that the struggle for Jerusalem was first and foremost a struggle for the Jewish right of access to the holy places which was denied during 19 years of Jordanian rule.

#### **RABIN URGES ISRAEL TO TAKE FORCEFUL, WELL-WEIGHTED STAND AGAINST NEW US TACTICS IN MIDEAST**

JERUSALEM, Oct. 11 (JTA)--Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Yitzhak Rabin, called on Israel to take a "forceful but well-weighted stand" against the new American diplomatic tactics in the Middle East even if that may lead to further delays in the supply of "certain items of military equipment" to Israel. Rabin made his remarks in a taped radio interview broadcast here yesterday. He accused the United States of having overstepped its role as a middleman in the Israel-Egyptian dispute. Rabin was commenting on Secretary of State William P. Rogers' speech to the Security Council last week which Israel regards as a shift toward the Egyptian position on an interim settlement to reopen the Suez Canal.

In related developments, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt began talks in Moscow with Soviet leaders aimed at getting still more Russian military equipment. Soviet Premier Aleksei Kosygin, who ended a three-day visit to Morocco yesterday in order to fly home to greet Sadat, warned in Rabat that the Middle East situation "can degenerate into conflict" and urged a "rapid" and "peaceful" solution. Rogers expressed cautious optimism in Washington that Israel and Egypt would reach an interim accord on the Suez Canal "because it is the only viable alternative" to war. Sadat stated Egypt's conditions for an interim settlement in an address to professors and students in Cairo on the eve of his departure for Moscow. According to the newspaper Al Ach-oar, he demanded an initial Israeli withdrawal some 20-30 miles inside Sinai to be followed by an Egyptian Army advance and re-occupation of strategic passes.

Sadat also called for a time limit on the ceasefire as long as there is no final peace settlement and demanded that Israel refrain from discussing Egypt's international boundary in an "insulting manner." Sadat also demanded that Israel refrain from annexing the Gaza Strip and give the inhabitants a choice of independence or incorporation into Egypt. Israeli circles claimed that Sadat's conditions had a striking similarity to the Rogers plan for settling the Mideast conflict. They noted that the boundaries outlined by the Egyptian president were the same as envisaged by the Rogers plan except that Rogers acknowledged the need for special status for Sharm el-Sheikh which commands the Straits of Tiran and Sadat refuses to accept this. Israel has

categorically rejected the Rogers plan which was first proposed in Dec. 1970. According to the Cairo newspaper, Sadat disclosed that diplomatic contacts between Egypt and the US were resumed several days ago but complained that "the Americans are playing with our nerves."

(Political circles in London said today that Sadat's visit to Moscow has three major objectives: To find out exactly what the Russians have been discussing with the Americans on the Mideast; to obtain more arms; and to enhance Sadat's credibility at home. The circles said that Soviet-Egyptian relations were not as good as they used to be before last spring's pro-Communist coup in Sudan was aborted. They said that part of Sadat's mission was to regain the confidence of the Kremlin leaders. According to arms experts in London, Egypt has over 2,000 Soviet tanks and enough aircraft for a successful campaign provided she has the tank crews and air crews to man them which is very doubtful.)

#### **PEACE PILOTS' WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN**

TEL AVIV, Oct. 11 (JTA)--Information is still unavailable as to the whereabouts of the pilot and co-pilot of a "peace plane" that took off from Israel last Wednesday and reportedly landed at Cairo after dropping flowers and leaflets over Israeli and Egyptian positions along the Suez Canal. The single-engined Piper Cub was piloted by Swami Dhanananda Vishnu, an Indian and Bren Jacobson who is Jewish. Sources here believe they may be held incommunicado by Egyptian authorities. Jacobson, 28, comes from New York and describes himself as a sculptor and friend of Vishnu whom he met in Canada. The two came to Israel from Ireland with the plane and announced several weeks ago that they planned to drop leaflets urging peace between Israel and Egypt. They had no permit to land in Egypt and Cairo radio warned that the plane would be shot at.

#### **AZERNIKOV SENTENCED TO 3 1/2 YEARS**

LONDON, Oct. 11 (JTA)--Dr. Boris Azernikov, the 26-year-old Soviet Jewish dentist charged with anti-Soviet activities, was found guilty by the Leningrad court Thursday and sentenced to three and a half years in a strict-regime labor camp, Jewish sources reported. Dr. Azernikov's trial opened Wednesday. Soviet Jewish sources who attended the public trial called the sentence extremely brutal, even for a Soviet criminal court, and said there was in fact insufficient evidence to convict him. Jewish sources have maintained that the defendant was the first Soviet Jew to be charged with activities against the state solely for applying for emigration to Israel. Dr. Azernikov admitted the activities but insisted they were not anti-Soviet.

#### **RUTH ALEKSANDROVICH DUE TO GO TO ISRAEL; FLANCE, FATHER, UNCLE TO EMIGRATE WITH HER**

TEL AVIV, Oct. 11 (JTA)--Ruth Aleksandrovich said yesterday in a telephone interview from Moscow that she expected to join her mother and other relatives in Israel by the end of this month. The 24-year-old Riga nurse was released from the Potma forced labor camp in Soviet Mordovia on Thursday after completing a one year sentence for alleged anti-Soviet activities. She was given an exit visa and is expected to leave for Israel with her fiancé, Isalah Averbuch; her father; and her uncle, Michael Aleksandrovich and his family, all of whom have visas. Miss Aleksandrovich spoke from her aunt's apartment in Moscow where she was given a party to celebrate her release.

### BEN-GURION PREDICTS HALF OF SOVIET JEWS WOULD MOVE TO ISRAEL IF ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE

TEL AVIV, Oct. 11 (JTA)--Former Premier David Ben-Gurion predicts that half of Russia's Jews would move to Israel if they were permitted to emigrate. Speaking at 85th birthday celebrations at his Sde Boker desert home, Ben-Gurion noted that "Israel must make preparations for such an eventuality." He repeated his vision of Israel becoming not a Sparta-like military nation but a center of learning and science radiating its knowhow to the whole world. Israel's security, he stressed, lies not in a modern army, although it is necessary, but in large-scale immigration.

Concurrently, he said, Israel must be exemplary in the areas of equality, freedom, tolerance, mutual aid, love of fellow men, and development of knowledge. In remarks at another celebration, Ben-Gurion reiterated to a gathering of new immigrants his view that one of Israel's chief tasks was to increase her three-million population to six million. Congratulatory messages were received by Ben-Gurion from President Nixon and former President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Nixon said: "Your 85th birthday is indeed a special occasion for your friends all over the world. You have won an important place in history as a founding father of a pioneering nation. And you have also won a place in the hearts of all who admire your courage, resolution and devotion to man's highest ideals. Mrs. Nixon joins me in extending warm congratulations to you along with our very best wishes for your health and happiness." Johnson said: "I extend best wishes on your 85th birthday. You indeed were one of the great statesmen of our times in the leadership of your people during the events climaxing in Israel's statehood and I pray you will live to see the lasting peace for which we all yearn established between Israel and her neighbors."

### 10,000 JEWS MARCH IN SOLIDARITY WITH SOVIET JEWS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 (JTA)--More than 10,000 Jews marched, sang and prayed in chilling rain storms yesterday in Washington, Long Island and Toronto to express solidarity with Soviet Jews on the occasion of Simchat Torah. The largest group, estimated at over 6,000 gathered on the soggy turf in front of the Washington Monument with five Torah scrolls saved from the Nazi holocaust to appeal to the Nixon administration to intercede on behalf of Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union. Afterwards the crowd marched three quarters of a mile up Constitution Ave. to the Lincoln Memorial with lulavs (palm fronds) esrogs and placards demanding freedom for Soviet Jews. The rally and march were sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington which said it was the largest such gathering to date despite the wet weather.

At Glen Cove, L.I., some 2,500 Jews carrying 100 Torahs protected from the rain by plastic covers marched to the Soviet United Nations Mission's residence where they held a two hour rally of prayers, dancing and singing to demand freedom for Russian Jews. The program was sponsored by the Long Island Council for Soviet Jewry. In Toronto, about 1,500 people, young and old, staged a Simchat Torah rally for Soviet Jews in Nathan Phillips Civic Square, arranged by the Canadian Jewish Congress. Dancing and singing continued until midnight despite the rain.

### HARRIS FAVORS AID TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 (JTA)--Sen. Fred Harris

(D., Okla.) a declared candidate for his party's Presidential nomination in 1972, said yesterday that he favored supplying Israel with arms and helping it "exist as an independent state." Harris made his statement in reply to questions on the NBC television program "Meet the Press." He said his program would base foreign policy on idealism. Asked how that would apply to the Middle East conflict, Harris, a former National Chairman of the Democratic Party replied, "I think Israel is a democratic country which is supported by its own people and we have, I think, some obligation to help balance out the armaments there which have been supplied by the Soviet Union and help protect the right of Israel to exist as an independent state."

### LIPSKY SAYS CHARGES AGAINST HIM MOTIVATED BY ANTI-SEMITISM

TEL AVIV, Oct. 11 (JTA)--Claude Lipsky, the 42-year-old Jewish financier wanted in France for alleged fraud and embezzlement, said yesterday that anti-Semitism was behind the charges against him and said that was why he came to Israel. Lipsky is a key figure in France's worst financial scandal in recent years involving his mutual fund company and another firm headed by Jews. Meeting newsmen here for the first time he said there were 15 similar mutual funds in France specializing in real estate investments but that the police were after only the two Jewish firms and that only the Jewish directors of these companies have been arrested. The non-Jewish directors are still at large and are not wanted by the police, he said.

Lipsky's firm has been accused of defrauding over 8,000 shareholders. He claimed that the Jewish firms gave shareholders the highest possible dividends on their investments and that the trouble started when a rival French firm persuaded the Finance Ministry that no honest company could pay such high rates. Lipsky said he came to Israel to fight for his good name and reputation because in France he would be jailed and could not prove his innocence. The French authorities are believed to be seeking Lipsky's extradition. An extradition treaty was signed between France and Israel in 1958 but was not ratified by France and is not in effect. Legal circles here say that Lipsky cannot be extradited but his visitor's visa can be rescinded if the Interior Ministry judges his presence in Israel undesirable.

### EVIDENCE FOUND OF JEWISH SETTLEMENTS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 11 (JTA)--The ruins of a 9th century synagogue at Khirbet Sussia, about 20 miles southeast of Hebron, was cited as evidence today that Jewish settlements in the Judean region continued well after the Moslem conquest in the 7th century. This and other recent archaeological finds were described at the convention of the Israel Exploration Society held here. Prof. Shmariya Guttman said the remnants found at Sussia were part of a once large synagogue that seems to have been used until the 9th century.

Two Hebrew inscriptions were found worked into an elaborate mosaic floor. Both mention the names of the donors. Prof. Avraham Biran, director of the government's department of antiquities, reported that a number of seven branched oil lamps dating from the 18th century BCE have been unearthed near Beit Shemesh in the Jerusalem foothills. He said they were believed to have been used for ritual purposes indicating that the site may have been a Canaanite sanctuary. Another find was a burial cave dating from the period of the Second Temple.

## HIAS PRAISES MITCHELL FOR EASING ENTRY OF SOVIET JEWS; SLAMS CRITICS

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (JTA)--United Hias Service, the worldwide Jewish migration agency, expressed gratification that Attorney General John Mitchell has agreed to use his legal authority to allow Soviet Jews to enter the United States under section 212 (d) (5) of the Immigration and Nationality Law, generally known as parole. Max M. Fisher, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, was also praised by HIAS for his effective leadership in interpreting to our government the various needs of Soviet Jews. Harold Friedman, president of United Hias Service, and Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive vice-president, lauded Mitchell for his action.

They had joined in the press conference held last Wednesday by Congressmen Emanuel Celler (D., N.Y.), Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D., N.J.) and Edward I. Koch (D., N.Y.), in which twelve other Congressmen of both political parties participated and at which it was announced that steps would be taken to implement this statute in behalf of Soviet Jewry. The agency indicated that the parole provision had been used with great success in the case of Hungarians in 1956, Chinese in 1961 and Cubans in 1965. "The United States," Friedman said, "has now taken a positive step to achieve family reunion after long periods of separation caused by war, revolution and other international crises. United Hias Service is prepared to assist in all cases that come to its attention."

### Relatives Urged To Contact Hias

HIAS noted that it is expected that Mitchell's action will facilitate the admission of Russian Jews who receive a passport and exit visa. The Jewish migration agency also expressed belief that many of the technicalities of the immigration and Nationality Law that caused delays in achieving this reunion will now be eliminated. Jacobson indicated that the agency currently has several thousand active cases on file and will proceed at once to re-examine them in the light of this new development. "However," he stated, "in order to achieve results in this major breakthrough, it is essential that American relatives initiate the process of preparing a letter of invitation (vysov) which is necessary under Soviet law, in order for the applicant to receive permission to leave."

HIAS, he said, is prepared to help and advise in the preparation of this letter of invitation, as well as other steps that may be required. Jacobson said that many American Jews may have lost contact with their relatives in the Soviet Union, and that in such cases United Hias Service, through its worldwide location service, can assist families in locating their relatives. He urged relatives in the Metropolitan New York area to communicate at once with United Hias Service, 200 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10003 (Tel.: 674-6800). Out-of-town residents should contact their local family agencies, which cooperate with HIAS.

HIAS, meanwhile, expressed strong disagreement with Zev Yaroslavsky, chairman of the California Students for Soviet Jewry, and Si Frumkin, chairman of the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews, for criticizing Mitchell's action. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported on Oct. 7 that Frumkin and Yaroslavsky termed Mitchell's offer to use his parole power "an exercise in futile rhetoric" because it constituted "a promise which neither has the backing nor the permanency of an act of Congress."

### SUCCAH DAMAGED BY VANDALS

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (JTA)--A succah on the

campus of Lehman College in The Bronx, one of the colleges in the City University system, was set afire, damaged and defaced by unknown vandals. The succah, made of wood, weeds, and branches was built on the college campus by the Hillel Foundation. An account of the incident appeared in the college undergraduate newspaper the "Meridian." The newspaper quoted Hillel president Steve Rosen as reporting that "during October 5, the second day of Succoth, someone tried and failed to overturn the succah. The vandal or vandals then set the succah on fire and painted a swastika on a poster attached to the structure."

Rosen said that "vandalism was not unique, asserting that every year it's the same thing." Nathan Kolodny, campus security director, told the "Meridian" that according to a guard, the fire was seen by campus police and quickly put out without the help of the fire department. Kolodny said that "the vandals escaped and there were no suspects." College officials insisted that the incident was not motivated by anti-Semitism.

### ZOA LEADER ASSAILS ZOA PRESIDENT'S ATTACK ON AZF

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (JTA)--An honorary vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America bitterly assailed the ZOA's president, Herman L. Welsman for making "intemperate and vituperative statements" against the mail ballot procedure selected by the American Zionist Federation for the election of American delegates to the World Zionist Congress. Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum, spiritual leader of the Jewish Center of Kew Garden Hills in Queens, said in an open letter to Welsman that he dissociated himself completely from the ZOA leader's stand. He defended Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the AZF, against Welsman's charge last month that the election procedure was a "travesty of democracy" and that the AZF had engaged in "illicit side deals" with three Zionist bodies to allocate delegate mandates among themselves.

Rabbi Kirshblum wrote: "You are casting aspersions against the honesty of the type of election proposed by the American Zionist Federation at a time when you know fully well that a non-profit election agency of proven integrity and experience will be employed to supervise the election. It is quite apparent that precisely because the postal elections, and not direct voting, will represent an affirmation of democracy that you are so much in fear of the former.... By your present statements you are becoming responsible for developing a serious crisis and causing irreparable damage primarily to the ZOA itself. You have no moral right to disenfranchise the 106,000 Jews, whom you claim as members of the ZOA."

Rabbi Kirshblum urged Welsman to "call upon all ZOA members to make a strenuous effort to roll up the strongest possible vote" and to stop "confusing and demoralizing our own members" by fighting the decision by more than 80 percent of the Election Committee to conduct balloting by mail.

### PRIZE FUND ESTABLISHED

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (JTA)--Establishment of the Harvey Prize Fund, through a contribution of \$1 million to the American Society for Technion was announced by Jacob Walter Ullmann, president of the Society. The income of the Fund will be used for an annual award to one or more individuals in recognition of distinguished accomplishments in science and technology and advancement of peace in the Middle East.