



# daily news bulletin

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## LEBANESE JEWISH LEADER IN SYRIAN JAIL; HELD UNDER INHUMAN CONDITIONS

PARIS, Oct. 17 (JTA)--The International Conference for Jews in Arab States revealed here that Albert Attalah, a prominent Lebanese Jewish leader who was kidnapped last month in Beirut, is being detained in a Syrian prison under "particularly inhuman conditions." The Conference, which is headed by the President of the French Senate, Alain Poirer, says that "without the slightest doubt, it is obvious now that Mr. Attalah was kidnapped in Beirut in order to be taken and detained in Syria."

According to reliable sources here, it seems that Attalah, who served as secretary general of the Council of Lebanese Jews, was suspected by the Syrians of having headed a Jewish network engaged in the rescue of Syrian Jews who wanted to flee the country. Attalah, who mysteriously disappeared from a central Beirut street on Sept. 8, was, according to these sources, kidnapped by Syrian agents. Syria has been trying for some time now to crush any Jewish attempt to help its small Jewish community flee abroad. According to the same sources, Attalah had been drugged and taken across the Lebanese-Syrian border aboard a Syrian ambulance. He has since been detained in a prison belonging to the Syrian "Deuxieme Bureau," Syria's official intelligence service.

Lebanese police investigations have finally managed to discover who kidnapped Attalah and where he is currently being detained. Though certain Lebanese political elements have pressed the government to make public its discoveries, Lebanon has up till now refused to do so in order not to worsen its relations with Syria. Jewish circles in Paris, which are now aware of Attalah's fate, believe that he is held under particularly inhuman conditions in a prison on the outskirts of Damascus.

All foreign interventions on Attalah's behalf --and there have been a number--have failed up till now to secure his release or even an improvement in the conditions of his detention. The International Conference for Jews in the Arab States also disclosed that 12 Syrian Jews, including four children are also being held by the Syrians on charges of having planned to flee the country. The Conference announced that these 12 people are also being held in particularly odious conditions though they have committed no crime according to Syrian law or constitution.

## JEW GIVEN 1 YEAR JAIL TERM BY CZECHOSLOVAK COURT; CONVICTED OF ESPIONAGE FOR UNNAMED COUNTRY

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 17 (JTA)--A Jew was recently sentenced to a 12-year prison term by a Czechoslovak court after being convicted of espionage on behalf of an unnamed country, it was revealed here today. The Jew, Dr. Hubert Stein, served as a civilian interpreter at the Netherlands Embassy in Prague. In the summer of 1970 he was arrested on the Austrian border, in spite of the fact that he had a perfectly valid Czech passport and an exit visa.

After being held incommunicado in a secret prison some distance from Prague, he was brought

to trial behind closed doors and sentenced on July 9, 1971 to 12 years hard labor. Five other Czechoslovak citizens were jailed with him, but the 63-year-old Dr. Stein was the only Jew and the only one who was fully named. An appeal by the defendant was made immediately after his conviction and has now been rejected. The authorities refused to allow any contact with the defendant, either before or after his conviction.

## Heaviest Sentence Of Kind

Although there was no hint in the two-line communique published by "Rude Pravo" of the country Dr. Stein was supposed to have served, political observers here pointed out that Dr. Stein had lived, during World War II, in Britain and returned to Czechoslovakia after the war. During the Slansky trial purges he was jailed and imprisoned for nine years. Later he was cleared, as were many others, by the former regime, which was replaced at the time of the Russian intervention of 1967.

This, these observers added, was the heaviest sentence passed in Czechoslovakia at a political trial since the Russian intervention. It is believed that the authorities wanted at first to use Dr. Stein for a show trial in order to intimidate any possible civilian unrest. But then a decision was taken to keep the trial secret and only the sentence and the barest facts of the case were revealed in a short item published in the official party daily "Rude Pravo."

## US EXPECTED TO RESUME DELIVERY OF JETS; NO SUBSTANCE YET TO POSSIBLE NEW ROUND OF TALKS OR US MEDIATOR ON SUEZ ACCORD

JERUSALEM, Oct. 17 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir told the Cabinet today that she expects the United States to resume deliveries of Phantom jets to Israel immediately. Cabinet secretary Michael Nir told reporters that Mrs. Meir's statement was made in the course of a wide-ranging political report in which she referred to Foreign Minister Abba Eban's discussions with US Secretary of State William P. Rogers last Thursday and the latter's assertion afterwards that the US would review its military commitments to Israel in light of President Nixon's pledge to maintain the balance of military power in the Middle East.

Mrs. Meir, who is acting Foreign Minister in Eban's absence, deplored the joint Egyptian-Soviet communique issued in Moscow last week in which the USSR undertook to strengthen Egypt's military capacity. The Cabinet officially welcomed a resolution endorsed by 78 US Senators urging the Nixon administration to resume the supply of Phantoms to Israel without delay. (See separate story P. 2)

In another development, reliable sources said here last night that proposals have been broached to Israel for a senior American official to be entrusted as a mediator to further efforts to obtain an interim agreement between Israel and Egypt to reopen the Suez Canal. The idea was reportedly under consideration by US officials at the United Nations. It envisions an American diplomat playing a role similar to that of Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the Secretary General's special representative to the Mideast, in the negotiation of an interim agreement.

Reportedly under consideration was a new series of talks, preferably on the ministerial level, during the current session of the General Assembly. Sources here said the idea has not yet taken shape and was not brought up during the two recent meetings between Eban and Rogers. No proposals have been submitted by the American side and therefore details such as the venue of the talks--the Middle East or New York--have not been discussed, the sources said. They added that Israel was not opposed to the idea in principle.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION ON JET DELIVERIES VIRTUALLY ASSURED OF PASSAGE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17 (JTA)--Seventy-eight senators of both major parties have endorsed a resolution calling on the Nixon administration to resume deliveries of Phantom jets to Israel "without further delay" in order to maintain the balance of military strength in the Middle East. Political observers here said that with more than three quarters of the Senate's membership behind it, the measure was virtually assured of passage. A State Department spokesman said Friday that the administration always took into account expressions by the Senate on these matters but said Israel's request for more Phantoms was still under review.

The resolution, introduced on the floor by Sen. Hugh Scott (R., Pa.) the Minority Leader, also urged the administration to provide Israel with "supporting equipment and assistance as are essential to maintain Israel's deterrent capacity" and to "reaffirm the importance of secure and defensible borders" to be "negotiated by the parties themselves." The resolution goes to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for consideration. Committee chairman Sen. J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.) was not among its sponsors. Neither was Sen. Mike Mansfield (D., Mont.) the Majority Leader. The latter explained, however, that as a matter of personal policy he did not sign such resolutions. He added that he did not oppose shipments of war materials to Israel on an "even-out basis" to offset Soviet military deliveries to Egypt.

#### Israel's Warplanes Outnumbered 5-1

The joint resolution was hailed by Seymour Graubard, chairman of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League as "an act of justice and an aid to peace in the Middle East." He said it was a necessary response to continued Soviet shipment of sophisticated weapons including advanced jet aircraft to Egypt. "This is facing the realities of the situation in the Middle East," Graubard said. Some observers here noted that Israel's qualitative advantage in air power was being rapidly eroded under the weight of Soviet shipments to Egypt of its finest weapons and the continuous training of Egyptians in their use by Soviet specialists. Sen. Stuart Symington (D., Mo.), one of the 12 Senators--six Republicans and six Democrats--who drafted the resolution, warned that US intelligence information showed that Israel is outnumbered by more than 5-1 in warplanes and that Egypt now has the world's most modern fighting plane, the Soviet MIG-23 known as the Foxbat.

State Department spokesman Charles Bray hedged on Friday when newsmen asked for clarification of Secretary Rogers' promise to review the Mideast military balance. He would not say whether the US would consider the balance tipped by a mere Soviet declaration of intent to ship more arms to Egypt or whether it would wait for actual deliveries. He said he did not know what the Cairo-Moscow agreement on additional supplies entailed. Asked how the State Department

could make an intelligent evaluation of the balance if it did not know what equipment Egypt was receiving, Bray replied, "We are going to take into account all the facts as we know them."

#### TRADE UNIONS URGED TO AID SYRIAN JEWS

TEL AVIV, Oct. 17 (JTA)--The executive committee of Histadrut called today on free trade union movements around the world to take action on behalf of 4,500 Jews in Syria who have been deprived of their civil rights and are persecuted by Syrian authorities. The Histadrut call was similar to one the Israeli trade union federation issued recently on behalf of Soviet Jews. It said that Jews in Syria have no schools, their school buildings having been turned over to terrorists, and cannot live normal lives. According to Histadrut, 250 Jews have been arrested and tortured and some have died in prison.

#### ISRAEL NOT INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN IRAN'S 2500TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ZOA Deplores Absence Of Israelis

JERUSALEM, Oct. 17 (JTA)--Israel has not been invited to send a delegation to the celebrations of the 2,500th anniversary of Iran, formerly Persia. Officials here say they "understand" the decision. Newspaper editorials, apparently inspired by official briefings, express regret over the decision but say that no offense should be taken at it and offer best wishes to the Shah and his government. Iran extends only de facto recognition of Israel. Practical relations exist on many levels, including a large Israeli-sponsored land-reclamation project in Iran's Kasvin district, but there are no official, mutual, diplomatic or consular representations in either country.

(In New York, the Zionist Organization of America advised the Iranian ambassador in Washington, Aslan Afshar, by letter that the American Jewish community was "painfully affected" by the decision. ZOA president Herman L. Weisman wrote that the Iranian government, "to please Israel's enemies," was "ignoring a distinguished chapter in Persian history," the centuries-old "close affinity" between Persian Jews and the Empire. "We are therefore at a loss to understand this slight to Israel, since Israel is particularly able to add luster and historical significance to this important anniversary," Weisman wrote.)

#### \$50M PROGRAM FOR TECHNION

NEW YORK, Oct. 17 (JTA)--An international program to raise \$50 million for Technion-Israel Institute of Technology by the end of 1974--Technion's 50th anniversary year--was adopted at a meeting here attended by representatives of Technion Societies from several countries. The funds will be utilized for "capital and long-range development of the Institute as well as endowment of academic chairs, scholarships and fellowship funds, and other academic purposes." The meeting was called at the initiative of Evelyn de Rothschild of London, chairman of the Technion's Board of Governors and also chairman of the British Technion Society. He stressed the need for cooperation among Technion Societies.

#### JEWS APPLYING FOR VISAS CONTINUE TO BE HARASSED

LONDON, Oct. 17 (JTA)--Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported today the continuing harassment of Jews who apply for exit visas to go to Israel. They also reported that nine Vilna Jews were arrested and sentenced to jail terms of 10-20 days after a five-day sit-in at Lithuanian Communist

Party headquarters to protest delays in processing their visa applications. According to the sources the victims of arrest and other forms of harassment are all respected citizens, some of them prominent in their professions. Israel Sivshinski, an author of mathematics textbooks widely used in Soviet schools, had his books withdrawn by order of Soviet educational authorities after he applied for an exit visa.

Jewish sources also reported that Issa Ginsburg-Chorniak, a lecturer at the Moscow Language Institute for 26 years, was dismissed from her post on grounds that she was unqualified. Mrs. Ginsburg had applied for a visa. In Kovno, Lithuania, a Hebrew class organized by a group of Jews was disbanded by the authorities on grounds that the teacher had no license. The Jewish sources reported that the Jews arrested in Vilna included Dr. Anatoly Gershovich, a distinguished local physician who was sentenced to 20 days; Lazar Kronberg, a civil engineer, sentenced to 15 days and another Jew with the surname Kocherginsky who received a ten day sentence. The sources also reported that 20 Jews in Minsk have gone on a hunger strike because the Byelorussian Minister of Interior has refused to review their visa applications.

#### 10,000 PETITIONS ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWRY ON WAY TO WASHINGTON

CHICAGO, Oct. 17 (JTA)--A truckload of individual petitions on behalf of Soviet Jews, signed by more than 100,000 persons in Illinois and by Senators and Congressmen from all parts of the country, will leave here tomorrow for delivery to the Soviet Embassy in Washington. The petitions represent the fruition of a campaign begun early this year by Enoch Silverstein of the Community Council of Jewish Organizations of Chicago and his wife, Marjory, who along with 1,000 volunteers gathered signatures at shopping centers, schools, churches, synagogues and at meetings and door-to-door solicitations. The Silversteins will accompany the truck to Washington as will Judah Graubart, of the Chicago staff of the American Jewish Committee. They will be received at the Capital by Illinois and New York Senators and Congressmen.

According to plans announced by the AJ Committee office here, the delegation will proceed with the petitions to the Soviet Embassy. If they are not accepted by the Soviet Ambassador, Rep. Sidney Yates (D., Ill.), a former US representative to the United Nations, will take the petitions to the UN to present them to the US Ambassador George Bush who will be asked to turn them over to an appropriate UN agency. The petitions, addressed to the Soviet government, state: "We demand that you stop your inhuman persecution of the Jews in the Soviet Union. We demand that you allow the Jews to leave the USSR--This is their legal right, guaranteed by your government. This right of emigration is in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 13-2. The language is clear and unequivocal. Everyone has the right to leave any country, his own. Your government is a party to this essential human right. You must honor your word."

The Silversteins based their petition campaign on the premise that emotional appeals to Soviet authorities were ineffective and that only a legal approach would bring action. Among the US Congressmen who have signed petitions are Sens. Edmund Muskie (D., Me.); Birch Bayh (D., Ind.); Robert Dole (R., Kan.); Vance Hartke (D., Ind.); Jacob Javits (R., N.Y.); Edward M. Kennedy (D., Mass); George McGovern (D., S. Dak.); Charles Percy (R., Ill.); William Proxmire (D., Wisc.) and Robert Taft (R., Ohio).

#### DAYAN: WAR PREFERABLE TO CAIRO'S TERMS

TEL AVIV, Oct. 17 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said here that he would prefer to go to

war with Egypt again if necessary than accept the terms of a peace settlement dictated by Cairo. According to Dayan that was the choice being offered by President Anwar Sadat who claims that 1971 will be the decisive year. But the Defense Minister warned that renewed fighting would hurt Egypt far more than Israel. Addressing an Engineers Club luncheon Friday, Dayan said: "We can be subjected to pressure but it is not possible to extort results from us, at any rate not in 1971, because we are not objects for extortion." Dayan said he thought the cease-fire would continue at least until spring.

Referring to security guarantees for an Israeli pull-back from the administered territories, Dayan said the intention behind them was probably sincere but that he knew of no practical or workable system for replacing the Israeli presence on the cease-fire lines. "It would result in having to ask others to fight for us and from our point of view it would be a black day indeed if American soldiers were to be killed for our sakes," he declared. Dayan termed all solutions proposed by the Arabs so far as "temporary and flimsy." What was essential, he said, was to bring about a change in the way the Arabs regarded Israel. He said he saw some "small glimmerings" in the relationship being formed between Israel and the Arabs in the occupied territories.

#### EBAN; ROGERS' PROMISE TO REVIEW US MILITARY COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL ENCOURAGING BUT NOT FIRM DECISION

NEW YORK, Oct. 17 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel said here tonight that US Secretary of State William P. Rogers' promise to review American military commitments to Israel in light of Soviet pledges to strengthen Egypt was important and encouraging but cautioned that it did not amount to a firm decision which Israel regards as urgent. Eban was here to receive the American Jewish Congress' Stephen S. Wise Award for distinguished achievement in advancing the dignity, freedom and security of the Jewish people. The award was presented to him by AJ Congress president Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld.

Eban denounced the Soviet-Egyptian joint communique issued in Moscow last week which, he said, excluded the three most essential ideas--peace, negotiations with Israel and a will to break the present deadlock. He said the root of the deadlock was the Arab illusion that time was working against Israel. That, according to Eban was patently untrue. The Foreign Minister made similar remarks last night in his address to the triennial convention of B'nai B'rith in Philadelphia.

#### URGE PROBE OF SYRIAN JEWS' CONDITION

BRUSSELS, Oct. 17 (JTA)--The International Association of Former Resistance Fighters and Deportees has demanded that Syria permit an impartial commission to investigate the situation of Syrian Jews. This demand was forwarded by the Association's international headquarters here to the Syrian ambassador to Belgium. The Association also protested to the ambassador the latest wave of persecutions of Syrian Jews.

#### TESTIMONY TO BE GIVEN IN BARBIE CASE

PARIS, Oct. 17 (JTA)--Mrs. Beate Klarsfeld has been invited by the Bavarian Prosecutor General, Manfred Ludolph, to testify on the facts known by her about the Klaus Barbie case, it was revealed here today. Mrs. Klarsfeld will arrive Thursday in Munich. Ludolph agreed last month to reopen the case if witnesses were found to testify.

### B'NAI B'RITH CREDITS US EFFORTS FOR ACHIEVING MIDEAST CEASE-FIRE

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 17 (JTA)--David M. Blumberg, a 60-year-old insurance executive from Knoxville, Tenn. was elected to a three-year term as international president of B'nai B'rith at the service organization's triennial convention here. Blumberg, a B'nai B'rith member for 32 years and a vice president for the last six years, succeeds Dr. William A. Wexler of Savannah, Ga. The convention adopted resolutions on urban problems, including a call for stricter gun control laws, and on American military assistance to Israel.

Last night it was addressed by two leaders in American Jewish Affairs--Philip M. Klutznick, former B'nai B'rith president and a former US Ambassador to the United Nations and Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, founder of the Reconstructionist Movement--both of whom criticized aspects of American Jewish community life. Dr. Kaplan who is 90, became the first recipient of the \$1,500 Harold Welsberg Memorial Award for his contributions to "Jewish thought."

The convention resolutions credited US efforts for achieving the current cease-fire in the Middle East but warned that "genuine peace can only be achieved by the negotiation and agreement of the parties in conflict." It declared, "Outside powers cannot impose peace" but "only a precarious truce." The resolution expressed "deep appreciation" to the Nixon administration and Congress for military and economic aid extended to Israel. It recalled President Nixon's address to the B'nai B'rith convention three years ago when, as a presidential candidate, he declared that the arms balance "must be tipped in Israel's favor" to forestall Arab aggression. "That policy is no less sound or relevant today," the resolution stated. Dr. Kaplan and Klutznick deplored what they regarded as the inability of the Jewish community to "think through" the problems that confront it.

### Jewish Census Figures Falsified

According to Dr. Kaplan, Jewish life has taken on a "schizophrenic" pattern that "fragmentize rather than integrate us into a whole people." Klutznick assailed the idea of "assessing priorities" in Jewish life, declaring that none of the major concerns--Israel, Jewish education and Soviet Jewry--were isolated from one another. He also criticized the separation of scholars and academics from the decision-makers in Jewish life. The convention heard from Dr. Maurice Friedberg, of the Russian and East European Institute at Indiana University who charged that the Soviet Union has "tampered" with Jewish population figures in the latest census to support its claim that Jews are disappearing as an ethnic group in Russia.

He claimed that the figures reported last April which showed a 5.2 percent drop in the Soviet-Jewish population were falsified. He said his charge was borne out by a study he conducted in Israel last summer among the 5,000 Soviet Jews who were allowed to emigrate during the first months of the year. He said the emigres disclosed that in many instances "Russian" was substituted for "Jewish" on the census forms. The 1,200 delegates attending the convention elected a 55-member international board of governors including 14 vice presidents. Moe Kudler of Los Angeles won over Philip Lax, of Maplewood, N.J. in a close race for international treasurer.

### AZF ELECTION TO BE CONDUCTED BY AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION

NEW YORK, Oct. 17 (JTA)--The American Arbitration Association has been designated by the

American Zionist Federation to conduct a nationwide postal election of American delegates to the World Zionist Congress to be held in Jerusalem next January, it was announced by Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the AZF. "The 700,000 enrolled members of the American Zionist movement will each receive a ballot by mail from the American Arbitration Association in mid-November," Rabbi Miller said. "The American Zionist Federation election committee has worked out detailed procedures in consultation with the American Arbitration Association on the basis of its long experience in conducting elections for a wide variety of professional associations, unions and other voluntary organizations," Rabbi Miller continued.

A procedure has been worked out, Rabbi Miller said, "to ensure that each member returns his or her own ballot and that only one ballot per voter is allowed, even in the case of multiple memberships in several Zionist organizations. The vote will elect the majority of the 152 delegates from the United States with the balance to be elected by the constituent organizations of the American Zionist Federation on the basis of their verified strength."

Rabbi Miller also pointed out that any 500 members of the Zionist movement will be entitled to nominate their own slate in the same manner that the constituent organizations of the AZF will select slates for the nationwide postal election. Rabbi Miller declined to comment on the controversy within the AZF on the election, except to say that the controversy is "now before the Tribunal of the World Zionist Congress under the distinguished chairmanship of Israel Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau. Therefore no further comment on this matter would be appropriate except to stress that the Tribunal has not ordered any suspension for preparation for the elections."

### 2000 RABBIS URGE ISRAEL TO CEASE PERMITTING NON-HALACHIC CONVERSIONS

NEW YORK, Oct. 17 (JTA)--The Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Identity has gathered the signatures of 2,000 rabbis around the world on a petition urging the Israeli government to cease permitting non-halachic conversions. The signature drive was coordinated by Rabbi Abraham Gross, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, and Rabbi David Finger, head of the Committee of Rabbis of Boro Park (Brooklyn), according to Yosef Wilenkin, spokesman for the Preservation Committee. He said this was the first time so many rabbis had signed one petition.

The protest, he said, deplores Israel's "outregeous blunder (that) could wreak havoc amongst the Jewish people greater than that ever desired by the evil anti-Semites throughout the ages." The signers concluded: "We await an answer." Wilenkin said they included rabbis from New York, Los Angeles, Puerto Rico, England (including the Assistant Chief Rabbi), France, Belgium, Italy, Argentina, South Africa, Australia and Mexico (including Rabbi Abraham M. Hershberg, president of the Union of Latin American Rabbis and chairman of the International Committee for Religious Freedom).

### TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED

TEL AVIV, Oct. 17 (JTA)--Two Israeli soldiers killed in a mine incident yesterday were buried in the military section of the Kfar Saba cemetery today. They were Lt. Shimon Yitzarsky, 23 of Kfar Saba, and Corp. Shmuel Oshri of Yarchiv, near Kfar Saba. They were killed when their jeep struck a mine planted by Syrian terrorists in the central Golan Heights. Two other soldiers were injured.