



daily news bulletin

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TITO SEEN AS PLAYING VITAL ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT INTERIM ACCORD

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--A State Department spokesman indicated today that the United States put great store on Yugoslav President Tito's close ties with Cairo to assist in bringing about an interim Suez agreement between Israel and Egypt. Tito arrived here yesterday on a state visit and met with President Nixon this morning. State Department spokesman Charles Bray pointed out at today's news briefing that the Yugoslavian leader comes from a recent visit to Cairo. He said he "will be anxious to discuss with him his impressions and those parts of his conversations with Egyptian leaders which he will convey to us."

Bray added that the Middle East situation was a subject in which Tito has taken a deep interest in recent years. He referred to remarks by Secretary of State William P. Rogers on an interview taped here Oct. 22 and broadcast on Yugoslavian television in which Rogers expressed the hope that Tito will continue to play a role in the coming months in the Middle East.

Rogers: Agreement Possible

Rogers also said in that interview that "We do think there is some possibility of an interim agreement and we feel that President Tito can play a very important role in helping the parties in that connection." It was not made clear by Rogers how Tito could help the parties when Yugoslavia has no diplomatic relations with Israel. Rogers, in the interview, credited Tito with "really helping to bring about the climate" that led to Egypt's acceptance of the American peace initiative and ceasefire of August, 1970. He was referring to a Tito meeting with the late President Gamel Abdel Nasser in Ethiopia.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency pointed out last month that Tito's visit to Washington would have major implications for the Middle East because of his close connections in Cairo. Bray would not say today whether Tito was carrying a message to Nixon from President Sadat of Egypt or whether he was on a specific mission related to the Middle East conflict. He refused to comment on press reports from Moscow that Egypt has rejected the proposals for an interim agreement stated by Rogers in his Oct. 4 speech to the United Nations General Assembly.

Asked if the US was pessimistic about the chances of getting both sides to reach some sort of agreement, Bray replied in the negative but conceded that anyone who has "read recent speeches" would find it difficult to be overly optimistic. The reference was obviously to Premier Golda Meir's Knesset speech Tuesday in which she accused the US of surrendering to the Egyptian position on an interim agreement. Bray observed, however, that there have been no contacts with the Israelis either here or in Jerusalem in recent days so that it would be wrong to conclude that the US was pessimistic. He said there would be opportunities to speak with the Israelis privately.

BREZHNEV SAYS ISRAEL AGGRESSOR

MARSEILLES, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev claimed today that "Israeli aggression was poisoning the entire atmosphere in the Middle East." Addressing a re-

ception in his honor at the Prefecture, Brezhnev said, "We want the Mediterranean area to be a region of peace and tranquility but unfortunately this is not possible" owing to "Israeli aggression."

Brezhnev's remarks were the first he has made in public on the Middle East since arriving in France on an official visit Monday. He appeared to be responding to the Jewish demonstrators who have dogged his visit protesting the treatment of Soviet Jews. As the Soviet leader flew back to Paris this afternoon, a mass demonstration of solidarity with Russian Jews was being held in the French capital.

Brezhnev also seemed to be replying to an oblique attack on Soviet policies towards Jews made by Gaston DeFerre, the Socialist Mayor of Marseilles and a former opposition candidate for the French presidency. DeFerre expressed the hope that the Franco-Soviet agreements concluded between Brezhnev and President Georges Pompidou included "clauses safeguarding the interests of religious and ethnic minorities inside the Soviet Union." Political observers said DeFerre was referring to the interests of Soviet Jews. France and Russia signed a 10 year trade pact in Paris yesterday.

MARKISH'S WIDOW APPEALS TO POMPIDOU

LONDON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The widow of Peretz Markish, the Soviet Jewish writer purged by Stalin, has appealed directly to President Georges Pompidou of France to intervene to help her and her son secure emigration visas so that they can join relatives in Israel. Jewish sources in the USSR reported today. They said Mrs. Esther Markish sent a cable to President Pompidou who is currently playing host to visiting Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev.

She appealed for his help on the grounds of her husband's literary works and her own contribution to Franco-Soviet relations as a translator and interpreter. Mrs. Markish and her son David have been seeking exit permits for several years. Two weeks ago they were told that their visas would be ready on Oct. 25 but no visas were issued to them on that date. When they visited the central visa office in Moscow they were told by the Red Army general in charge that their case was postponed and would be given a re-hearing after two months. The Markishes had begun to dismantle their home in anticipation of leaving the USSR.

MOVE TO PARDON THREE NAZI WAR CRIMINALS SPLITS DUTCH PARLIAMENT

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--A split has developed within the Dutch parliament over moves to pardon three Nazi war criminals currently serving life sentences in the Central Prison at Brenda. Minister of Justice Andries Van Agt said recently that he would be "not unwilling" to pardon the three. But today he asked Parliament not to raise the issue until a special Royal Commission makes its recommendations to Queen Jullanna. The Queen alone has the prerogative to pardon convicts serving life terms. The prisoners are Franz Fischer, A. Ausderfonten and M. Kotaela.

The three held top posts in the Nazi deportation bureaus in Amsterdam and The Hague which were responsible for the deportation of thousands of Dutch

Jews to death camps during World War II. Though of German origin they are citizens of Holland and were tried and sentenced to death here after the war. Their sentences were commuted to life imprisonment. They are said to be the last Nazi war criminals held in Dutch jails.

The Amsterdam daily Handelsblad reported that West German Foreign Minister Walter Scheel expressed the hope yesterday that Netherlands authorities will act on "humanitarian grounds" to pardon the ex-Nazis. Scheel made the remark as the Netherlands Royal Family began a State visit to West Germany. He said, however, that the Federal government would not raise the question with the Queen during her tour. He stressed that Netherlands Foreign Minister Norbert Schmelzer, would not discuss the issue with him but contended that many prominent West German personalities who had suffered under the Nazis supported clemency for the prisoners.

FORMER NAZI RE-ARRESTED

BONN, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Dr. Werner Best, former branch leader of the Reich Security Office who is charged with complicity in the murder of 11,083 Jews during the Nazi era, was arrested yesterday for the third time at the request of the West Berlin Attorney General who said he might jump bail. Best, 67, who is a lawyer, was a Nazi Brigadefuehrer.

He was arrested three years ago and held in jail pending trial from March, 1969-March, 1971. But a West Berlin court ordered his release on grounds that his complicity in mass murder "could not be fully proven." He was re-arrested last April on a new warrant but released almost immediately because of a heart condition. His re-arrest today was the result of public pressure. The Attorney General argued that Best faced a life sentence if found guilty and could leave the country despite the \$60,000 bail posted for him.

MAPAM TO ABSTAIN ON ANTI-STRIKE LEGISLATION VOTING IN KNESSET

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The Labor Alignment agreed at a meeting here today to permit one of its constituent factions, Mapam, to abstain in next week's Knesset vote on government-sponsored legislation to curb strikes by government and public service employees. Mapam, though a member of the coalition government, is opposed to the legislation. Under Israeli law a coalition partner may abstain if permission to do so is granted. Permission was granted today conditional on the legislation being assured of a majority without Mapam's votes. Mapam leaders said there was no question that a majority is assured but refused to speculate on what Mapam would do should that not be the case. They said the question was hypothetical.

But the vote might be closer than expected. The right-wing Gahal faction which has criticized the legislation for not being tough enough, could decide to vote against the bill instead of merely abstaining. That would put a severe strain on the Labor majority to mobilize all possible votes. Certain elements of the Labor Party itself are cool to the measure though they are required by party discipline to vote for it. Mapam was refused permission to state the reasons for its abstention in the Knesset. Such a statement would require the government to reply to its coalition partner, creating an anomalous situation on the Knesset floor.

FIRM ELIMINATES CONTRACT CLAUSE TO UPHOLD ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

LONDON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The British construction firm of Richard Costain has agreed to eliminate a rider from a contract with a Jewish firm, Crown

Dean Holdings, which stipulated that Costain would not be obliged to violate the Arab boycott of Israel. The Jewish firm broke off negotiations with Costain because it would not deal with a firm that complied with the Arab boycott. But an amicable agreement was reached between the two companies through the intervention of the Trades Advisory Council, it was announced today.

The announcement said, "Mr. Maurice Orbach, MP, General Secretary of the TAC, together with Mr. Moss Spiro, chairman of Crown Dean Holdings, met Sir Robert Taylor, of Costains and one of his colleagues, in connection with allegations that have been made. An amicable discussion resulted in Messrs. Costain stating that the draft rider to the contract which was the cause of differences is not being applied and will not be applied in any agreement."

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY DEDICATED

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Israel's first astronomical observatory, a joint project of Tel Aviv University and the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D.C., was dedicated this week at Mitzpe Ramon, a Negev oasis 100 miles south of Tel Aviv. About 150 invited guests, including prominent scientists from Israel and abroad, attended the ceremonies which named the observatory in honor of George C. Wise, president of Tel Aviv University and his wife, Florence. The \$1.5 million project was financed through donations. It will provide the university's department of physics and astronomy with first rate observational facilities.

The observatory is centered around a 40-inch telescope and highly sophisticated equipment which makes it one of the most modern in the world. It will be used for research by American and Israeli scientists into the solar cycle and extra-galactic regions. It was first employed during the latest Apollo moon flight last summer. The observatory stands at an elevation of 3,400 feet in the Negev desert. The site was selected because it is virtually cloud free, has low humidity and is distant enough from urban centers not to be affected by their lights.

PILGRIMAGE MADE TO JEWISH CEMETERY

WARSAW, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The remnants of the Jews of Czenstochow, joined by others from different towns, made a pilgrimage yesterday to the Jewish cemetery and two other sites where local Jews who perished in the Nazi holocaust are buried. About 50,000 Jews lived in that city before World War II but now only a handful remain. The mourners said they found the Jewish cemetery in a state of neglect but the other burial sites are well kept by the municipality. A monument at one of them records in Polish and Yiddish the names of Jewish resistance fighters buried there.

'SPIRITUAL ANNIHILATION' CHARGED BY GEORGIAN JEWS COMING TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Twenty-one Jewish emigres from the Soviet Georgian Republic accused the Absorption Ministry and the Jewish Agency of aiming at their "spiritual annihilation." The charge was made yesterday in an open letter to Premier Golda Meir demanding that Georgian Jews arriving in Israel be allowed to remain together and not dispersed in small groups. An Absorption Ministry spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that every effort was being made to provide flats for the Georgians in towns where their countrymen have already settled. But he said they were not always available and in such cases Georgians had to be located elsewhere.

TEKOAH REFUTES REPORT THAT THANT CONSTITUTED A MISSION TO JERUSALEM

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah said today that it was "incorrect" to say that Secretary General had "constituted a mission on Jerusalem." Tekoah replied to newsmen's questions on a published report that Thant had "chosen" three United Nations delegates to "check into" Israel's practices in East Jerusalem. Tekoah explained that Thant "continues to await an Israeli note informing him officially of our attitude," as agreed to privately by Thant, Tekoah and Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban. "Thant requires such a note to be able to submit a report to the Security Council," Tekoah continued.

"The purpose of the meeting which he held yesterday with representatives of the three member states who had expressed willingness to serve on such a mission if circumstances arise that make the constitution of the mission desirable was to inform them that he is still awaiting the Israeli note."

A UN spokesman confirmed today that yesterday's meeting had taken place and that Thant required approval from Israel before a mission could be authorized. Attending the meeting were Thant; Ambassador Guillermo Sevilla-Sacasa of Nicaragua, president of the Security Council for October, and the envoys of the prospective mission members--Dr. Carlos Ortiz de Rozas of Argentina, Piero Vinci of Italy and Ismael Byne Taylor-Kamara of Sierra Leone. Thant's query to Israel was made under terms of Security Council Resolution 298 of Sept. 25, which demanded cessation of Israeli projects in East Jerusalem.

(In Jerusalem, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel had not received notification from the UN. Israel has rejected Resolution 298, and authoritative sources here said she would refuse to have any dealings with the proposed commission and would not extend it facilities to carry out its work. It was not clear, however, whether Israel would bar the commission members should they arrive in Israel, as she barred the Ceylon-Somalia-Yugoslavia unit investigating Israeli practices in the occupied territories. Argentina, Italy and Sierra Leone are neutral in the Arab-Israeli conflict and maintain friendly relations with Israel. Foreign Ministry circles have privately expressed the hope that the three will reconsider their acceptance of the Secretary General's appointment.)

SOVIET LATVIAN JEW PART OF DELEGATION GOING ABROAD

Two Jews Assaulted in Moscow, Riga

LONDON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Soviet Latvian authorities are planning to include a Jew in a scientific delegation going abroad, Jewish sources in Russia reported today. They identified him as Mikhail Maximovich Deutsch and claimed his mission would be to act as a counter-propagandist against Jewish groups protesting the treatment of Jews in the USSR. According to the sources Deutsch is presently undergoing training as a propagandist at a special institute.

The sources said his inclusion in the Latvian delegation was part of a campaign by Soviet authorities to counter efforts of Jewish groups abroad to arouse public opinion to the plight of Soviet Jews. They referred to the current visit to the United States of a Russian tour group headed by Col. Gen. David Dragunsky, the highest ranking Jewish officer in the Soviet Army.

Jewish sources reported today that a Jewish man in Riga and a Jewish woman in Moscow were physically assaulted after applying for exit visas to go to Israel. The man, identified as Avik Gleser,

was allegedly attacked and severely beaten by hooligans when he tried to obtain the character reference needed to get a visa. He was reportedly warned to "forget about Israel" unless he wanted further punishment. According to the sources, Mrs. Ela Michlis was severely scalded by a neighbor in the communal kitchen of her Moscow flat after her husband applied for visas for the family.

The attacker was arrested and sentenced to 15 days in jail although, according to the sources, inflicting serious injury carries a five year prison term at hard labor under the Soviet penal code. The sources said Mrs. Michlis will be scarred for life. Her husband was fired from his job.

AJCONGRESS FORCES EDUCATION BOARD TO TABLE PROGRAM CALLING FOR QUOTAS

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The Board of Higher Education has tabled approval of an "affirmative action" program prepared by the City University for increasing employment of women and "other minorities" after the American Jewish Congress balked at a quota system called for in the plan. Dr. Abraham Tauber, speaking for the Congress, told a meeting of the Board that the plan would set a pattern of "reverse discrimination." He issued a warning that "new injustices, inequities and discrimination" might be imposed "in the attempt to right past wrongs."

The plan called for each unit of the CUNY system to bring its instructional employment percentages up to the university-wide average of 30 percent women and 13 percent "other minorities." The increase in each unit would result in "a substantial percentage increase" in the employment of minority groups in the university as a whole, the report claimed. The "affirmative action program" was prepared for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare by a committee chaired by Edgar D. Draper, president of Manhattan Community College.

Testifying at a Board meeting scheduled to act on the plan, Prof. Tauber--a department chairman at Yeshiva University who is chairman of the Congress' Metropolitan Council Education Committee--asserted: "The attempt to achieve this numerical quota will, in our view, clearly result in unequal employment opportunities in the future." He further noted that the plan "suggests that the colleges introduce a system of preferential hiring, closing off opportunities for some because of their ethnic background or lack of the 'right' ethnic background." The problem of assuring equal employment for all is too serious and too complex, Dr. Tauber observed, for an affirmative action program to be proposed and put into effect without the most careful scrutiny and study of its dangers and implications.

BORMANN CASE CLOSED

BONN, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The case of Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy, has been closed though it would be re-opened immediately if new evidence comes to light that Bormann is still alive, according to a spokesman for the Frankfurt Attorney General's office. The spokesman said it was "presumed" that Bormann, a member of Hitler's personal entourage, died in Berlin at the end of World War II. He admitted however that no evidence exists to prove Bormann's death though reports over the years that he had been seen in South America and elsewhere are equally lacking in confirmation. The position of the prosecutor's office seemed to confirm the opinion expressed by Reinhardt Gehlen, former German secret services' head that Bormann was dead.

SURVEY SHOWS MORE CHRISTIAN LEADERS OPPOSE INTERNATIONALIZING JERUSALEM

BOSTON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The results of a survey of Christian public opinion disclosed here today showed that a growing number of Christian leaders say they are opposed to proposals to internationalize Jerusalem and want the city to remain under Israeli jurisdiction. The survey was made public by Philip E. Hoffman, president of the American Jewish Committee, at the annual meeting of its policy-making National Executive Council. He said it was based on public statements, speeches, news articles and editorials in recent weeks by Roman Catholic, mainstream Protestant and Evangelical leaders and organizations in the United States, Europe, Latin America and Israel.

Rabbi Maro H. Tanenbaum, the national director of the AJCommittee's Interreligious Affairs Department who conducted the survey, said, "The study and wide dissemination of these statements will contribute to a balance and perspective in the mounting discussions over the status of Jerusalem, resulting in avoidance of invective and in the searching out of solutions that will reconcile Muslims, Christians and Jews one to another." Tanenbaum said he was "convinced that the views expressed in this study, which support the current status of a reunified Jerusalem under Israeli jurisdiction, represent in fact the feelings of thousands upon thousands of Christian people in this country and abroad whose voices thus far have been far from adequately heard."

A new AJCommittee publication, *Currents*, had its debut here today. The quarterly is edited by Milton Ellerin, director of the AJCommittee's trends analysis division. In the first issue, Ellerin warns that Nixon administration policies that offend conservatives, such as his moves toward a rapprochement with China, could provide an opportunity for anti-Semitic hate mongers to re-enter the political mainstream in the US from which they have been effectively excluded in recent years. Ellerin's article cited recent far-right wing and anti-Semitic publications which accuse "Kissinger, the Zionist Jew" of being the author of Nixon's China policy which they consider repugnant. Dr. Henry J. Kissinger is President Nixon's advisor on national security affairs.

JOEL MANDELBAUM NAMED CHARLES FROST FELLOW IN JEWISH JOURNALISM

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Robert H. Arnow, president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, announced today the appointment of Joel Mandelbaum as the JTA's first Charles Frost Fellow in Journalism. Mandelbaum, 24, a graduate of the Yeshivah of Flatbush High School in Brooklyn, has been an intern at the JTA since June when he received a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. A resident of New York City, he has reported for the Columbia (College) Daily Spectator and the Suffolk Sun on Long Island. The Charles Frost Fellowship for deserving candidates interested in the field of Jewish Journalism, was established in memory of the late Charles Frost, who was a member of the JTA Board. Frost was particularly interested in communicating information and news of Jewish affairs.

BERGUS TO REMAIN IN CAIRO

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The State Department has suddenly altered its plans to replace Donald Bergus, its chief representative in Cairo, with Michael S. Sterner, the head of its Egyptian Affairs Section in Washington. The change was scheduled to take place about Nov. 20. A Department spokes-

man said that Bergus will remain indefinitely in Cairo as director of the American "interests section." Sterner will continue at his post here. "Since we are engaged in intensified discussions on the Middle East situation," the spokesman said, "This is not the time to change horses in mid-stream." Bergus, who has been in Cairo since Aug. 19, 1967, was scheduled for assignment to a university in the US for the remainder of the academic year.

AJCSJ REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR MITCHELL'S PLEDGE TO AID SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry sought today to clarify what it said was "some confusion" over the position it took on Attorney General John Mitchell's promise to utilize his existing authority to admit to the United States Soviet Jews allowed to leave Russia. The Conference referred to the statement by its president, Richard Maass, read at a press conference called by Rep. Emanuel Celler (D., N.Y.) in Washington Oct. 6 at which Celler made public the letter he received from Mitchell containing the promise. That statement, it said, represented the position of the Conference and its nearly 40 constituent organizations.

Maass said, "While recognizing that the vast majority of Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate want to go to Israel, American Jews have also urged that admission be assured for those who might wish to come to this country. We therefore welcome the affirmative declaration by Attorney General John Mitchell...that he would exercise his discretion and utilize the existing parole procedure of our Immigration and Naturalization laws to assure the admission of Soviet Jews to the United States, should Soviet Jews be allowed to leave."

Maass' statement singled out for commendation Max M. Fisher of Detroit, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, whose efforts secured Mitchell's letter to Celler and Rep. Edward I. Koch (D., N.Y.) whose bill for 30,000 non-quota visas for Soviet Jews raised the level of public attention on the issue.

40 SUSPECTED TERRORISTS ARRESTED

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Forty suspected terrorists, including the pregnant wife of the alleged ringleader, Mouhamed Shamout, were arrested today. Detention warrants have been issued for 19 of them by a Nazareth magistrate. The gang is believed responsible for various acts of sabotage during the past two years, the most recent being an explosion that destroyed a bus in Haifa last week.

Mrs. Zakiya Shamout, 25, who is the mother of four children and is seven months pregnant with her fifth, is suspected of sabotage in the Afuleh market place in October, 1967 when an explosion killed one man and injured 25 persons. She is also suspected of having planted explosives in watermelons at the Kfar circus in 1969. The explosives failed to go off. Other members of the Shamout family are among those arrested.

RECORD NUMBER OF ARABS AT HEBREW U

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The fifth year of the Arab-Israel cultural program, conducted by the Hebrew University's Adult Education Center in the Ecce Homo Convent of the Sisters of Zion Order in the Old City of Jerusalem, opened with an enrollment of some 400 students, including 120 Jews and a record of 280 Arabs. The Center is also promoting contact with the Arab population in a plan to initiate an Arab-Jewish cultural and social project in Acre.