Funds for Israel’s Military Program Sufficient for Next Few Months

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1 (JTA)—A State Department spokesman said today that the foreign aid bill passed a year ago contained sufficient funds to supply Israel’s military program for “the next couple of months.” Charles Bray made that observation at today’s news briefing when asked if last Friday’s defeat of the administration’s $3.2 billion foreign aid bill in the Senate would impair the military balance in the Middle East.

Bray said, “for the short term, the next couple of months, probably not.” He was referring to about $500 million in credits for military purchases contained in last year’s aid bill of which an undisclosed portion, believed to be $300 million, was ear-marked for Israel. This sum was in addition to the $500 million in military credits for Israel provided by Secretary of State William P. Rogers and $525 million in credits for the State of Israel, the Israeli government’s foreign trade offices in Washington.

Bray disclosed that in the area of non-military grants, only about $2 million remained in the pipeline for Israel out of past foreign aid measures. These sums are for hospitals, schools and other institutions.

Rabbi Goren Says Halacha Behind Times

URGES TOLERANCE, GOOD—WILL BY ALL

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1 (JTA)—A prominent Israeli rabbi admitted today that halacha, religious law, was badly behind the times and said that Israel’s religious problems could be solved given tolerance and good-will on both sides. The moderate views, unusual for an Orthodox rabbi in this country, were expressed by Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren of Tel Aviv, the former Chief Chaplain of Israel’s armed forces.

Addressing members of the Guild for Religion and Spirit of B’nai Brith, Rabbi Goren, who holds the rank of general, said that halacha in this generation had not advanced hand-in-hand with the times and was behind when asked of any innovations. He said halacha was powerless to solve the intricate problems of the modern Israeli nation and expressed regret that the present generation found no courage to make innovations—“in spite of technological possibilities”—which would have made it easier to observe the injunctions of the Torah, including keeping the Sabbath.

Rabbi Goren stressed that there should be a State approach to halacha. He said a bridge could be found between a modern democratic state and the laws of the Torah if several conditions are met, the most important being good-will on all sides. He said extraordinary cases should not be utilized to heat up clashes between religious and non-observant elements of the population.

The Chief Rabbi was referring apparently to the recent case in which marriage licenses were denied to two young Israelis because the religious authorities deemed them to be of illegitimate birth. The case aroused widespread anger against the Orthodox establishment. Rabbi Goren referred to the problem of conversation when he called for “deep and flexible tolerance” to solve the problems of every Jew who wants to return to his ancestral land.

Mrs. Meir, Eban Confer with Barbour in First of Series of Clarifications

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA)—Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban met today with US Ambassador Walworth Barbour in what was described officially as the first in a series of “consultations and clarifications” to be held between Israel and the US over the coming weeks. Mrs. Meir reportedly reiterated the tough stand she took in her Knesset speech last Tuesday, declaring to the American envoy that Israel cannot be expected to enter into negotiations with Egypt when America has “stacked the cards” from the beginning to Israel’s disadvantage. The Premier had charged in her Knesset address that Secretary of State William P. Rogers has shifted toward the Egyptian position on an interim agreement to reopen the Suez Canal.

Mrs. Meir and Eban reportedly assured Barbour, however, that Israel is still interested in any form of agreement—interim or permanent—and is willing to continue talks. They also reiterated Israel’s demand for immediate resumption of the supply of Phantom jets from the US. Mrs. Mel restated Israel’s position that only assurances of secure boundaries could bring about an Israeli withdrawal from the present lines and that a partial withdrawal may be made in the interests of an interim settlement but not to the extent demanded by Egypt.

They reportedly told the American Ambassador that public opinion in Israel was solidly behind the government’s position and the latter would not yield to pressure for any concessions that would place Israel at a disadvantage. The meeting with Barbour was the first since the envoy’s return to Israel after an extended home leave.

Arab League Out in Open

BUENOS AIRES, Nov. 1 (JTA)—The Arab League mission for Argentina and Chile has for the first time openly and publicly expressed its displeasure at the US turning the Israel advertisement in one of this country’s leading newspapers. The 5,000 word ad published Friday in the morning daily, La Nacion, was signed by Yusif Albandak, the mission head. Previously such ads were published under the facade of sponsorship by various local committees.

The La Nacion ad accused Zionist bodies of the murders of Count Folke Bernadotte and Lord Moyne and the “political murder” of the late US Secretary of State James Forrestal and the late President Charles de Gaulle of France.

The ad attacked the DAIA, the central representative body of Argentine Jews as “plutocratic” and accused it and other Zionists of displaying contempt for Argentina’s sovereignty as demonstrated by the kidnapping of Adolf Eichmann a decade ago. The ad was apparently in response to ads placed recently by the DAIA to counter Arab propaganda.

Chileans Satisfied with Israel’s Arrangement for Holy Places

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1 (JTA)—Two members of a Chilean parliamentary delegation visiting Israel as guests of the Knesset and Foreign Ministry said today that they were satisfied with the ar-
agreements existing with respect to holy places of all faiths in Jerusalem. That view was expressed by Sen. Herbert Agur and Rabbi Carl Simon, chairmen of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the lower house of the Israeli Parliament. They spoke at a press conference here on the eve of their departure from Jerusalem.

Shaw, who visited the country in 1966, said conditions today are the better than they were at that time when East-Jerusalem was under Jordanian rule. Both legislators said the people of Chile had great esteem and sympathy for Israel. They said the war had a great effect on President Salvador Allende.

[Note: The last paragraph is not clearly visible in the image.]

FULBRIGHT'S YES ON ISRAEL AID SEEN AS RECOGNITION OF NECESSITY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1 (UJA) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee met today to determine what parts of the administration's $2.2 billion foreign aid bill, defeated in the Senate last Friday, can be rescued. Its chairman, Sen. J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.), said yesterday on the CBS television network he was hopeful the Senate would pass at least part of the legislation it passed earlier. The Senate has in the past passed legislation that would pass the bill, but the Senate, particularly in the last two years, has seen the necessity of recognizing the necessity of passing the bill. The Senate has in the past passed legislation that would pass the bill, but the Senate, particularly in the last two years, has seen the necessity of passing the bill. The Senate has in the past passed legislation that would pass the bill, but the Senate, particularly in the last two years, has seen the necessity of passing the bill.
JTA Daily News Bulletin

Supplement Page 2 November 2, 1971

to mention the saving accruing to their financial hard pressed parents. An equally serious dilemma faces the government which must find an additional $40 million for health services which the Jewish Agency has been forced to cut from its 1971/72 budget. This includes aid to clinics and health centers in 50 outlying settlements and the building of much needed hospitals.

On the assumption that it costs some $10,000 annually to maintain one hospital bed, the proposed cut of $17 million for this purpose out of the total $40 million reduction would mean the elimination of 1,700 beds which could prove disastrous considering that Israel needs more than this amount just to overcome the present serious conditions of overcrowding, according to the report. Since the second part of the $40 million cut was supposed to be devoted to the construction of new hospitals, there will certainly be no hope for alleviating the present situation if the government and the Jewish Agency cannot finance the necessary funds.

In one item only the Jewish Agency will maintain its present share of the government budget, namely, 98 percent, with the Israeli citizen presently taxed to the limit, with government loans at a peak and most other sources of government revenue utilized to the limit, it is hard to see how the government will be able to make up the $185 million which the Jewish Agency has had to cut out of its budget this year. Israelis thus face a further tightening this year. Much of the squeeze unfortunately will be felt where it hurts, among the underprivileged.

JDC, HEBREW U TO TRAIN CENTER WORKERS

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)—Establishment of the Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz training program for community center personnel at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem was announced here following an agreement reached by the University and the Joint Distribution Committee. In announcing the new program Louis Bredlo, JDC chairman, said the first 15-month graduate course, with an enrollment of some 70 students, should be running by the current academic year. Supervision of the program to train top echelon personnel for community centers will be under the University’s School of Education and the Paul Baerwald School.

Under the agreement, Malben, the JDC agency in Israel, will provide some $31,000 annually over the next five years to match an equal sum provided by the University to finance the program. JDC funds for this and other programs in Israel come mainly from the campaigns of the United Jewish Appeal. Bredlo noted that it was “fitting and proper to name the new training program for Dr. Schwartz in view of his lifetime devotion to Jewish need in Israel and throughout the world.”

Program Named In Honor Of Dr. Schwartz

Dr. Schwartz joined the JDC staff in 1939 and served as Director-General of its overseas operations until the end of 1950. During this period, Bredlo said, he helped Jewish refugees escape from Nazi Europe and after the war organized a massive program of aid to the survivors of the holocaust. Before the initial emergency needs had been met he helped more than 500,000 of them make their way to Palestine, and, after 1948, Israel. He helped another 100,000 find haven in the United States, Canada and Latin America. He served as executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal from 1951 to 1955 and headed the Israel Bond Organization for the next 15 years. Dr. Schwartz is a vice-chairman of the JDC and a member of its Administration Committee.

Brodlo noted that the community centers in Israel have been suffering from a severe lack of professionally trained personnel. There are 10 centers in operation and another six are scheduled to open shortly. In addition, there are plans to build another 40 centers. “All of them are urgently in need of trained directors and staff,” he said.

The centers are located mainly in low income areas in the cities and development towns. Brodlo continued. “Most of the residents are comparatively recent immigrants with varying levels of education,” he said. “Their general poverty and absence of neighborhood facilities keep the young people idling aimlessly on city corners. Well functioning community centers, with a broad range of social, creative and cultural events would help ease their transition from the old world to the new.”

Avraham Harman, president of Hebrew University and former Israel Ambassador to the United States, welcomed the agreement as “a further expression of the Joint Distribution Committee policy to help in the development of the professional manpower needed to implement its modern education, health and welfare programs.”

YIDDISH POET DEDICATES POEM TO YEVTUSHENKO

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 1 (JTA)—The United Nations correspondents’ corps has among its members the only poet who has ever dedicated a poem in Yiddish to Yevgeny Yevtushenko, the author of “Babi Yar.” He is Wolf Pasmansnik, who works for the World Jewish Press and who knew Yevtushenko before World War II when both were young men studying at the Literary Institute of Soviet Writers in Moscow.

He does not know whether the Russian poet has ever seen his poem, “The Lilac Tree,” which implicitly compares Yevtushenko to such a tree standing “stiffling, silence, ‘ganot the wall,’” waiting for spring when again “blue lilacs will be seen.” Babi Yar, the epic dealing with the massacre of Russian Jews by the Nazis in a ravine outside Kiev, made Yevtushenko internationally famous but got him into trouble with the authorities at home. The poem suggested that anti-Semitism still lingered in the Soviet Union.

Pasmansnik met Yevtushenko a few years ago when the latter was in New York. He asked him how things were back at the Institute and the Russian replied, “They threw me out.” Pasmansnik was born in Lwow, Poland, and was repatriated to that country after World War II although Lwow was incorporated into the USSR. He moved to Italy and then came to the United States. He has also dedicated a poem to Premier Golda Meir of Israel, titled “The Jewish Warriors.” After giving it to her he received a letter of thanks from Hebrew from one of Mrs. Meir’s aides. Pasmansnik has won prizes from the Yiddish Culture Organization and the Yiddish P.E.N. Club of New York for his book, “Mayne Lidter” (“My Poems”) published last year.

ZIM OPENS LONGEST OCEAN ROUTE

HAIFA, Nov. 1 (JTA)—The Zim Lines has announced that it will open a new containership line early next year from Israel to the United States and Canada via the South Pacific and Japan. It will be the longest ocean route served by Israel and will employ six containerships which Israel has ordered in West Germany at a cost of over $100 million. Under terms of the contract, the first two vessels will sail under the German flag for two years after which they will be re-registered in Israel. The flag agreement reduces the cost of the ships by $10 million.

A SUPPLEMENT WILL APPEAR WHEN WARRANTED
SPECIAL JTA REPORT

NORWAY'S JEWISH COMMUNITY
IS SMALL BUT ACTIVE
By MICHAEL LEVY,
JTA Scandinavian Correspondent

OSLO, Nov. 1 (JTA)—Although the majority among some 50 Israelis who established themselves here are married to non-Jewish women, the local Jewish community is not troubled by mixed marriages. This view was expressed here by the president of Norway's Jewish community, Harry Kortitzinsky, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. This, however, might be due to the fact that in all of Norway, there are only some 15 Jewish marriages each year, Kortitzinsky noted. The Jewish community was founded in Norway on June 6, 1852. Some 935 Jews now live in the country, including 100 Jews in the town of Trondheim. The Trondheim community is worried by the lack of any religious leadership. There are currently vacancies for the posts of town rabbi, synagogue cantor and ritual slaughterer or shochet. As for Oslo, there is a rabbi there, but not more than 15 to 20 Jews come each Saturday to synagogue. This creates a problem that a minyan may not always be assured. The synagogue is a modest but extremely handsome building situated at 13 Bergstien Street. Nearby, on 15 Bergstien Street is the new building of the community center.

In all of Norway there are only three synagogues, of these two are only active. The government of Norway pays the Jewish community $4,50 for each inscribed community member, and the local municipalities provide an additional $1,50 grant to their communities for each congregation member. On the bright side, Kortitzinsky observed, all congregation members attend Yom Kippur services in Oslo, thus providing their solidarity with Jewry. The official attitude is extremely philo-Semitic. A specific law exists, forbidding anti-Semitic utterings or behavior. But there has hardly been any need at all to implement this piece of legislation.

Many Organizations Flourish.

In spite of its small numbers, the local Jewish community has an extremely active life and many organizations flourish in Oslo and elsewhere, according to Kortitzinsky. The Zionist Organization of Norway was founded in 1912. Many Norwegians have participated in the Zionist congresses held since that year. The Zionist Organization is currently headed by Hermann Kahn, Norway's WIZO, in existence since 1914, is headed by Mrs. Berit Demborg.

In 1919 a chapter of the Jewish Scandinavian Youth Organization was founded in Oslo and has continued its work uninterruptedly since then. The Jewish community in Norway participates in summer holiday camps held jointly with the Jewish communities of Sweden and Denmark. Other organizations which are very active here are the local chapter of B'nai B'rith, founded in 1952 and the Jewish National Fund.

The Jewish community center of Oslo was built in the late 1940s building, which some $200,000 contains two conference halls, three flights of rooms for community officials, a classroom, library and various meeting rooms for young community members. A “kasher food sale” is held twice a month and on the eve of all Jewish holidays. This year, 325 of Norway's 935 Jews paid dues to the community, Kortitzinsky stated.

SHARP SLASH IN JEWISH AGENCY BUDGET AS FUND RAISING GOALS NOT REACHED

Biggest Cuts in Housing Education

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA)—Fund raising targets for Israel this year were the highest in history, a total of $600 million from world Jewry. The targets will not be met, however, even though the results will be excellent. By the end of the present campaign year this fall some $222 million will have been raised, second only to the record $600 million figure collected during the Six-Day War.

This was reported here by Keren Hayesod—United Israel Appeal.

Nevertheless, the report noted, the drop in expectations has necessitated drastic cuts in the Jewish Agency budget which was based not only on the expectations but on real and pressing needs. As a result the overcrowding in Israeli hospitals will not get better and in many cases will get worse, maintenance of children in institutions will be reduced, and the expansion of day care centers for pre-kindergarten children of working mothers will be drastically reduced.

In addition, the Israel government will have to spend at least $120 million more for new water projects in agricultural settlements and for vitally needed immigrant housing which it had expected to get from the Jewish Agency, the report stated.

Budget Cut 30 Percent

In all, the $600 million budget of the Jewish Agency for 1971/72 will be reduced by a total of $184,714,336.41, a cut of some 30 percent. The United Jewish Appeal, which is responsible for fund raising on behalf of Israel in the United States expects to raise $222 million compared with its target of $400 million. The Keren Hayesod which is responsible for fund raising in 71 other countries throughout the world anticipates an income of $100 million this year compared with its goal of $200 million. The estimates are considered reliable since most of the fund raising campaigns for the present year have been completed, the report noted.

The largest single cut out of the total $185 million reduction which will be in housing for new immigrants. Here some $110 million will be eliminated marking a drastic 57 percent reduction in the 1971/72 budget. Similarly, the government may have no choice but to take up the slack in the Jewish Agency's $11 million cut for new water projects in outlying settlements, and in the $13 million cut for vocational training of new immigrants, for hot meals for underprivileged school children and for aid to pre-kindergarten day care centers for children of working mothers.

Concluding, the report stated that in human terms, a budget cut of $110 million in housing can spell disaster for Israel's entire immigrant absorption program since this would mean some 5,500 housing units, less than required during the coming year. This is almost half of the housing units required for the more than 50,000 immigrants expected this year, not to mention the thousands of underprivileged Israelis who have been pressing, sometimes violently, for improved housing conditions. An $11 million cut in water projects for outlying settlements could mean economic stagnation for some 30 struggling settlements on the Lebanese border and their possible abandonment by many veteran settlers.

Squeeze Will Affect Underprivileged

In the case of hot lunches for underprivileged school children, the proposed cut could eliminate this important item for 10,000 children during the course of an entire year. For most of them this is the only hot meal they receive during the day, not
CREDIT FROZEN TO COMBAT INFLATION
JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA)--The Cabinet last night ordered a freeze on the volume of credit extended by Israeli banks at $900 million, the figure is expected to reach $1,700 before Thursday. The measure was taken to combat inflation. Since the Israeli sound was devalued last Aug, banks have been permitted to increase their credit volume by one quarter of one percent each week. During the ten weeks since devaluation, the total credit volume increased by only 2.5 percent.

The Cabinet acted on the recommendation of Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir who was supported by David Horowitz, retiring head of the Bank of Israel and Israel's newly appointed successor, Moshe Zanbar. Sapir reviewed the country's economic performance during the year. He noted on the positive side that industrial production rose by 3.5 percent, much more than expected. Private consumption per capita hardly rose at all during the first six months of this year and the additional money in circulation is due entirely to public spending and investment.

Sapir said the record indicated greater success than expected in efforts to halt inflationary pressures. On the negative side, the Finance Minister observed that the economy is over-extended and is short 30,000 workers. Construction has taken up the biggest share of investments--$750 million--matching the peak volume of 1964-65. He said that Israeli exports would amount to $1.750 billion this year against slightly more than $2 billion in imports. If investment goods, mainly ships and aircraft, are deducted, imports will hardly have increased at all in 1971, he said.

JDC RESHAPING OVERSEAS OPERATIONS
GENEVA, Nov. 1 (JTA)--The Joint Distribution Committee has been reshaping its overseas operations in order to meet the challenges of the times, David Horowitz, director general of the worldwide relief agency said at the closing session of the JDC's annual conference here. He said the new areas of operations are added health and welfare services in Israel to help that country with its current economic problems; to strengthen Jewish communal life in Western Europe and Iran; and to orient Jewish social and medical services in Eastern Europe and North Africa. Since World War II the JDC has benefited 321,000 adults and children.

Samuel L. Haber, executive vice chairman, said that some immediate needs remained unmet because of lack of funds. He cited as an example Rumania, where of 100,000 Jews, a high percentage are aged or destitute. He said the JDC tried to meet their basic needs but there were several thousand marginal cases which it could not assist.

Haber reported that in 1972 the JDC will again require over $23 million to assist some 300,000 Jews in distress in 25 countries. He noted that 40 percent of the JDC budget is allocated for health, welfare and education programs.

He said more than $1 million goes to support ORT vocational training programs in Israel. In Europe, Haber said, the JDC will have to spend $6.1 million in 1972 to help more than 164,000 needy Jews. The largest sum disbursed in Western Europe went for the care and maintenance of transients. In Eastern Europe the bulk of the JDC program was concentrated in Rumania. He said the JDC continues to function in Morocco, Tunisia and Iran where some 45,000 Jews were assisted during this year.

JEWISH RENAISSANCE IN US PREDICTED
NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)--In a major address dealing with the past, present and future of the American Jewish community, one of America's leading sociologists, Dr. Leonard J. Fein, said that "Jews are embarking on an entirely new chapter in our history in this land," dramatically different from that which existed since 1888 when Jews began to migrate in large numbers to this country.

For the first time in the history of the American Jewish community, he said, "a Judaism rooted in Jewish values with the kind of commitment which regards Judaism as a challenge, as an achievement, as something which excites the imagination -- a Judaism worth the effort -- a Judaism which one can love -- has now become a real possibility."

Addressing the National Social Action Conference of the National Women's League of the United Synagogue, Dr. Fein, professor of Politics and Social Policy at Brandeis University, told 600 delegates attending the conference from 17 states: "The fundamental assumptions which formed Jewish life in this country for over three quarters of a century, which lay at the heart of what may be called the "American Jewish arrangement," are simply no longer tenable, and therefore, the arrangement to which they gave rise is no longer viable."

Dr. Fein asserted that if Judaism is to survive in the United States it will require a priority concern with Jewish needs, Jewish values and a "deep concern for our Jewish brothers" which must take precedence over universal values and the "welfare of our universal cousins," despite the need and desirability of such concerns as well.

Critical Of Jewish Establishment

He was optimistic about a new American Jewish renaissance because "Jews are restless, seething, searching, indeed, hungry for Jewish sustenance." He was critical of the Jewish establishment's "concern with Jewish needs, Jewish values and a "deep concern for our Jewish brothers" which must take precedence over universal values and the "welfare of our universal cousins," despite the need and desirability of such concerns as well.

CIVIL MARRIAGES DEMANDED

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1 (JTA)--A group of Israelis demanding an end to "religious bigotry" in questions pertaining to marriage announced today that its members would petition the Knesset on Nov. 9 to institute civil marriage in Israel. The Public Committee for Civil Marriage has designated that date "Bamzer Day" to focus attention on the plight of couples or a sister who were denied marriage licenses because the religious authorities consider them "mamzers" (illegitimate). The Committee is a recently formed non-partisan body which cooperates with the League Against Religious Coercion.
Hoffman Condemns Malik's Attack on Israel; Zionists Assail JDL Tactics

Boston, Nov. 1 (JTA)--"Wanton violence" and "repeated harassments against the persons and properties of the Soviet delegations" to the United Nations must not be made a pretext for "the vilification of any racial or religious groups" from the platform of the UN, Philip E. Hoffman, president of the American Jewish Committee said this weekend at the annual dinner of the AJC's policy-making National Executive Council.

Hoffman referred to the attacks on Israel and Zionists by Soviet Ambassador Yakov Malik in the General Assembly following an attack 10 days ago on an apartment occupied by the Soviet Mission. The AJC president appealed to UN Secretary General U Thant and Adam Malik of Indonesia, President of the General Assembly, to prevent "such dangerous and insidious actions."

The sniper attack has not been officially attributed to any group but a young member of the Jewish Defense League was arrested and charged with illegal procurement of the rifle used to fire the shots, Hoffman said. "We are also appalled by incidents of harassment by a small group of irresponsible rabbles and rousers who have been used to justify a vicious and vulgar campaign of calumny and defamation against Jews and Judaism by the Soviet diplomats and their Arab collaborators in the halls of the United Nations."

Referring to the Middle East, Hoffman said:

"Our first concern is the achievement of a stable and enduring peace...Israel must of course be kept strong, ready and able to repel attacks by those still dedicated to her destruction," he observed. "We have a concern as to how democratic will fare, how Israel deals with inequities within her own borders, for this, inevitably, has an impact upon the status of Jews everywhere in the world."

With respect to Soviet Jews, Hoffman said American Jews must intensify their efforts to release from bondage those who wish to leave, to help those who wish to remain to live as Jews within the Soviet Union, "free from oppression."

Kerler Praises Jews in US, Western Europe for Aiding Soviet Jews

Warns Of New Stalin Era-Type pogroms

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Joseph Kerler, the 53-year-old Soviet Yiddish poet who was finally allowed to emigrate to Israel seven months ago declared that world Jewry has demonstrated through him a concrete example of the unyielding spirit of Soviet Jewry, that it is "one nation with a common experience."

While Kerler expressed his gratitude to Jews in America and throughout the Western world for helping Soviet Jews who want to emigrate to Israel, he warned that "if we do not increase our vigilance now over what is happening to Soviet Jews," the anti-Jewish pogroms of the Stalin era "can be repeated now on a larger scale."

He said that Jews must unite with people all over the world in a common struggle, asserting that the Jews of Russia "is a danger to mankind."

Kerler, accompanied by his wife, arrived in this country to address the Jewish Labor Committee's biennial convention this weekend and will afterwards make a speaking tour of 20 cities in the US and Canada. The graying bush-hatted poet spoke in Yiddish to a group of newsmen here and said that "thousands" of young Jews "are in prison because they filed applications for exit visas." He added that only the continuous expression of world public opinion on behalf of Soviet Jews can assure a future for them in the Soviet Union. Only if Soviet Jews "win the right to maintain contacts with the rest of world Jewry" will there be a future for them in Russia.

Kerler declined to discuss individual groups of Western Jews fighting the struggle for Soviet Jewry, but he emphasized the need to keep demonstrations peaceful. Kerler said he started to write poetry while on the front lines fighting for the Red Army against the Germans in World War II. He was arrested in 1948 shortly before his second book of poems was scheduled to appear, and he spent more than five years in a Soviet slave labor camp near the North Pole, where he worked as a coal miner. Though it was difficult to write while in prison, he continued to do so and subsequently smuggled out of the country a whole book of poems about a slave labor camp. Some of these poems appear in his recently published book, "Songs Through Gritted Teeth."

Seated stiffly on the front edge of a chair and sometimes fiddling with his hands, Kerler said that while officially there are over 100 Yiddish authors in Russia, "I believe that there are only a few dozen real Yiddish writers." Whereas before 1948 one publishing house put out 120 Yiddish works, he said, today, only about four or five Yiddish books are published each year. He acknowledged that "to transplant roots to a new country is a difficult problem" for "idealistic" Soviet Jews, but he said that "by and large," the Soviet emigres to Israel know they will overcome the difficulties of a "rocky soil because the rocks are their own." He said his 13-year-old son "felt happy to leave Russia and happier still to arrive in Israel."

$1.4M Pledged by Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Women's Organization

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Approximately $1.4 million was pledged several days ago by 300 women leaders attending the 51st annual Luncheon for Donors which officially opened the 1971/72 campaign of the Women's Organization of Federations of Jewish Philanthropies. Mrs. David M. Solinger, Advance Gifts Chairman of the luncheon who made the announcement, said that the 1970/71 luncheon raised $1.250 million.

Lawrence B. Buttenwieser, Federation president, told the luncheon guests that the Federation's enormous campaign effort to enable its 130-member agencies to continue their programs for the people of New York "cannot be accomplished without the creative talents and devoted response of the Women's Organization."

This year, Federation has set as its goal $30 million, a figure needed to enable its health, social service, educational and recreational agencies to continue essential services to residents in the New York-Westchester-Long Island metropolitan areas.

Ben-Gurion Honored in Brazil

Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 1 (JTA)--The Brazilian Senate endorsed a resolution today honoring former Premier David Ben-Gurion of Israel on the occasion of his 65th birthday. The resolution was introduced in the Upper House in Brasilia by Sen. Nelson de Brum, Governor of Parana State. He recalled the deep impression made by the Israeli elder statesman when he visited Brazil two years ago. Ben-Gurion's birthday began on October 6 with celebrations throughout Israel and the rest of the world and is scheduled to continue for another two weeks.