



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016
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Vol. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Tuesday, November 16, 1971

No. 217

STATE DEP'T REAFFIRMS ENDORSEMENT OF RESOLUTIONS URGING SOVIETS TO EASE EMIGRATION, RIGHTS OF JEWS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15 (JTA)--The State Department today reaffirmed its endorsement of resolutions pending in the House which urge the Soviet government to ease conditions for Jews and permit them to emigrate. State Department spokesman Charles Bray said that was the intent of the testimony before the House subcommittee on Europe last Tuesday by Richard T. Davies, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs. He promised at today's news briefing that he would "clarify" later a portion of Davies' testimony on the condition of Soviet Jews which has been challenged by Jewish spokesmen. Davies said he thought that "claims that Soviet Jews as a community are living in a state of terror seemed to be overdrawn."

Davies also said there was no comparison of their situation with the Nazi holocaust or the Stalin blood purges of Jewish intellectuals. Bray said he "didn't know the antecedents" of Davies' statement, namely who made claims that Jews lived in terror or likened their condition to the holocaust and the Stalin purges. Bray referred to Davies' statement as "not as apocalyptic" as the condition of Soviet Jews "is sometimes depicted." He added, "I know the initial reaction was based in large measure on a very limited portion of his testimony which appeared in the newspapers and is part of the concern of the Jewish community."

Bray noted that "Davies' intent was to provide the subcommittee with a comprehensive and balanced statement as far as possible and to present the administration's desirability to enact a resolution to help promote an easing of the situation." The House subcommittee on Europe was reported today to be preparing to draft a resolution this week on the subject of Soviet Jews.

REFUTE REPORT JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS 'RIDDLED BY DRUG ABUSE'

JOHANNESBURG, Nov. 15 (JTA)--The Jewish community here is up in arms over the statement that Jewish day schools are "riddled with drug abuse." The allegation was made by S. Chilchik, one of two members of the Mayor's Drug Abuse Committee who addressed a press conference of local Jewish newspapermen. The conference was called by Rabbi N.M. Bernhard of the United Hebrew Congregation. Chilchik and City Councilman Dr. A.D. Bensusan both said they were concerned to find many Jews affected by drug addiction.

Chilchik's remark was denounced in a sermon by Chief Rabbi B.M. Casper over the weekend. It was repudiated by Johannesburg's Mayor, A.B. Widman, at the national conference of Jewish welfare organizations just held here. Mayor Widman, who attended to convey civic greetings to the conference, said, "I am not aware of addiction to drugs in any one section of the community. I have been trying to get figures, and there are no figures which show drug addiction especially in this or that section of the community. I have not come across figures which show any particular schools to be affected. No one was authorized by my committee to say that any schools were 'riddled with drug abuse.'"

Mayor Widman said "the person who made this statement has expressed his extreme sorrow that he has been misrepresented in this way." The Mayor added that his committee "had nothing to do with the interview." Rabbi Casper said it was "quite reprehensible that a suggestion should be made that this unfortunate ill of modern society is to be found more among our Jewish youth than elsewhere." He said that from his personal association with the Jewish schools he found that "the assertion is utterly unjustified and ill-founded."

Louis Sachs, chairman of the South African Board of Jewish Education, also repudiated the charge at a press conference. He noted that the drug problem was world wide and that schools generally were affected. It may be that some children at Jewish day schools are also involved, but to make a blanket accusation was "a canard and a slur on one of the community's outstanding education achievements," he said.

US SAYS: USSR ACTING WITH 'OBSERVABLE RESTRAINT' IN ARMS SHIPMENTS TO EGYPT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15 (JTA)--The State Department said today that the Soviet Union is acting with "observable restraint" in the shipment of arms to Egypt. Spokesman Charles Bray offered that remark in reply to questions on an interview with Secretary of State William P. Rogers published in the Nov. 22 edition of US News and World Report. Rogers said in the interview that the Soviets had cut down arms shipments to Egypt in the last four months and that up to now the Middle East arms balance has not shifted.

Bray said Rogers' comment followed "an assessment of information available to us as of Nov. 1." He added that this was "a punctuation mark of sorts" and that the US "will go on watching the situation very closely and will do so particularly in light of the context of the Moscow communique" issued last month following the visit of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to the Soviet capital.

In reply to other questions, Bray said he did not know if the Soviet slowdown on arms shipments to Egypt was in response to an American request or whether it was based on the US denial so far of Israel's request for more Phantom jets. Regarding the Phantoms, Bray said the State Department would keep the matter "under continuing study and review." He said he believed the State Department has been in touch with Israel on the subject through the Israeli Embassy here. He said a Jerusalem report that the Phantoms would not be granted was not "accurate." (See story P. 3 for Israel's assessment.)

ZIONIST CONGRESS WILL FACE ISSUES SQUARELY, SAYS PINCUS

NEW YORK, Nov. 15 (JTA)--The next World Zionist Congress will not be a resolution-passing Congress, Louis A. Pincus insisted today. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and of the World Zionist Organization Executive, advised the National Board of the American Zionist Federation today that "We shall be taking a close look at our past record, at what has happened to previous resolutions."

He added; "Zionist business is becoming serious business; and we shall examine our shortcomings and take steps to remedy them, as well as boast of our achievements." The Congress will be held next January in Jerusalem. Pincus noted the "heavy responsibility" facing the reconstituted Jewish Agency. "We must seriously study all the issues in which we (Zionists and non-Zionists) both have great interest--as, for example, the question of poverty in Israel, and 'the two Israels'--and then express our mandate on Jewish priorities," Pincus said.

He stated that "This partnership with the non-Zionists in the Jewish Agency has already produced substantial benefits and improvements in many areas of work." Pincus also declared that "our concern with Russian Jews must be sustained over the long pull." He continued: "So often failure and even modest successes have discouraged Jews or have led them to relax their efforts. The issue of Soviet Jewry will be with us for a long time, and we must prepare for what may be a long struggle and see to it that the world conscience does not forget." Pincus asserted that "The resurgence of the Zionist spirit among our Russian brothers stands high among the proudest moments of contemporary Zionism, and our solidarity with them must remain unbroken."

Rabbi Israel Miller, AZF president, told the organization's National Board that he and other friends of Israel were as "impatient" with Secretary of State William P. Rogers as Rogers was with Israel. Above all, Rabbi Miller said, "we are impatient with an administration that does not seem to comprehend" that the only way to avoid another Middle East confrontation is to make Israel strong militarily. This "impatience" with Washington's policy "must become contagious," the AZF leader said. "The American people must speak up and tell our government that it stands four-square for Israel and its security."

RUTH ALEKSANDROVICH MARRIED

TEL AVIV, Nov. 15 (JTA)--Ruth Aleksandrovich, released from a Soviet prison camp a month ago, was married here last night to her fiancé, Isaiah Averbuch. Rabbi Itzhak Yedidya Fraenkel officiated at the ceremony which was held at the Wizo Club here and was attended by a small party of relatives and friends. Miss Aleksandrovich wore a long bridal gown with hand embroidery which was presented to her as a gift of the Wizo, Women's International Zionist Organization. The 24-year-old nurse from Riga served a one year sentence for alleged anti-Soviet activities.

'FIDDLER' SCRATCHED BY BLACK STUDENTS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15 (JTA)--An audience of more than 800 persons, most of them black, attended a benefit performance of the film version of "Fiddler on the Roof" here to raise funds for a new alumni center at Howard University, America's largest black university. The film, which is based on stories by Sholom Aleichem, elicited mixed reactions from Howard faculty members and students who saw it. Some comments made to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency indicated that the viewers believed that as bad as the Jews had it in Czarist Russia, they did not suffer to the same degree as blacks in America.

The film was praised by Dr. James E. Check, president of Howard. He said the "oppression of the Jews shown in the film certainly affects all blacks and brings better understanding between blacks and Jews." Dr. Edward I. Mazique,

president of the Howard Alumni Association which sponsored the benefit said "Fiddler" was "an excellent movie...because it touches everybody and relates to what America is all about."

At a reception at Dr. Check's home following the performance, the JTA solicited reactions from various guests, mainly Howard students. They responded in frank terms though they asked that their names not be mentioned. A woman philosophy student observed that the Russian-Jewish economic situation was very different from that of American blacks at the same period in history. She said Jews suffered because of their religion which they could discard, not because of race which blacks cannot hide.

'Jews Are White, Period.'

A woman political science student said "The only problem is that Jews are in some position of affluence now and refuse to see themselves as part of black oppression like all the whites and that the oppression of blacks is as obvious here now as it was to the Jews in Russia." A Howard faculty member, a woman, was asked if she felt any kinship with the Jews in the film. She replied, "Jews are white, Period."

But a male journalism student noted that "When you get a clearer view of that kind of cultural background it helps you to realize why Jews are what they are now." A male architectural student said "It backs up our realization that a lot of us are in the same boat as those people in Russia." A young woman music teacher, a Howard alumnus, observed that "The music was splendid. It touched everybody."

JEWISH PROBLEM IS IDENTIFICATION, NOT IDENTITY, SAYS DR. COHEN

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Nov. 15 (JTA)--In his first public remarks since being chosen earlier this month to be chief executive officer of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Dr. Gerson D. Cohen contended today that the Jewish problem in the United States was not one of "searching for identity," but one of "identification." Addressing the biannual convention of the United Synagogue of America, Dr. Cohen said: "We are often told that what faces us is a crisis of identity. I submit that this is a gross error fraught with the danger of misdirecting our energies toward chimerical problems. Identity is not our problem or the problem of most Jews. The problem is one of identification."

The 47-year-old educator, who next June 30 will succeed Dr. Louis I. Finkelstein as chief executive officer of the Seminary and president of its faculties, explained: "We are faced with a crisis of faith, of purpose and of commitment. Most Jews know they are Jews, but are puzzled and confused over the implications of the name. If our parents and grandparents, therefore, were in quest of freedom and a new Judaism, the task facing us will be to mold the new Jew--a Jew who understands where he has come from, where he must go and how he will be judged."

Dr. Cohen told the 2,000 Conservative delegates that Conservative Judaism is "singularly well-equipped for the task of building the new Jew," because it is "committed to tradition, to the people of Israel, to the land of Israel, to the State of Israel and to the Torah of Israel." Dr. Cohen added that "No Jewish community in history has ever been great except by producing its own scholars and also its own native-model Jew." History, he observed, "will judge us by the American Jew we produce."

ISRAEL SAYS POWER BALANCE NOT REDRESSED

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA)--Foreign Ministry officials claimed today that massive Soviet shipments of aircraft to Egypt from March through May, 1971 upset the Middle East power balance which has not yet been redressed. The officials were commenting on a statement by Secretary of State William P. Rogers, published in the Nov. 22 edition of the American magazine US News and World Report that "the Soviet Union in the last four or five months has operated with some restraint as far as (arms) shipments (to Egypt) are concerned."

The Israeli officials did not dispute Rogers' assertion but claimed that shipments of MIG-21s and Sukhoi-7 bombers to Egypt last spring were not balanced by American shipments of aircraft to Israel. Israel at the time was receiving the last of the Phantoms sold under previous arrangements with the Nixon administration. The officials described them as "a very small number."

They noted that still later the Soviets introduced their MIG-23s to Egypt, the world's fastest and highest flying combat plane. Some sources claimed that the Russians have also sent Egypt their new Sukhoi-11 light bombers. The sources said that if these reports are correct, the information contained in Rogers' interview did not include all the facts.

The Israeli officials also referred to Rogers' insistence that the six points he outlined in his speech before the United Nations General Assembly last month did not constitute American proposals regarding an interim Suez agreement between Israel and Egypt. Rogers told the magazine that "We have not adopted any substantive position on any of these six parameters that I outlined. We have no blueprint of our own that we have put forward." According to the Israelis, Rogers' remarks appear to be a step toward rebuilding the credibility of the US role as an intermediary in Israeli-Egyptian negotiations.

JEWISH SCIENTIST HONORED

PARIS, Nov. 15 (JTA)--The highest French award for scientific research has been awarded this year to Prof. Bernard Halpern, director general of the laboratory for immunology of the Hospital Broussais. Dr. Halpern is the inventor of "phenexan" and of an anti-lymphocytary often used in heart transplant operations. A member of the Friends of the Hebrew University in France and of the France-Israel Friendship Association, he was awarded the Golden Medal of the French National Center for Scientific Research. Prof. Halpern was born in Russia in 1904 and came to France in 1922. He has published more than 400 medical and scientific papers.

FISHER PRAISES DAY SCHOOLS; SMOLAR AWARD ANNOUNCED

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 15 (JTA)--Marked encouragement to the day school movement was contained in the declaration of Max M. Fisher of Detroit, in his presidential address to the 40th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. Deploing the quoted figures that "two-thirds of our children get little or no education," Fisher declared: "We need better education for adults--for ourselves. Many of our young people put aside their heritage. They discard something they were never taught--not in the school nor in the home."

Referring to the day schools, he asserted "There is no easy answer to the problem of Federation support for day schools. The Jewish day schools have

earned the right to our most careful consideration. There is a growing feeling in many quarters--not just the traditional--that the day school holds one of the very best answers to the furtherance of Jewish continuity."

At the Assembly's banquet session Saturday night, Boris Smolar, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was presented with a plaque for his "more than a half-century of uniquely distinguished service as journalist (and) author." The plaque was presented to him by Fisher. It was also announced officially that the CJF has established a Boris Smolar Award for Excellence in Jewish Journalism which will be given annually at the CJF's General Assembly to an outstanding newspaper and journalist. The first award will be presented at the Assembly's convention next year in Toronto.

STEIN DEMANDS ISRAEL GIVE FULL RECOGNITION TO CONSERVATIVE RABBIS

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Nov. 15 (JTA)--The president of the largest congregational body in American Judaism demanded today "full recognition" by Israel of the religious status of the Conservative movement. "While we recognize the sovereignty of the State of Israel," declared Jacob Stein of Great Neck, N.Y., head of the United Synagogue of America, "Israel must recognize that in religious dimensions there is only one sovereignty--the sovereignty of Judaism--and this calls for the full recognition of the status of American Jews."

Addressing 2,000 delegates to the United Synagogue's biannual convention, Stein declared: "We cannot continue to tolerate non-recognition or to permit our rabbis to be humiliated and forbidden to act as spiritual leaders. We cannot accept the concept that we who are in the mainstream of historical Judaism should not enjoy complete and first-class membership in the religious community in Israel."

Stein, who was reelected to a second two-year term as president, offered in his presidential address two proposals to alleviate the problems of small or out-of-the-way Jewish communities or those too poor to maintain a spiritual leader. He announced the establishment of a core of retired rabbis who, while unwilling to return to full-time pulpits, would aid congregations part-time and be paid by the Jewish communities involved or the United Synagogue or both; and he suggested that the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the fountainhead of Conservative Judaism, require its graduates to serve rabbinical congregations for two years.

Rabbi Bernard Segal, executive vice-president of the United Synagogue, declared that while it was "one thing to oppose government aid to religious schools, this very opposition imposes on us the solemn obligation to provide the where-withall for maintaining our schools." He urged the United Synagogue leadership to exercise their influence on local federations and welfare funds for maximum allocations for Jewish education. The Conservative movement maintains a chain of Solomon Schechter day schools and high schools throughout the US. The United Synagogue convention opened Sunday and will continue through Thursday.

PLEA TO AID SYRIAN JEWS

LONDON, Nov. 15 (JTA)--The British Section of the World Jewish Congress appealed to Prime Minister Edward Heath and to the leadership of the opposition Labor and Liberal parties today to urge Syria that it grant Jews the right to emigrate.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

BONN (JTA)--The West German press and political leaders paid little notice to the 33rd anniversary of the Crystal Night pogroms which was the start of the Nazi's anti-Jewish terror campaign. During the nights of Nov. 9-10, 1938 Nazis in Germany and Austria destroyed Jewish businesses, synagogues, community buildings and apartment buildings. The only public address on this tragic occurrence was given by West Berlin's Acting Mayor Klaus Schueltz during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Jewish Center of Berlin. "We remember the victims of a persecution that saw a climax of terror in this country 33 years ago," Schueltz said. "We Berliners are conscious of the obligation we bear to give all men who wish to live in our midst a hope in a spirit of tolerance and peace."

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--The US Embassy presented to the Finance Ministry on Thursday a check for some \$6 million to help finance economic development projects. This sum was made available under terms of a 1967 US-Israel agreement for the sale in Israeli pounds of farm products. The loan was allocated for development of Israel's present railway systems, laying of new tracks, development of agriculture and of public and government buildings. The money was given in the form of a loan at 4-3/4 percent interest for 30 years repayable in Israeli pounds, officials said.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--In a violent protest against German Culture Week in Israel, egg-tossing, screaming demonstrators disrupted Thursday night the performance of a Berlin theater group in Jerusalem's Convention Hall. Most of the protestors appeared to be yeshiva students but there were also a number of Betar youth movement members and former Nazi concentration camp inmates. Inside the hall, the Berlin Schiller troupe's performance of Lessing's "Emille Galotti" was interrupted three times as the protestors shouted "Nazis" and "murderers" at the actors. Some persons entering the hall were spat on.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Twenty three Soviet Georgian Jewish families have reported that their homes were demolished 16 months ago for new housing that has not been started on. The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry said the families recounted their plight in a letter to Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev. The plea said the families are now in an "exceedingly difficult situation" and that their appeals to the local authorities in Kareli village have "all been in vain." The letter, signed by 17 of the 23 Jewish homeowners, also stated: "We are in such a difficult situation that it is impossible to describe it...We cannot endure this any longer...We are afraid of tomorrow."

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BONN (JTA)--The trial of two former SS members, Albert Brettschneider, 62, and Richard Pal, 59, opened last week in Mannheim. The two former Nazis are charged with complicity in the murder of Jews in Galicia in 1942 and 1943. Some 2,000 witnesses were heard in preliminary investigations, some 28 currently residing in Israel. The trial is expected to last about eight months.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--Alexander Gurvets, a Kharkov

engineer who was detained by Soviet officials after he applied for exit documents, arrived here Friday together with five other Jewish families from Kharkov and Kiev. Gurvets told newsmen that there is a "significant movement" for aliya among Kharkov Jews.

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BELGRADE (JTA)--The Jewish community in Yugoslavia "has especially close ties with Yugoslav Jews in Israel and the societies of Yugoslav Jews in the United States," according to a spokesman for the Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia. He said that "our contacts with many Jewish organizations and institutions all over the world continue." The spokesman reported that the Jewish historical museum in Belgrade which is supervised by the Federation has recently received research grants from a number of individuals and organizations outside Yugoslavia.

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COPENHAGEN (JTA)--A group of Greenland residents, the first ever to visit Israel, have just returned to their native communities and have become the most active propagandists for Israel, according to Knud Hertling, Danish Minister for Greenland Affairs. He said the Greenlanders have already published laudatory articles in local papers on their trip to Israel. Hertling commented: "I would not mind finding out for myself what is so appealing over there." A member of the Israeli diplomatic staff who heard Hertling's remark promptly invited him to visit Israel as a guest of the government.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--Moshe Gilboa, Israel's Consul General in Atlanta, Ga., said here that the furor over the case of the Black Hebrews in Dimona is harming Israel's image among American Blacks in the South. He noted that the American press, in blowing up current tensions in the Negev city, has harmed relations between Jews and Blacks in the South - relations which were always regarded as good.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Cabinet decided Sunday to cut \$34 million from the national budget for the current fiscal year and is studying how to trim the Defense Ministry's budget by some \$33.6 million. Due to the Cabinet's decision, \$26.4 million will be eliminated from development expenditures, mainly transportation and postal services, and \$6 million will be cut across the board from all ministries in proportion to their approved expenditures. Reductions in the Defense Ministry budget for fiscal 1972 will be dealt with by a special ministerial committee appointed last week and headed by Premier Golda Meir. The new fiscal year begins April 1.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--A conversion performed in Moscow by a three-member rabbinical panel headed by Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin was accepted last week in Israel. It was the first conversion performed in Moscow in more than 20 years. Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren of Tel Aviv who inspected the documents submitted to him by a Soviet woman emigre said the conversion was in order.

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