



daily news bulletin

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STATE DEPARTMENT DISCLOSES USSR ADDS BOMBERS TO INVENTORY IN EGYPT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--The State Department revealed today that since Nov. 1, the Soviet Union had added up to 10 TU-16 Badger jet reconnaissance-bombers to its "inventory" in Egypt. The planes, which carry Egyptian markings, are being flown by Soviet crews. Department spokesman Charles Bray refused to confirm or deny that the planes were supersonic or that they would ultimately be turned over to the Egyptians. Bray did say, however, that this was not the "first indication" that Egypt had received other defensive weapons.

In announcing the arrival of the Badger jets in Egypt, the State Department apparently modified its assessment of the Middle East situation made on Monday when Bray told newsmen that based on information available to us as of Nov. 1, the Soviet Union is showing "remarkable restraint" in the shipment of arms to Egypt.

Bray said the US would, in the course of its continuing review of the Middle East situation, "look to see" if these deliveries may not have opened a gap "in what we have described as Soviet restraint." But he would not say if the shipment of planes had affected the balance of power in the area.

Bray did say that the TU-16s were the planes used by the Soviets to keep the American fleet in the Mediterranean under surveillance. He added that the US did not know if that was the purpose of the TU-16s in Egypt.

Earlier in the day, Israel's Ambassador to the US, Yitzhak Rabin, met with Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East and South Asia. Rabin later told newsmen that Israel had the right to buy planes from the US that are needed for Israel's defense and to maintain its "fighting and deterrent" capabilities.

Rabin said he did not know of any cessation of Soviet arms shipments to Egypt. He said that deliveries of jets were continuing and that what the State Department called a "slowdown" of arms deliveries from the Soviet Union would be considered "most prosperous" compared to what we are getting. Rabin also said that Israel was not opposed to an Egyptian clearing of the Suez Canal while talks continued in attempts to reach an interim agreement. He did not say what he and Sisco discussed.

PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWS DESCRIBED BY EYEWITNESS

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (JTA)--A story of harassment, imprisonment, the forced commission of unnatural acts, beatings and other barbarous tortures was revealed today by a 17-year-old Jewish youth who escaped four months ago from the terror under which he says the Jews of Syria now live.

The youth, who uses the fictitious name of Eli Levy to protect friends and relatives still in Syria, spoke in Arabic and had the services of an interpreter as he answered questions put to him by Gen. (Retired) Lucius D. Clay, chairman of the Committee of Concern, a non-sectarian group concerned about the plight of minorities in Arab countries.

Levy stated that the Jewish community in Syria today numbers about 5,000, with about 3,500 living in the capital city of Damascus, 1,000 in Aleppo, and 500 in Kamishli. He said each city's Jews live in a segregated community and there is no con-

tact between the communities. Jews are barred from leaving the country and may not travel outside a three-mile radius of their homes.

Other harassments described by Levy include the requirement that identity cards carried by Jews have the word "Jew" prominently written across both the face and back of the card in red ink. A photostat of what was said to be a Syrian Jew's identity card was displayed at the press conference. Also, according to Levy, Jews are subjected to a variety of economic restrictions and are kept under constant surveillance by the secret police.

True Situation Disguised

The young man said he was arrested three times, though once his offense was not related to his being Jewish. During the total of twelve days he spent in prison, Levy said, he witnessed brutal floggings and other degradations of prisoners. The soft-spoken Levy, with hands cupped in anguished fists and his voice rising, said that during their imprisonment, his brother contracted typhoid fever and he himself suffered an ear injury and displacement of spinal discs as a result of beatings. He says he is still afflicted by those ailments.

Levy said that on occasions, when foreign dignitaries have visited Syria, the government has taken special precautions to disguise the true situation. Jews who try to escape from Syria and are captured, he said, face a minimum sentence of one year in prison. The relatives and sometimes even acquaintances of escapees or those suspected of trying to leave the country are interrogated and often held in prison for indefinite periods of time.

The youth stated that he knew personally 12 young Jews who have been kept in Syrian prisons for the last three months on the charge of attempting to leave the country. Eleven range in age from 18 to 24 and the twelfth, the son of one couple imprisoned, is four years old. Levy's two brothers are now in Israel and his parents are dead. As he spoke, he kept his back turned to the news cameras. He was brought to the US from Paris.

General Clay reiterated his earlier appeals to the Syrian authorities to release the Jews now in prison, to end their persecution of the Jewish minority and to permit all those who wish to leave to do so. He called on the United States to help in this cause. In answer to a reporter's question, Clay stated that there is "obviously no absolute check" on Levy's claims, but he said Levy's story has not changed in the half dozen times he has told it and independent sources have verified aspects of it, including the list of prisoners.

OHANA BROTHERS IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18 (JTA)--The Ohana brothers, Jewish businessmen wanted in Morocco in connection with alleged illegal activities, are in Israel it was learned today. Paul Ohana, an oil executive accused of price rigging was joined in Ashkelon by his brother Henri. Moroccan Jewish sources earlier identified Henri Ohana as one of three Jewish businessmen whose arrests were announced by the Moroccan Justice Ministry Nov.

Il for alleged corruption and misuse of public funds. The announcement identified only one, David Amar, secretary of the Jewish Community Council in Rabat. Henri said today the charges by the Moroccan government were baseless and stemmed from political motivations.

OIL SCANDAL HEARINGS TO BEGIN MONDAY

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA)--A Cabinet-appointed committee of inquiry into an alleged scandal in the operation of oil fields in the occupied Sinai will open hearings Monday. Attorney General Meir Shamgar, the first witness, will testify on behalf of the government. The hearings are expected to last as long as two months during which time the three-member panel will visit the oil fields at Abu Rodeils on the shores of the Red Sea. The committee was established on the basis of charges of gross mismanagement and theft against Mordechai Friedman, director of the government-owned Netivim Neft Co. David Niv, an oil geologist who made the charges to the Ministry of Development last May, will be among the first witnesses to testify.

A spokesman for Netivim Neft complained today that the firm's reputation has been damaged by stories of the alleged scandal appearing in newspapers in Israel and abroad. As a result of the publication of charges of mismanagement, none of which are proven, a foreign company that has been marketing the Sinai oil for Israel abroad may refuse to renew its contract, the spokesman said. The foreign company was not named.

'HITLER' EMBRACED

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (JTA)--An actor who impersonated Adolf Hitler on the streets of Munich during the filming of a television play says he was surrounded by people who wanted to embrace him and shake his hand. According to N.Y. Post TV columnist Bob Williams, the actor, Swiss-born Billy Frick, appeared in a Nazi uniform with a Hitler hairpiece and paste-on mustache. He told Williams, "I was astounded by what I encountered....The Germans still have Hitler in their hearts. Everybody wanted to shake my hand. Women embraced me in Munich....There were women who wept. An old man on crutches from war wounds threw his arms around me and showed me his medals. They all took me for Hitler. There wasn't a single heckler."

REPORT ISRAEL MAY JOIN NUCLEAR CLUB

LONDON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Israel, along with Japan and India may soon join the nuclear club, it was speculated here in a report in Jane's Weapon Systems, an authoritative but unofficial British publication. The latest edition of this publication quotes reports that Israel has produced a new 300-mile missile, the Jericho, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

According to reports from Washington, the magazine reported, the Jericho was being produced on a small scale basis in Israel. It has a warhead capability of between 990 and 1,540 pounds. "From this it is argued that a nuclear payload is probable," the report stated. It added, however, that the existence of the Jericho has not been authenticated and that Israel has frequently asserted that it would not introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. "But there is little doubt that if it were considered by Israel that such weapons were needed, they would be forthcoming," the magazine article stated.

Jane's also reported that the Soviet Union "now has the initiative in weapons technology," which is considered "a potential source of disturbance of the relative balance that exists between the major

nuclear powers." Among the reported advances is a new supersonic bomber with low altitude supersonic capability. The US has an equivalent bomber project on the drawing boards.

ZIONIST TRIBUNAL TOLD MAIL BALLOTS NOT UNPRECEDENTED

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA)--The Zionist Congress of Honor continued today to hear arguments by spokesmen for Zionist organizations in the United States on the issue of whether or not the mail ballot election procedure is democratic. Moshe Ben Zeev, former Attorney General of Israel who is representing the American Zionist Federation in the hearings, cited numerous precedents supporting the use of mail ballots.

The mail ballot procedure for the election of American delegates to the 28th World Zionist Congress scheduled to begin Jan. 17 has been challenged by the Zionist Organization of America and the United Zionists-Revisionists. Ben Zeev submitted examples where mail ballots have been upheld as legal by a US Federal Court of Appeals. In addition, he noted that the Zionist Congress elections in Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Austria and Canada were being conducted in part or entirely by mail ballot with no challenge to the procedure. The Zionist tribunal is expected to end its hearings tomorrow and reach a decision within the next few days.

The tribunal agreed last night that the comptrollers office of the World Zionist Organization would audit the membership figures of the Zionist groups in the US. Comptroller Ben Zion Melri said this could be done in three-four weeks so that the elections will be held in time for the Congress opening. The tribunal was given a document yesterday representing a summary of membership figures as reported by each Zionist organization. These figures are subject to verification.

Membership Figures Given

Membership figures according to the summary are: American Jewish League for Israel, 7,596; Americans for Progressive Israel-Hashomer Hatzair, 13,678; Bnai Zion, 26,129; Hadassah, 327,228; Labor Zionist Movement (Poale Zion, Farband, Pioneer Women), 98,396; Religious Zionists of America (including Mitzrachi Women and Hapoel Hamizrachi Women), 103,876; Tnuat Aliya, 3,000; United Zionists-Revisionists, 23,876; Zionist Organization of America, 114,823; and Youth Mobilization for Israel, approximately 5,600. Members of the nine youth movements constituting the American Zionist Youth Council were included in the respective adult movements or in the Youth Mobilization for Israel figure.

In addition to opposing the mail ballot, the ZOA and Revisionists charged that a caucus of Zionist factions held in the US last Sept. 8 agreed in advance on the distribution of Congress mandates among themselves, excluding the two plaintiff organizations. The parties involved, the Labor Zionists, Hadassah and Mizrachi, admitted to the caucus but claimed that pre-election agreements among the parties are an accepted practice and as such are legitimate.

ALIYA ENDANGERED BY PROJECTED RESTRICTIONS ON IMMIGRANT PRIVILEGES

PARIS, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Large numbers of prospective immigrants to Israel from France may change their minds about aliya if Israel curtails some of the financial privileges it grants to new immigrants. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that many prospective immigrants have contacted the Paris office of the Jewish Agency to

find out if the restrictions are already in force. Restrictions on immigrant loans, rent subsidies and customs duty exemptions are under consideration by the Israel government because of the country's serious economic situation. None of the restrictions have been reported to have gone into effect at this time.

Local Jewish leaders fear that immigration from France might drop sharply unless the economy plans are abandoned. Roger Pinto, secretary general of the French allya movement, cabled Premier Golda Meir and Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir yesterday urging them to lift budgetary restrictions imposed on immigrant absorption. The cable said that "violent protests" against these measures have already occurred.

SUIT BY BLACK GROUP AGAINST ADL DISMISSED BY COURT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--A Federal court today dismissed a \$4 million libel and conspiracy suit against the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith by black militant Hassan Jeru-Ahmed. US District Court Judge John H. Pratt ruled that statements by the ADL about Hassan "are in fact true as is evident" from Hassan's "own utterances." The plaintiff had claimed that he was falsely accused of being anti-Semitic and of training a black guerrilla army.

Hassan's suit was part of his attempt to get more than \$500,000 in Federal funds to support his heroin treatment program in Washington's inner city. He claimed that the ADL's accusations had caused the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to suspend grants to his Blackmans Development Center pending a Federal audit. HEW had accused Hassan of poor book-keeping and suspended a \$197,000 job-training grant to his Center.

The ADL said that in 1967 Hassan circulated literature alleging that an internal Jewish conspiracy existed to exploit American blacks and that the literature was distributed by Hassan's organization as recently as last fall. It also charged that Hassan associated with known anti-Semites and was raising a guerrilla band. Hassan acknowledged circulating the literature but denied the other charge.

Judge Pratt observed in his decision that the ADL's statements "were not made with knowledge of falsity or with reckless disregard of truth or falsity." He ruled that they were made "after careful and diligent research" pursuant "to its legal and moral duty prescribed" by its charter. Hassan filed a libel and slander suit for \$10 million against Rep. Robert N. Giaimo (D., Conn.) after the Congressmen was reported to have said in a speech to the New Haven Jewish Community Council that Hassan was an "anti-Semitic manipulator." That case has not been decided.

ISRAELIS SAY KEN, RUSSIANS SAY DA TO MEETING EACH OTHER

PARIS, Nov. 18 (JTA)--The director of the Moiseyev Dance Company of the Soviet Union, Menahem Levinsohn, has invited the Batseva Dance Company of Israel to attend a performance by his troupe in return for attendance at a Batseva performance by himself and Igor Aleksandrovich Moiseyev. Both companies are currently appearing here.

Levinsohn phoned yesterday the director of the Batseva Company, Josef Frankel, and invited all the Israelis to attend the Soviet show. Most of the Israelis came to watch the performance. Afterwards, Levinsohn invited them backstage to express his admiration for Israel and Israeli arts. Levinsohn said that this was his first opportunity to

meet with Israelis and that it was one of the greatest "moments in my life" to meet and watch Israeli dancers.

HEBREW U HONORS RABBI SANDROW

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow of Temple Beth-El in Cedarhurst, N.Y. will be inducted a Torch of Learning Fellow by American Friends of Hebrew University on Dec. 5. The Torch Award is bestowed for "distinguished service to Jewish life and education in America and Israel." The dinner will also mark the establishment of the Edward T. Sandrow Chair of Eastern Europe Contemporary Jewry at the university. The award will be presented by Dr. Henry Sonneborn III, president of American Friends. A special guest of honor will be David Z. Rivlin, Consul General of Israel. Rabbi Sandrow is a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

TWO JEWISH OFFICIALS AMONG WINNERS OF ROCKEFELLER AWARDS FOR 1971

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Two Jewish officials and Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, are among six career civil servants in the federal government to receive the \$10,000 Rockefeller Public Service Awards for 1971. A fourth official to be honored, Dr. Luna B. Leopold, 56, who is not Jewish, was a guest lecturer for two weeks last winter at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The Jewish officials are Robert Solomon, 50, of Bethesda, Md., an economist and advisor to the Federal Reserve System's Board of Governors, and Samuel M. Cohn, 56, of Falls Church, Va., an assistant director for Budget Review, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President. Dr. Leopold is a senior research hydrologist with the US Geological Survey of the Department of Interior.

Cohn, in government service for 29 years, was born in Philadelphia. His father, who emigrated from Poland, conducted a corner grocery store in Philadelphia prior to his death in 1945. His mother, a native of the Ukraine, died six months ago. Solomon, youngest of the award winners, has been in government service for 24 years. He has a principal role in insulating the government's gold reserves from the fluctuations of the commercial gold market. During World War II, he served as a Navy navigator. He holds a doctorate in philosophy from Harvard.

The Awards were conceived and financed by John D. Rockefeller III in 1960. They are administered as a national trust by Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. The awards, which are tax free grants, are the highest privately sustained honors for career civil servants.

SOVIET JEWISH FAMILY ARRIVES IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Nov. 18 (JTA)--A tumultuous welcome by relatives and officials of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago greeted the arrival at O'Hare Airport of the first Soviet Jewish family to emigrate to Chicago since 1967. Alexander Grunfeld, 65, his wife, Gani, and their 22-year-old son, Aaron, had been trying for four years to come to Chicago from the Soviet Union to be united with their family. At the airport, the Grunfelds had an emotional reunion with their family including Grunfeld's older sister and brother whom he had not seen in 42 years, and Grunfeld's married godson, whom he had not seen since infancy.

RABBI LEVIN MOURNED; SUCCESSOR UNCERTAIN

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Expressions of sympathy over the death yesterday of Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow continued to be issued last night and today by American Jewish leaders. Rabbi Irving Lehrman of Miami Beach, president of the Synagogue Council of America, said Rabbi Levin "held his office under trying and tragic circumstances. We pray that there will be a successor to his post whose ministry will usher in a new era of religious freedom for the Jewish community in the Soviet Union and that they will be given the opportunity to establish fraternal bonds with Jewish communities in other parts of the world."

B'nai B'rith president David M. Blumberg, in a cable to Moscow's Choral Synagogue, said he "respected Rabbi Levin's efforts, under severely difficult conditions, to sustain the synagogue and religious observances in Soviet Jewish life." Rabbi Bernard L. Berzon, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, said "Russian Jewry has lost its major rabbinic and religious leader," resulting in "a loss not only to Russian Jewry but to world Jewry as a whole."

Rabbi Berzon said Rabbi Levin was both a "tragic" and a "heroic" figure--"Tragic because...he often had to make statements defending the actions of the Russian government...heroic...because he realized that in periods of oppression, the need for leadership is greatest (and) he fulfilled that role nobly."

10 Practicing Rabbis Left

The question of Rabbi Levin's successor remained uncertain today. There are no more than 10 practicing rabbis left in the Soviet Union, it is estimated, only two of them are in the European portion of the country--Rabbi Chaim Lubanov of Leningrad, who is 91, and Rabbi Israel Schwartzblatt of Odessa, who is in his late 50s. Rabbi Lubanov's concern for his congregants has gained him a reputation as "a saint," but he has become enfeebled and isolated from the Jewish community because of the congregants' fear of reprisals. Rabbi Schwartzblatt ousted G.I. Mizrach as rabbi of Odessa for being, as one source put it, "too Jewish."

On March 3, 1970, an article titled "Shame On The Invaders And Slanderers," published by Izvestia, the Soviet government newspaper, condemned "international Zionist circles" for being "reactionary" and "spreading evil and calumny" about the Soviet State. The article was signed by various Jewish figures who called themselves "religious leaders and not politicians." They included Rabbis Levin, Lubanov and Schwartzblatt.

Thirteenth Generation Rabbi

One of nine children, Yehuda Leib Levin was a descendant of 13 generations of rabbis. He was born in Lithuania in February, 1894, to Rabbi Ilya Nueshtnovich Levin, who died in 1908, and his wife, who was killed by the Nazis in 1942. Another son was killed at Stalingrad. Yehuda Leib Levin studied at the Yeshiva Knesset Beit Yitzhak near Kovno, Lithuania; served in the infantry of the Imperial Army during 1915-17, and returned to further rabbinical studies in Kovno in 1917-19. Rabbi Levin's first pulpit was in Grushino, the Ukraine, where he remained until the Nazi invasion of 1941, when his family was evacuated to a collective farm in Uzbekistan.

When the Ukraine was liberated in November, 1944, the Levins returned to Grushino, renamed Krasno Armelskoye, and in 1946 Yehuda Levin

took over the rabbinical leadership of Dniepropetrovsk, White Russia, serving there for 10 years. In January, 1957, he was invited by Rabbi Schleifer to be rector of the Yeshiva Kol Yaacov seminary in Moscow, succeeding Rabbi Schleifer three months later on the latter's death. Shortly thereafter, Rabbi Levin became spiritual leader of Moscow's Central (Choral) Synagogue. (By 1962, the class at Yeshiva Kol Yaacov had dwindled to six students.) In 1968 Rabbi Levin published his own translation of a siddur.

RABBI LEVIN EULOGIZED

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow was eulogized today by Israeli religious leaders. Most of them contended that he had done his best to preserve Jewish identity in Russia in the face of overwhelming official hostility. Dr. Zerah Warhaftig, Minister of Religious Affairs, cabled condolences to Moscow's Jewish community. Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Issar Yehuda Unterman called Rabbi Levin "a man in a trap." Rabbi Mordechai Hankin, former secretary of the Moscow Jewish community, labelled Rabbi Levin a tragic figure, recalling that after the 1956 Sinai campaign Rabbi Levin was forced to read a sermon excoriating Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion and "the one-eyed devil"--Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Dayan. Rabbi Levin read the sermon, Rabbi Hankin said, but with tears in his eyes.

US URGED TO RAISE QUESTION OF JEWISH EMIGRATION RIGHTS BEFORE THE UN

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--A resolution that asks the United States to raise the question of Jewish emigration rights in the Soviet Union before the United Nations was introduced yesterday by Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons.R., N.Y.). It calls on Congress to urge President Nixon to place before the UN General Assembly the issue of the right of all persons to emigrate from and return to one's country. The resolution has been referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. An identical resolution was introduced in the House last week by Rep. Jack Kemp (R., N.Y.) and is expected to emerge from the House Foreign Affairs Committee for a vote next week.

Both resolutions declare that authoritative world opinion and international law consider the right to leave and to return to one's country is a fundamental human right binding on all governments. Aides of Sen. Buckley and Rep. Kemp said their concurrent legislative proposals mark the first time the issue will have been brought before the General Assembly. They said the resolutions have the approval of the State Department and the US Ambassador to the UN, George Bush.

Listed at the top of the resolution as an example of the need for an international debate on the subject is the "vengeful trial" in Leningrad of Jews attempting to leave Russia. Other points were the plight of persons seeking to emigrate from the Ukraine, the killing of 65 persons seeking to flee from East Berlin to the West and the Soviet prosecution of a Lithuanian seaman who vainly sought asylum aboard a US Coast Guard cutter last year.

BURG, GOLDMANN NOT ON SAME PLATFORM

MONTREAL, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Israeli Interior Minister Dr. Joseph Burg spoke Saturday night at the 16th Plenary Assembly of the Canadian Jewish Congress. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, World Jewish Congress president, spoke Sunday morning at a CJC session commemorating Sam Bronfman, the late honorary CJC president. Dr. Burg and Dr. Goldmann did not, as reported earlier, share the same platform.