



daily news bulletin

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JEWISH COUNCIL DENOUNCES PRAGUE RADIO BROADCASTS ALLEGING JEWS, NAZIS COLLABORATED IN OCCUPIED CZECHOSLOVAKIA

LONDON, Dec. 26 (JTA)--The International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia today denounced as a "contemptible invention" a recent series of broadcasts by Prague radio alleging Jewish collaboration with Nazis in occupied Czechoslovakia during World War II. A statement by the Council said it would be "beneath contempt" to respond to such allegations except that they "will once more stir up anti-Semitic sentiments in the guise of anti-Zionism."

The Prague broadcasts claimed that Jews in the Czech capital collaborated with the Nazis "in organizing the emigration of Zionist elite and persons in whom both parties were interested" to Palestine during the war. They claimed that the Nazis used this method to infiltrate their agents into Palestine, and when British intelligence got wind of the ruse, Britain "took action by sinking the ships in which thousands of innocent Jewish refugees perished together with the Nazi agents." A spokesman for the Council urged the British Foreign and Commonwealth office to "repudiate this slander."

SYNAGOGUE IN EAST BERLIN BADLY DAMAGED BY VANDALS

BONN, Dec. 26 (JTA)--The synagogue in the Reichstrasse in East Berlin has been badly damaged by vandals, according to reports reaching here. The well-known Jewish cemetery in East Berlin has also been the target of attacks, it was reported, and several youths have been arrested. Heinz Galinski, head of the West Berlin Jewish community, said that valuable windows in the synagogue had reportedly been smashed, prayer books torn to pieces, and furniture and walls damaged. Other Jewish sources said the attack on the synagogue was the first anti-Semitic incident to be reported from East Germany, which has had a Jewish community of 1,500 since 1945. (There are some 4,500 Jews in West Berlin.)

The Hamburg newspaper Die Welt reported several days ago that "numerous" youths had made three attacks within a short period on the synagogue and the cemetery, demolishing tombstones. East Berlin's Jewish community has avoided giving the incidents publicity because of its delicate relationship with the Communist authorities, the newspaper said. When the combined Berlin Jewish community celebrated its 300th anniversary last September, East Germany's Religious Affairs Minister gave an official pledge that Jews could live safely in the East. The East German government has financially aided the restoration of synagogues, cemeteries and Jewish monuments destroyed by the Nazis.

EBAN: NO NEW INITIATIVES BY ISRAEL ON PEACE MISSION. INTERIM ACCORD ON CANAL ISRAEL STILL AWAITING CLARIFICATION ON PHANTOMS, ROGERS' SIX POINT PLAN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported at length at today's Cabinet meeting on Israel's political situation but proposed no new formulas, it was learned. He said that with regard to both major spheres of activity--resumption of the Jarring peace mission and the search for an interim agreement to reopen the Suez Canal--no new initiatives by Israel were called for.

Eban said that when Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring re-

turns to New York Jan. 15 for further meetings with Israeli and Egyptian representatives, Israel would listen to the proposals he had to make regarding the continuation of his mission. He further stated that insofar as the American initiative for an interim accord is concerned, Israel is still waiting for the clarifications it asked for from Washington of Secretary of State William P. Rogers' Oct. 4 speech to the UN General Assembly.

Premier Golda Meir made it clear in a speech Friday at the annual luncheon of the Israel Journalists Association in Tel Aviv that Israel will not re-enter any kind of negotiations "while our hands are tied." She said that her government is still awaiting clarification from Washington on what it considers two crucial points--the Nixon administration's position on Israel's long-standing request for more Phantom jets and an explanation of Rogers' six points outlined in his Oct. 4 speech.

Until the US provides more positive answers on both of these points, Mrs. Meir said, Israel will continue to refuse to rejoin further talks. When negotiations are offered without preconditions, the Premier said, she would ask the Knesset for permission to proceed with talks for an interim accord. Israel is deeply concerned over Rogers' six points which included his stated opinion that a compromise was possible on the issue of an Egyptian troop crossing of the Suez Canal in the wake of an Israeli pull-back. Israel is also unhappy over the apparent US agreement with Egypt that a pull-back should be viewed as a first step toward total Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai.

JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE WITHDRAWS INVITATION TO DR. GOLDMANN TO ADDRESS ZIONIST CONGRESS SESSION London Speech Sparks Decision

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--A stormy session of the Jewish Agency Executive voted to withdraw an invitation to Dr. Nahum Goldmann to address a session of the World Zionist Congress next month because of a speech on Soviet Jews and Israel he made last Sunday in London. Dr. Goldmann had been invited to address a special session marking the 75th anniversary of the Zionist movement.

In a cable to the 77-year-old world Jewish leader, the Executive declared Friday that "in view of the circumstances following the publication of your London statement and after reading the full text of your address, it was resolved today by majority vote to withdraw the invitation to you to address the festive session." The cable stressed that the vote was not meant to indicate any opposition "to your legitimate right to participate in and address any session of the plenary or the committees of the Congress."

Dr. Goldmann told the British Board of Deputies that while he "rejoiced" in the migration of Russian Jews to Israel, it was essential to remember that millions of Jews would remain in the Soviet Union and that Jews free to do so should press for those remaining in Russia just "as they do for the rights of all other Jewish communities."

The phrase "the circumstances that developed" after the London address appeared to be a reference to the fact that Dr. Goldmann had been

misquoted by the Times of London which reported erroneously that he had said that "it would be a betrayal to take the view that Jews in the Soviet Union should be released to go to Israel." He had actually said it would be "a crime and a betrayal" of Jews remaining in Russia if Jews elsewhere did not "press for their rights" as Jews.

The vote for withdrawal was 7-2 with one abstention. The cable to Dr. Goldmann cited a number of reasons for the Executive's action. One was that while Zionism had always striven to protect the rights of Jews everywhere, "this does not fit the present situation of the Russian Jews" in which it is "clear that first priority must be given to aliyah. The struggle for Russian Jewish emigration, the cable said, "is the center of all our activities" and "any other approach weakens the struggle for all-ah rights."

The cable also asserted that "Russian Jews themselves decided to make aliyah the center of their struggle and rejected any other solution. They have the right to ask that world Jewry and the Zionist movement support and encourage them in this very difficult struggle." The cable concluded that "Russian Jewish activity is the peak of 75 years of Zionist activity and therefore the majority of the Executive members thought it would be inappropriate that you should be the sole or main lecturer in evaluating the 75 years of Zionism." The cable was signed by Louis Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency.

SOVIET JEWS FINDING IT EASIER TO OBTAIN VISAS; CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO ABOLISH CHARACTER REFERENCES

LONDON, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported today a change for the better in the issuance of exit visas for Jews who want to go to Israel. They said the change became apparent in Lwow after the manager of the local Ovir (visa office) returned from a visit to Moscow with new instructions. Some Jews whose visa applications were rejected were called to the Ovir and issued visas without having to make a second application, the sources reported.

Recently, 30 Jewish families were given visas and many others were promised that their visas would be issued shortly. In Sverdlovsk, which has a Jewish population of 14,000, a number of Jews were invited to the KGB (secret police) offices to discuss their visa applications. The Ovir there makes no difficulties and in some cases secures the required character references from the applicants' places of employment, the sources said.

They reported, however, a visible struggle in Sverdlovsk between Russian intellectuals who argue that Jews should be permitted to go to Israel at will and the bureaucrats who are opposed to free emigration. Jewish sources also reported that there is a campaign afoot to abolish character references as a requirement for a visa because they are meaningless and often are a source of great trouble for the applicants. According to the sources, friends of the Soviet Union all over the world are urging the authorities to abolish the character reference requirement.

Anti-Semitism Increasing in Leningrad

Despite the apparent easing of visa policies, Jews seeking emigration are still subject to harassment, Jewish sources said. They claimed that anti-Semitism has increased noticeably in Leningrad where Jewish doctors in hospitals and clinics have become a target of hostility from their non-Jewish colleagues. As a result, many Jews are delaying visa applications in order not to lose their jobs, the sources said.

(The upsurge in the immigration of Jews from the

USSR was reflected in Tel Aviv today where El Al announced that it would divert one of its new 747 jumbo jets from commercial service to carry immigrants from Vienna. A 747 is expected this week with some 300 Soviet Jewish emigres, the largest number to arrive in a single plane. Absorption Minister Natan Peled said Friday that all available flats under construction will be assigned to the new immigrants. He said there would be no interim lay-over in aliyah centers for the newcomers as the centers are already overcrowded.)

LABOR PARTY SUPPORTS MRS. MEIR'S CRITICISM OF NEWS MEDIA WITCH-HUNT

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--The Labor Party leadership supported Premier Golda Meir last night in her criticism of the news media for casting "wild aspersions" on public figures mentioned in connection with a series of alleged scandals in government-owned companies. The party leaders echoed Mrs. Meir's pledge that the allegations which are currently under investigation by official bodies would be pursued without favoritism. She sharply criticized the mass media for having published allegedly "wild charges and personal attacks on public office holders without foundation."

Mrs. Meir was especially angry over charges against Justice Minister Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro and Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir. Shapiro has been accused in some quarters of delaying an investigation into the affairs of Netivei Neft, the government-owned company drilling oil in the Sinai. Sapir has been mentioned in testimony before the Knesset finance committee concerning the bankrupt Autocar Co. and Vered, the water resources development company. The government-owned firms have been charged with mismanagement, corruption and fraudulent book-keeping. Mrs. Meir's attack on the press included the Histadrut newspaper, Davar, which, she said, was "not different from any other paper."

JEWISH IDENTITY, JEWISH POOR AMONG TOPICS OF CJF ANNUAL INSTITUTE

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Jewish identity, priorities for social welfare service, and the Jewish poor, three of the major concerns of organized Jewish communities throughout North America, will be featured at sessions at the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds' (CJF) annual Institute on Social Planning, at CJF headquarters here beginning tomorrow and ending Wednesday.

The three-day Institute, under the chairmanship of Saul Schwarz of Essex County, N.J., will be attended by social planning executives of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds serving communities throughout the United States and Canada and will focus on the social welfare problems of Jewish Federations and their constituent agencies, as well as on current programs and plans to solve them.

The opening session--Increasing Jewish Identification: Goals and Programs--will review Federation programs and the services of their agencies in terms of special contributions toward enhancing Jewish identification and participation. Other highlights of the Institute will: review the role of Jewish Federations in setting and reordering priorities for their network and agencies; discuss programs for effective service for poor Jews; and will assess developments regarding CJF's projected Institute for Jewish Life, and reactions to CJF's Committee on Jewish Education regarding financing of Jewish Day Schools.

**WALDHEIM HOPES JARRING WILL RENEW
MISSION; REFUSES TO STATE VIEWS
ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION**
Tells TV Audience He Was Never A Nazi
Party Member; Father Anti-Nazi

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA)--United Nations Secretary General-elect Kurt Waldheim said in a taped interview broadcast on Israeli television that he hoped UN mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring would be able to resume his Middle East peace mission. But he refused to state his views on a recent General Assembly resolution asking Israel to comply with Dr. Jarring's request for a commitment to withdraw to its old international boundaries with Egypt. The Austrian delegation, headed by Waldheim, voted for the resolution.

The 53-year-old diplomat stated in the interview that until he officially assumes the office of Secretary General on Jan. 1 he could not comment on a matter in which the views of the outgoing Secretary General U Thant are on record. He added that he could not express himself privately inasmuch as having been elected, none of his views could be regarded as "private."

(In New York, Waldheim said today on the nationally televised program "Face the Nation," that he will personally take a hand in the problems of the Middle East. He said that while the peace-seeking mission of Dr. Jarring would continue its efforts to achieve a settlement between Israel and her Arab neighbors, he will assess the situation and try to see what he could do personally.)

In German Army, But Had No Choice

Foreign Ministry officials today dismissed a Friday report in the Cairo newspaper Al Ahram which claimed that Waldheim said it was difficult to see how the Jarring mission could continue without a favorable Israeli response to Jarring's Feb. 8 memo asking for a withdrawal commitment. The officials said that a diplomat of Waldheim's standing and experience could not possibly have said what was attributed to him by Al Ahram.

(The Austrian UN Mission in New York told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Friday that Waldheim's personal approach to the Mideast question will not be exercised until he takes office. The spokesman would not say how--or if--his personal approach would differ from his government's official policy. The Mission spokesman noted that Waldheim's vote in the General Assembly for the Egyptian-inspired resolution was cast on instructions from Vienna.)

Waldheim answered questions on the Israeli TV program regarding his past record. He had been a lieutenant in the German Army during World War II but was never a Nazi Party member. He said his family had an anti-Nazi record and his father was dismissed from the Austrian civil service at the time of the Anschluss because of his anti-Nazi views. Of his military service, Waldheim said, "We had to serve, whether we wanted to or not. There was no choice."

**URGE CONVENING OF INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON SYRIAN JEWRY**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Two Gahal members of the Knesset have demanded that an international conference be convened on the situation of Jews in Arab countries, on the lines of last spring's Brussels conference on Soviet Jews. The idea of the new conference--in which both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations and personalities would participate--was urged by David Levy and Menahem Yehid at a solidarity rally at Bar-Ilan University for Jews in Arab countries.

Moshe Shemer, a Jew from Syria, told the audience that official persecutions had reduced the Syrian Jewish ghetto from 40,000 inhabitants to 5,000, and that 60,000 Arab refugees and terrorists are encouraged to attack Jews. In Damascus, he said, many Jewish girls are forced to marry Moslems, and the words "Israel" and "Sh'ma Yisrael" have been banned from publication and prayer. The situation in Aleppo is even worse, Shemer reported, as the Jewish community there is tiny and defenseless.

The following additional reports of Syrian persecution have been gleaned from travelers here: Five women and a child, among those arrested for trying to flee the country, have been released from prison and put under house arrest and are expected to go on trial soon. They include a Mrs. Azur Blanja, who suffered a miscarriage during her detention.

Arrests, Tortures Increasing

Three arrested men have been sent to a military hospital suffering from the effects of torture. They are Azur Blanja, Abdu Saadia and Simon Blasou. Two other men--Itzhak Hamra and Eli Mograbi--were jailed for four and six years after being denied defense counsel. Four Jews--Moise Katrl, 60; his wife, Victoria, 65; their son, Nissim, 28, and their daughter, Lisotte, 13--have been imprisoned for five months; no one has seen them since their arrest. Also jailed were Joseph Swed, 25, and Moussa Hebb, 22.

Two Damascus teachers from the Alliance Israélite school--Jacques Ariel and Jacques Atari--have been tortured in prison. When a group of women inquired about them at the Interior Ministry, they were told the teachers were dead, which turned out to be untrue. Three women from the remote town of Kamishli have been jailed since 1969, when they were sentenced to five-year terms for trying to leave the country; they are Simha Samekh, Jamila Najjar and Jima Saleh.

Forty Damascus Jewish men, women and children were recently interrogated at the Jewish quarter's military intelligence department. Several of them were subjected to tortures including cigarette burns. A 16-year-old girl was raped by a policeman, who then repeated the act in front of her father and brother when they came to inquire about her, according to the travelers' reports.

**DULZIN SUGGESTS ABOLITION
OF MINISTRY OF ABSORPTION**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Jewish Agency Treasurer Leon Dulzin claimed Friday that abolition of the Ministry of Absorption could save the government up to \$5 million a year. According to Dulzin, the Ministry is superfluous because it duplicates activities of the Jewish Agency. "If cut-backs and savings are in the air, the existence of the Ministry of Absorption should be investigated," he told an audience at the Engineers Club here. Dulzin said Israel could absorb between 20-30,000 immigrants next year though it would require some "belt-tightening."

FORMER SS LEADERS TO GO ON TRIAL

BONN, Dec. 26 (JTA)--The Attorney General in Linz, Austria, is preparing to bring to trial former SS leaders accused of murder in the notorious Mauthausen concentration camps during World War II and is also preparing cases against SS men active in the Gusen area. The first of the accused to stand trial is Hans Gogle who is charged with numerous murders during 1944-45. The prosecution will attempt to prove that Gogle acted on his own initiative and was not obeying orders.

