



daily news bulletin

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Vol. XXXIX - Fifty-Fifth Year

Tuesday, January 4, 1972

No. 2

NIXON REAFFIRMS PRINCIPLE THAT U.S. WILL NOT PERMIT ARMS BALANCE TO SHIFT AGAINST ISRAEL

No Word On Implementing Principle

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (JTA)--President Nixon reaffirmed last night that the United States has made a commitment in principle not to permit the military balance in the Middle East to shift to the disadvantage of Israel but declined to specify whether or not that principle is being implemented.

Nixon appeared on a live CBS television interview, "A Conversation With President Nixon," conducted by Dan Rather, White House correspondent for CBS News. Ranging over a wide spectrum of national and international affairs, Rather asked Nixon whether it was true that the US has agreed in principle to sell additional Phantom jets to Israel according to reports circulating this weekend. Nixon replied:

"We have made a decision of implementing a decision that I have long announced; that we will not allow the military balance in the Middle East to be shifted. Now, the Soviet Union has been sending in very significant arms shipments to the UAR. In view of these shipments, as that continues to escalate, we have had to consider the requests of Israel for planes in order to see that the balance does not shift. We have made a commitment in principle. As far as implementing that principle, however, this is not, of course, the time to go into it."

Had Been Known To Israel

Earlier during the hour-long interview, Nixon indicated that in his meeting with Soviet leaders in May, the Middle East will be one of the topics for discussion.

(In Jerusalem, Foreign Ministry officials claimed today that Nixon's views on the delivery of Phantom jets to Israel reflected the President's views "as they had been known to Israel." The officials declined to say whether Nixon's views on the subject became known during Premier Golda Meir's visit to Washington in Nov. or were known here before her visit.)

State Department spokesman Charles Bray was asked today by newsmen whether the US had indications that Israel is prepared to make political or territorial concessions "now that they have been assured of continued Phantom deliveries." Bray replied to the second part of the question by referring reporters to Nixon's television remarks and offered a "no comment" to the first part of the question but warned against speculation along those lines.

OUTBREAK OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN NAPLES WORRIES JEWISH COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENT

ROME, Jan. 3 (JTA)--A recrudescence of anti-Semitic activities in Naples has become a source of serious concern to the Italian Jewish community and to the government. Naples police are currently investigating a series of anti-Semitic acts, threats and pro-Nazi activities attributed to a neo-Fascist group some of whose members are already behind bars.

The group is suspected among other things of involvement in the bombing of the Milano Agricultural Bank three years ago in which 14 persons were killed. It has also been linked to a notorious anti-Semitic center in Verona which distributes Jew-baiting and other racist literature.

The appearance of anti-Semitism in Naples in particular has evoked surprise. The metropolis of southern Italy has been untroubled by anti-Semitism since the 15th century when the inquisition courts of the Catholic church operated there. There is no organized Jewish community life in Naples but Jews and Christians live side by side in complete harmony.

However, during the past three years anti-Semitic slogans have appeared on walls, and in recent months incidents described as "minor outrages" have occurred in schools, in the offices of political parties and in various cultural clubs. An investigation traced them to a group of youths found distributing anti-Semitic literature.

ASIAN FLU EPIDEMIC IN JERUSALEM

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Goldmann said in London on Dec. 19 that while he "rejoiced" in the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, it would be a "betrayal" of those who remain behind not to fight for their equal rights as Soviet citizens. Goldmann's remarks, at a public meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews which gave him a standing ovation, were misquoted by news media. But even after the erroneous reports were corrected, the WZO Executive in Jerusalem by majority vote, withdrew the invitation to Dr. Goldmann. According to Pincus, Soviet Jews themselves decided to risk imprisonment to press for emigration to Israel and the Zionist Movement and the Jewish people have no moral right to divert their struggle into other channels.

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Theodore J. Kollish, chairman of the AJCongress' New York Metropolitan Council, urged Dr. Murphy "to make sure that officials of the Queens College SEEK program are meeting their responsibilities to prevent reckless charges--charges that can only inflame an already tense controversy."

He declared: "We find it disturbing that the SEEK program, which we have supported as an avenue of opportunity for needy students, should perpetrate racism and anti-Semitism." The article in the SEEK student newspaper also stated: "Jews and other white imps from the Mayflower cannot decide where black people are to live."

Black Students Say Article Unfair

Meanwhile, six Black students in the SEEK program at the City University of New York, have also denounced the SEEK article. In their two-page statement, the students--including the vice-president of the student government at City College Voice of SEEK and the vice-chairman of the education affairs committee of the City College student senate--deplored the article "which unfairly imputes to the entire Jewish people anti-Black racist sentiments in connection with opposition to a proposed low-income housing project in Forest Hills."

Noting that George Hopkinson, the author of the article, was not a SEEK student, the statement declared that he "certainly does not speak for the overwhelming majority of those enrolled in SEEK." The statement continued, "Racism in any guise is destructive to the perpetrator and victim alike. It is divisive to the community." It concluded by calling upon "all students at all campuses to join together in common effort to overcome our common peril."

Take Steps To Halt Anti-Semitism

Kollish also protested the comment by William Sales, the Queens College SEEK director, at a hearing before the Assembly Task Force on Higher Education that "SEEK was created primarily for the integration of CUNY and is not the appropriate vehicle for the white poor." Noting the "importance of public support for the SEEK program," the Congress spokesman declared:

"We urge that you take steps immediately to assure the community that the SEEK program at Queens College is not contaminated by anti-Semitism and racist ideology." SEEK was set up at City University to provide disadvantaged youths the opportunity to attend a senior college with a stipend (a maximum of \$50 per week) and special counseling assistance.

BLACK HEBREWS APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT FOR A STAY ON DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Eight Black Hebrews who were served with deportation orders in Jericho last month have appealed to the Supreme Court for a stay in order to prepare their case against the Interior Ministry. The group won a two-week delay in deportation proceedings which expires this Wednesday. The Interior Ministry meanwhile must answer an order nisi to show cause why it should not refrain from deporting the Black Hebrews.

The outcome of the case of the Jericho eight may determine the future of about 300 Black Hebrews who began coming to Israel from the US two years ago and have settled mainly in Dimona. Most of them have been living on temporary residents visas and the Interior Ministry has intimated that they will be expelled from the country when the visas expire.

The Black Hebrews claim to be descendants of the Biblical patriarchs and contend that as such they are the legitimate heirs to Israel. Israeli authorities

have questioned their credentials as Jews and have rejected their bid for citizenship under the Law of Return. But if the Interior Ministry does not answer the order nisi by the appointed time, the courts will begin hearings on earlier applications by several Black Hebrews for citizenship under the Law of Return.

The Jericho group seems to have a claim of sorts. A baby girl born to one Black Hebrew family last year was registered as Jewish by the local registrar. Registrars normally accept the parents' declaration unless there are reasons to doubt its veracity.

FRENCH CANADIAN, ISRAELI WRITERS TO MEET TOGETHER FOR FIRST TIME

MONTREAL, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Israeli and French Canadian writers and poets will meet for the first time in a week-long conference to be held this month in Israel. A delegation of French Canadian writers and professors left today for Israel, initiated by the Montreal monthly, La Liberté, and the Israeli monthly, Keshet, the conference intends to pave the way for a permanent culture exchange of ideas and opinions between Quebec and Israeli writers, poets and essayists.

The French Canadian delegation is headed by Jean-Guy Pilon, director of La Liberté, and includes Andre Belleau, art critic and professor at the University of Quebec; Jacques Godbout, novelist and film producer; and Fernand Ouellette, poet and essayist. Before departing, Pilon, who is also chief of the artistic section of CBC, said "There are many things in common between the two young literatures (of Quebec and Israel): their search for national identity and their striving for their national soil."

The Keshet will publish this fall a special double issue dedicated to French Canadian literature, while La Liberté will do the same for Israeli literature. A meeting in May in Montreal has also been scheduled between Israeli and French Canadian writers and poets. While in Israel, the Quebec writers will address Hebrew University audiences on the theme: "Young Literature and National Conscience."

JEWISH POLITICAL PRISONER SUFFERS HEART ATTACK, DENIED MEDICAL CARE

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--A Jewish political prisoner in Camp 3 of the Potma prison in Soviet Mordovia, Yaacov Suslensky, suffered a heart attack Dec. 5 but was denied medical care, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported today. The group said the camp doctor, a woman named Yegorova, told Suslensky that he was being punished for speaking Hebrew and teaching it to other inmates. The prisoner was summarily sent back to work.

The SSSJ also said that another Jewish political prisoner, Vladimir Osharovitch Mogilever, was warned by an official named Pitschurin to discontinue teaching Hebrew to other inmates. The student group added that according to information received late last week, prisoner Silva Zalmanzon Kuznetsov was suffering from severe hearing problems, stomach pains and vomiting.

MORTAR SHELLS FIRED ON SETTLEMENT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Several mortar shells were fired from Syrian territory at Nahal Golan in the central Golan Heights this morning but caused no casualties. The fire was not returned. Israeli police are inspecting mail today to make sure that certain parcels are not booby traps. A parcel delivered yesterday at an industrial plant was found to contain explosives.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT DENIES BIAS IN JOB RECRUITMENT

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--City Health Commissioner Mary C. McLaughlin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that there was no recruitment of personnel by her department on the basis of "racial and ethnic criteria" as charged yesterday by the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League. Dr. McLaughlin said she was not responsible for an advertisement recently published in the Queens County Medical Society Bulletin which said the Health Department was "particularly anxious to get qualified black or Puerto Rican staff" for listed "top management" positions.

Dr. McLaughlin said her department was "desperately" in need of qualified personnel and would hire any applicant with the proper qualifications regardless of color or ethnic origin. She said the department would not hire an unqualified applicant because of color or ethnic background.

Milton A. Seymour, chairman of the ADL's New York Board claimed that the recruitment announcement would inevitably result in "reverse discrimination" and claimed that the ADL had received "outraged protests" from individuals who read the announcement and took it to mean that "only blacks and Puerto Ricans need apply."

Six Officials Jewish

Dr. McLaughlin told the JTA that there was no recruitment announcement. She said that in search of qualified personnel she had written recently to a number of public health figures in the city listing the job openings in her department. Near the end of her letter, she said, she noted that the department was "particularly anxious to get qualified black or Puerto Rican staff." Dr. McLaughlin said she referred to those groups specifically because the Health Department has been subjected to severe criticism in recent years for not having ethnic minorities in high level positions. She told the JTA that there is presently only one black in the category of director or above.

Dr. Lowell Bellin, First Deputy Health Commissioner, told the JTA that of six assistant commissioners in the Health Department, all are Jewish. Dr. Bellin, who is Jewish, said he received a telephone call from Rabbi Bruce Cole of the ADL protesting the ad which appeared in the Queens County Medical Society Bulletin. He said the ad was not prepared by the Health Department but was apparently worded by someone at the Medical Society on the basis of Dr. McLaughlin's earlier letter.

Dr. Bellin, who said he is a Jewish activist, speaks Hebrew and sent his children to yeshivas, assailed the ADL for "sounding off on phony issues." He said there were many areas of vital concern to Jewish survival toward which it could direct its energies. According to Dr. Bellin, there is as much justification for the Health Department to seek qualified black and Puerto Rican staff as there is for Jewish groups to demand that major corporations recruit qualified Jews for top executive positions.

JWV HEAD, RETURNING FROM 10-DAY TOUR OF USSR, SAYS SOVIET JEWS VIEW NIXON AS 'THEIR SALVATION'

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Soviet Jews see President Nixon, who will visit their country in May, "as their salvation and their Messiah," the national commander of the Jewish War Veterans reported today. "If only he would speak out (on their plight), if only he would say something," it would have a "great effect" on the Supreme Soviet," said Jerome D. Cohen, who returned last night from

a 10-day fact-finding tour of the Soviet Union. He noted that the Supreme Soviet can commute sentences "as they desire." A spokesman for Cohen said the visit was a "breakthrough" in that the Soviet authorities were heretofore "reluctant" to grant a visa to a JWV leader.

Cohen told newsmen that he based his report essentially on secretive conversations in Moscow with 14 Jews representing Jewish communities across the USSR. He said they gave him a list of 4,000 Jews who had applied for emigration and had subsequently become unemployed. Cohen said that in Leningrad, Jews with the title Hero of the Soviet Union "were trying to paint this rosy picture that things are better for the Jews in the Soviet Union than in the United States," and that the Jewish drivers assigned to him insisted "that everything was peaches and cream."

But he himself found, he reported, that the charges of official repression that have reached the West were all true. In addition to Jews' losing their jobs for seeking to migrate to Israel, he said, Soviet Jews are "furtive" and "reluctant to talk at all" to visitors. Cohen added that Jewish political prisoners and their families are "in dire need of food and packages." He said he would report on his tour to President Nixon at the White House shortly, probably later this month.

RABBINICAL COURT BUILDING, UNSAFE, FACES DEMOLITION DESPITE PROTESTS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA)--The building of the Supreme Rabbinical Court near the Wailing Wall in Old Jerusalem has been condemned as unsafe and will be torn down despite protests from the rabbinate. Part of the structure caved in under last week's snow, damaging records and other documents which the rabbinate insisted on keeping in the building even though it was declared unsafe by city engineers three months ago. The rabbis refused to move until other quarters were found for them inside the Old City walls.

The building housing the court was built during the Jordanian occupation of East Jerusalem and had served as a school. It was the first building inside the walls to be taken over by Jews after the 1967 Six-Day War. It stands close to a site of archaeological excavations that are expected to yield antiquities dating from King Herod's reign.

ORTHODOX RABBIS TO MEET IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--The head of the largest Orthodox Rabbinical body in the western hemisphere announced today that the International Rabbinical Conference will take place this week in Jerusalem to discuss religious and cultural problems and to deal with such issues as war and peace, poverty and hunger, and civil rights. Rabbi Bernard L. Berzon, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, said the delegates would discuss the growing concern of Jewish leadership with the problems of assimilation, intermarriage and other important problems, such as the spiritual growth of the Jewish communities especially those isolated from the larger centers of religious life.

MOSLEM PILGRIMS BEGIN TREK TO MECCA

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Moslem pilgrims from the West Bank began their trek yesterday to Mecca. An estimated 1,500 from the Judea-Samaria regions are expected to make the pilgrimage. They are expected to return by mid-Feb. The Saudi Arabian government, however, rejected an appeal from the Hebron mayor to permit Israeli Moslems to enter their country.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

NEW YORK (JTA)--Rabbi Abraham Gross, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, has called upon all member rabbis and their congregations to begin a concerted letter writing and contact campaign to Congressmen to amend the Economic Opportunity Act so that a more equitable distribution of anti-poverty monies could be allocated to include poor Jews. Rabbi Gross asked that the Act be amended to provide recruitment to various work training programs on a city-wide basis of need rather than having it confined to officially designated poverty areas. He also called for increased allocation of funds for senior citizens programs noting that 60 percent of the Jewish poor are over 60 years of age.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Threats to murder prominent Arabs of East Jerusalem and the West Bank for "treason" arrived Sunday in the mail of several news agencies. The leaflets, signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, singled out for death Anwar Nuseibeh, former Defense Minister of Jordan, and Hikmat el Massri, former Speaker of Jordan's Parliament. The treason referred to their alleged collaboration with King Hussein.

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TORONTO (JTA)--Emily Collip, a Christian Scientist who died here recently, bequeathed \$5,000 for the purchase of books for the library of the Associated Hebrew Schools which embraces the Toronto Hebrew Academy. Miss Collip retired from teaching in the public school system in 1964 and became a Latin instructor at the Academy, a community sponsored day high school. She commuted daily for six years by bus from home in Port Credit, a 1 1/2 hour trip each way. During the last seven years she expressed great interest in the ethos of Judaism and its writings. At the time of the Six-Day War Miss Collip showed concern for Israel. Her portrait and a plaque in her memory hang in the school lobby.

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COPENHAGEN (JTA)--The Christian daily, Kristlige Dagblad, strongly assailed the Soviet Union for its policy toward the Jews. In a nearly full-page article last Friday signed by Miss Visti Christensen and titled "On Soviet Lies," the paper termed "an outright lie" Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin's statement in Olberg, Denmark on Dec. 5 that there was no Jewish problem in the USSR. Miss Christensen, referring to a question to Kosygin by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent about dissenters being sent to mental asylums, commented in her article: "It is not to be allowed that silence should greet this question." She added that many such prisoners could testify "after being treated with such preparations as aminazine and sulfazine, healthy people may react like mental patients."

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PARIS (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan personally thanked President Georges Pompidou Saturday for his intervention on behalf of Soviet Jewry when Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev visited France in Oct. Rabbi Kaplan visited Pompidou on New Year's Day, the occasion when diplomats, clergymen and politicians traditionally pay their respects to the President. Sources close to Rabbi Kaplan said afterwards that the meeting was "most cordial" and that the Chief Rabbi had also told Pompidou about the "House of France"

which the Jewish community is building on the Hebrew University campus in Jerusalem and of French Week soon to be held there. Rabbi Kaplan said he had a keen interest in re-enforcing cultural ties between France and Israel.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--The heads of the congregational and rabbinic arms of Reform Judaism assailed the Nixon administration for the renewed bombings in North Vietnam and stated that such action endangers the peace aims of the President's forthcoming trips to the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. In a telegram to Nixon, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Rabbi David Polish, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, called upon the administration to "set a date for total withdrawal of all American forces from all of Indochina."

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Rabbi Yehezkel Abramsky, president of the Council of Yeshivot, has issued a directive to all yeshiva heads urging yeshiva students not to participate in demonstrations. The Council represents yeshivot in their dealings with external bodies and it is not clear if the directive carries the weight of authority. Religious zealots have been demonstrating recently against autopsies, national service for religious girls and Sabbath violators. Rabbi Abramsky, a Talmudic scholar formerly of London who has kept aloof from party politics, said he did not believe that any "self-respecting Torah students" have participated in demonstrations.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Dr. Max Gruenwald, president of the Leo Baeck Institute, announced Monday that the Institute was awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Charles E. Merrill Trust to support the further development of the Institute's library. Four years ago the Trust gave \$10,000 for the same purpose and thereby helped the Institute to catalog its books and archival collections, thus providing their use by scholars and students throughout the country. The 40,000-volume library and its 300 archival collections as well as its research work and publications are devoted to the study of Jewish history in German-speaking Europe during the last 200 years.

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TORONTO (JTA)--A United Church clergyman here has resigned his ministry in protest over what he termed the indifference of some of its leading members to anti-Semitism. The Rev. Donald R. Keating, 46, charged in his letter of resignation that the church leadership is guilty of silence on issues affecting Jews, and that it has failed to deal with the pro-Arab policy promulgated by the church periodical, the United Church Observer. Keating followed up his letter of resignation, which he sent to his presbytery, with an open letter to the church's Moderator, the Right Rev. A.B. Moore, and to leaders of other Christian denominations. He has been an ordained minister for 20 years.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--A Hebrew-study group that met in a synagogue in Kovno has disbanded following what its members called governmental pressures, it was reported here.



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MONTREAL, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Israeli and French Canadian writers and poets will meet for the first time in a week-long conference to be held this month in Israel. A delegation of French Canadian writers and professors left today for Israel, initiated by the Montreal monthly, La Liberté, and the Israeli monthly, Keshet, the conference intends to pave the way for a permanent culture exchange of ideas and opinions between Quebec and Israeli writers, poets and essayists.

The French Canadian delegation is headed by Jean-Guy Pilon, director of La Liberté, and includes Andre Belleau, art critic and professor at the University of Quebec; Jacques Godbout, novelist and film producer; and Fernand Ouellette, poet and essayist. Before departing, Pilon, who is also chief of the artistic section of CBC, said "There are many things in common between the two young literatures (of Quebec and Israel): their search for national identity and their striving for their national soil."

The Keshet will publish this fall a special double issue dedicated to French Canadian literature, while La Liberté will do the same for Israeli literature. A meeting in May in Montreal has also been scheduled between Israeli and French Canadian writers and poets. While in Israel, the Quebec writers will address Hebrew University audiences on the theme: "Young Literature and National Conscience."

JEWISH POLITICAL PRISONER SUFFERS HEART ATTACK, DENIED MEDICAL CARE

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--A Jewish political prisoner in Camp 3 of the Potma prison in Soviet Mordovia, Yaacov Suslensky, suffered a heart attack Dec. 5 but was denied medical care, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported today. The group said the camp doctor, a woman named Yegorova, told Suslensky that he was being punished for speaking Hebrew and teaching it to other inmates. The prisoner was summarily sent back to work.

The SSSJ also said that another Jewish political prisoner, Vladimir Osherovich Mogilever, was warned by an official named Pitschurin to discontinue teaching Hebrew to other inmates. The student group added that according to information received late last week, prisoner Silva Zalmanzon Kuznetsov was suffering from severe hearing problems, stomach pains and vomiting.

MORTAR SHELLS FIRED ON SETTLEMENT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Several mortar shells were fired from Syrian territory at Nahal Golan in the central Golan Heights this morning but caused no casualties. The fire was not returned. Israeli police are inspecting mail today to make sure that certain parcels are not booby traps. A parcel delivered yesterday at an industrial plant was found to contain explosives.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT DENIES BIAS IN JOB RECRUITMENT

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--City Health Commissioner Mary C. McLaughlin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that there was no recruitment of personnel by her department on the basis of "racial and ethnic criteria" as charged yesterday by the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League. Dr. McLaughlin said she was not responsible for an advertisement recently published in the Queens County Medical Society Bulletin which said the Health Department was "particularly anxious to get qualified black or Puerto Rican staff" for listed "top management" positions.

Dr. McLaughlin said her department was "desperately" in need of qualified personnel and would hire any applicant with the proper qualifications regardless of color or ethnic origin. She said the department would not hire an unqualified applicant because of color or ethnic background.

Milton A. Seymour, chairman of the ADL's New York Board claimed that the recruitment announcement would inevitably result in "reverse discrimination" and claimed that the ADL had received "outraged protests" from individuals who read the announcement and took it to mean that "only blacks and Puerto Ricans need apply."

Six Officials Jewish

Dr. McLaughlin told the JTA that there was no recruitment announcement. She said that in search of qualified personnel she had written recently to a number of public health figures in the city listing the job openings in her department. Near the end of her letter, she said, she noted that the department was "particularly anxious to get qualified black or Puerto Rican staff." Dr. McLaughlin said she referred to those groups specifically because the Health Department has been subjected to severe criticism in recent years for not having ethnic minorities in high level positions. She told the JTA that there is presently only one black in the category of director or above.

Dr. Lowell Bellin, First Deputy Health Commissioner, told the JTA that of six assistant commissioners in the Health Department, all are Jewish. Dr. Bellin, who is Jewish, said he received a telephone call from Rabbi Bruce Cole of the ADL protesting the ad which appeared in the Queens County Medical Society Bulletin. He said the ad was not prepared by the Health Department but was apparently worded by someone at the Medical Society on the basis of Dr. McLaughlin's earlier letter.

Dr. Bellin, who said he is a Jewish activist, speaks Hebrew and sent his children to yeshivas, assailed the ADL for "sounding off on phony issues." He said there were many areas of vital concern to Jewish survival toward which it could direct its energies. According to Dr. Bellin, there is as much justification for the Health Department to seek qualified black and Puerto Rican staff as there is for Jewish groups to demand that major corporations recruit qualified Jews for top executive positions.

JWV HEAD, RETURNING FROM 10-DAY TOUR OF USSR, SAYS SOVIET JEWS VIEW NIXON AS 'THEIR SALVATION'

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Soviet Jews see President Nixon, who will visit their country in May, "as their salvation and their Messiah," the national commander of the Jewish War Veterans reported today. "If only he would speak out (on their plight), if only he would say something," it would have a "great effect" on the Supreme Soviet," said Jerome D. Cohen, who returned last night from

a 10-day fact-finding tour of the Soviet Union. He noted that the Supreme Soviet can commute sentences "as they desire." A spokesman for Cohen said the visit was a "breakthrough" in that the Soviet authorities were heretofore "reluctant" to grant a visa to a JWV leader.

Cohen told newsmen that he based his report essentially on secretive conversations in Moscow with 14 Jews representing Jewish communities across the USSR. He said they gave him a list of 4,000 Jews who had applied for emigration and had subsequently become unemployed. Cohen said that in Leningrad, Jews with the title Hero of the Soviet Union "were trying to paint this rosy picture that things are better for the Jews in the Soviet Union than in the United States," and that the Jewish drivers assigned to him insisted "that everything was peaches and cream."

But he himself found, he reported, that the charges of official repression that have reached the West were all true. In addition to Jews' losing their jobs for seeking to migrate to Israel, he said, Soviet Jews are "furtive" and "reluctant to talk at all" to visitors. Cohen added that Jewish political prisoners and their families are "in dire need of food and packages." He said he would report on his tour to President Nixon at the White House shortly, probably later this month.

RABBINICAL COURT BUILDING, UNSAFE, FACES DEMOLITION DESPITE PROTESTS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA)--The building of the Supreme Rabbinical Court near the Wailing Wall in Old Jerusalem has been condemned as unsafe and will be torn down despite protests from the rabbinate. Part of the structure caved in under last week's snow, damaging records and other documents which the rabbinate insisted on keeping in the building even though it was declared unsafe by city engineers three months ago. The rabbis refused to move until other quarters were found for them inside the Old City walls.

The building housing the court was built during the Jordanian occupation of East Jerusalem and had served as a school. It was the first building inside the walls to be taken over by Jews after the 1967 Six-Day War. It stands close to a site of archaeological excavations that are expected to yield antiquities dating from King Herod's reign.

ORTHODOX RABBIS TO MEET IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--The head of the largest Orthodox Rabbinical body in the western hemisphere announced today that the International Rabbinical Conference will take place this week in Jerusalem to discuss religious and cultural problems and to deal with such issues as war and peace, poverty and hunger, and civil rights. Rabbi Bernard L. Berzon, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, said the delegates would discuss the growing concern of Jewish leadership with the problems of assimilation, intermarriage and other important problems, such as the spiritual growth of the Jewish communities especially those isolated from the larger centers of religious life.

MOSLEM PILGRIMS BEGIN TREK TO MECCA

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Moslem pilgrims from the West Bank began their trek yesterday to Mecca. An estimated 1,500 from the Judea-Samaria regions are expected to make the pilgrimage. They are expected to return by mid-Feb. The Saudi Arabian government, however, rejected an appeal from the Hebron mayor to permit Israeli Moslems to enter their country.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

NEW YORK (JTA)--Rabbi Abraham Gross, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, has called upon all member rabbis and their congregations to begin a concerted letter writing and contact campaign to Congressmen to amend the Economic Opportunity Act so that a more equitable distribution of anti-poverty monies could be allocated to include poor Jews. Rabbi Gross asked that the Act be amended to provide recruitment to various work training programs on a city-wide basis of need rather than having it confined to officially designated poverty areas. He also called for increased allocation of funds for senior citizens programs noting that 60 percent of the Jewish poor are over 60 years of age.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Threats to murder prominent Arabs of East Jerusalem and the West Bank for "treason" arrived Sunday in the mail of several news agencies. The leaflets, signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, singled out for death Anwar Nuseibeh, former Defense Minister of Jordan, and Hikmat el Massri, former Speaker of Jordan's Parliament. The treason referred to their alleged collaboration with King Hussein.

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TORONTO (JTA)--Emily Collip, a Christian Scientist who died here recently, bequeathed \$5,000 for the purchase of books for the library of the Associated Hebrew Schools which embraces the Toronto Hebrew Academy. Miss Collip retired from teaching in the public school system in 1964 and became a Latin instructor at the Academy, a community sponsored day high school. She commuted daily for six years by bus from home in Port Credit, a 1 1/2 hour trip each way. During the last seven years she expressed great interest in the ethos of Judaism and its writings. At the time of the Six-Day War Miss Collip showed concern for Israel. Her portrait and a plaque in her memory hang in the school lobby.

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COPENHAGEN (JTA)--The Christian daily, Kristeligt Dagblad, strongly assailed the Soviet Union for its policy toward the Jews. In a nearly full-page article last Friday signed by Miss Visti Christensen and titled "On Soviet Lies," the paper termed "an outright lie" Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin's statement in Olberg, Denmark on Dec. 5 that there was no Jewish problem in the USSR. Miss Christensen, referring to a question to Kosygin by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent about dissenters being sent to mental asylums, commented in her article: "It is not to be allowed that silence should greet this question." She added that many such prisoners could testify "after being treated with such preparations as aminazine and sulfazine, healthy people may react like mental patients."

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PARIS (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan personally thanked President Georges Pompidou Saturday for his intervention on behalf of Soviet Jewry when Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev visited France in Oct. Rabbi Kaplan visited Pompidou on New Year's Day, the occasion when diplomats, clergymen and politicians traditionally pay their respects to the President. Sources close to Rabbi Kaplan said afterwards that the meeting was "most cordial" and that the Chief Rabbi had also told Pompidou about the "House of France"

which the Jewish community is building on the Hebrew University campus in Jerusalem and of French Week soon to be held there. Rabbi Kaplan said he had a keen interest in re-enforcing cultural ties between France and Israel.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--The heads of the congregational and rabbinic arms of Reform Judaism assailed the Nixon administration for the renewed bombings in North Vietnam and stated that such action endangers the peace aims of the President's forthcoming trips to the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. In a telegram to Nixon, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Rabbi David Polish, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, called upon the administration to "set a date for total withdrawal of all American forces from all of Indochina."

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Rabbi Yehezkel Abramsky, president of the Council of Yeshivot, has issued a directive to all yeshiva heads urging yeshiva students not to participate in demonstrations. The Council represents yeshivot in their dealings with external bodies and it is not clear if the directive carries the weight of authority. Religious zealots have been demonstrating recently against autopsies, national service for religious girls and Sabbath violators. Rabbi Abramsky, a Talmudic scholar formerly of London who has kept aloof from party politics, said he did not believe that any "self-respecting Torah students" have participated in demonstrations.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Dr. Max Gruenwald, president of the Leo Baeck Institute, announced Monday that the Institute was awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Charles E. Merrill Trust to support the further development of the Institute's library. Four years ago the Trust gave \$10,000 for the same purpose and thereby helped the Institute to catalog its books and archival collections, thus providing their use by scholars and students throughout the country. The 40,000-volume library and its 300 archival collections as well as its research work and publications are devoted to the study of Jewish history in German-speaking Europe during the last 200 years.

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TORONTO (JTA)--A United Church clergyman here has resigned his ministry in protest over what he termed the indifference of some of its leading members to anti-Semitism. The Rev. Donald R. Keating, 46, charged in his letter of resignation that the church leadership is guilty of silence on issues affecting Jews, and that it has failed to deal with the pro-Arab policy promulgated by the church periodical, the United Church Observer. Keating followed up his letter of resignation, which he sent to his presbytery, with an open letter to the church's Moderator, the Right Rev. A.B. Moore, and to leaders of other Christian denominations. He has been an ordained minister for 20 years.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--A Hebrew-study group that met in a synagogue in Kovno has disbanded following what its members called governmental pressures, it was reported here.