

# daily news bulletin

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Vol. XXXIX - Fifty-Fifth Year

Thursday, January 27, 1972

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Apparently the US is not satisfied with the role assigned it by Israel as a mediator only. The US, according to diplomatic circles, is asking Israel to be more flexible in her attitude now that a further supply of war material has been promised to keep the balance of armaments intact. According to observers in Jerusalem the American attitude also stems from the opinion in Washington that the talks are not an immediate prospect because of Egyptian internal problems. This gives the US more time to try and make Israel more amenable to American ideas.

#### FRANCO-ISRAELI MIRAGE TALKS RESUMED

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It is understood that the two delegations led respectively by Israeli Ambassador Asher Ben Natan and the deputy head of the Quai D'Orsay's Department of Economic Affairs, Christian D'Aumale, confined themselves to examining technical reports without touching upon the basic issue itself.

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The meeting came the day before Dr. Jarring's scheduled flight to Senegal and Mauritania for talks on a Mideast peace with the Presidents of those two African nations. Bray said UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim "broached the idea that such a meeting would be useful" when he met here Monday with President Nixon.

Bray remarked that the US was still discussing with Israel the possibility of an interim Suez Canal agreement, "which we always considered supportive of his (Dr. Jarring's) mission." Asked to square that statement with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's declaration yesterday that he was breaking all ties with the US, Bray said the US did not want to get into "subsequent problems until these (canal) discussions are concluded." He would not elaborate.

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State Dep't, NCSJ Assail Explosions In Hurok's
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NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA)—One person died and eight people were injured in an explosion this morning that blasted the offices of impressario Sol Hurok and Columbia Artists Management, Inc. Just before the explosion anonymous callers telephoned news media offices to say: "This culture destroys millions of Jews. Cultural bridges of friendship will not be built over the bodies of Soviet Jews. Never again." The slogan, "never again," is used by the Jewish Defense League.

The JDL condemned the incident and suggested that it was the work of "Communist provocateurs." The reference to cultural bridges was believed to refer to Hurok's role in managing American tours of Soviet artists under cultural exchange programs between the two countries. Columbia Artists is handling the tour in the US of the Osipov Balalzika Orchestra from the USSR.

State Department spokesman Charles Bray, commenting on the fire, said "If these acts are directed against American-Soviet cultural exchanges they must be deplored by all who have an interest in better relations in the world. The act is reprehensible."

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Some observers here viewed Sadat's war statements as an obvious response to violent demonstrations in Cairo and Alexandria by students who demanded that the Egyptian government abandon its recourse to diplomatic channels in an attempt to achieve a Middle East settlement. Sadat sought to justify his delay of overt war moves by noting that the US is supplying Israel with more Phantom and Skyhawk jets and that Egypt requires time to strengthen its forces through deliveries of more military equipment from Russia.

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## WZO \$31M BUDGET, JNF \$19M BUDGET APPROVED BY ZIONIST CONGRESS PLENUM

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The plenum also approved a resolution of the Youth Aliya Committee backing the Youth Aliya Organization and welcoming the decision to absorb some 4,600 disadvantaged Israeli children into the youth aliya framework in the next two years. The resolution also included a call for a

larger youth aliya budget.

#### JURISTS URGE USSR TO ALLOW JEWS TO EMIGRATE, COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

CARACAS, Jan. 26 (JTA)—The Forum for the Analysis of the Situation of the Jewish Minority in the Soviet Union unanimously adopted resolutions calling on the USSR to give its Jewish citizens full cultural freedom as well as the right to emigrate. The gathering two days ago, attended by prominent jurists from 10 Latin American countries, also asked the Soviet Union "in strict application of its own legislation," to combat any practice which "stimulates racial hatrad or anti-Semitic prejudice."

The Forum received extensive coverage by the Venezuelan press. "Tribuna," the organ of the Communist Party, viciously attacked the gathering alleging that "anti-Soviet forums of the shareholders of the great capitalist monopoly will not be able to hide the truth." Among those attending the parley were Dr. Fernando Ojesto, dean of the Law Faculty at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and Dr. Refael Pizani, one of Venezuela's outstanding jurists.

## BNEI BRAQ TO GET FIRST FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY DESPITE ORTHODOX OPPOSITION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA)—Despite opposition by ultra-Orthodox elements, the religious township of Baei Braq will soon get its first free public library, to be housed in an old fire brigade building. The decision was made at a town council meeting. Baai Braq, a suburb of Tel Aviv, was founded 48 years ago and became a municipality 25 years ago. It has no movie house and is the only township in Israel where all traffic is forbidden on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays.

The Agudath Israel representatives on the town council claimed that religious Jews who studied the Torah had no need for a library where 'pornography' might be found on the shelves. The Poale Agudat Israel members abstained from voting on the issue but contended that the town would lose its unique character with the introduction of a general library. But the more moderate National Religious Party, supported by religious Labor Party members, mustered a majority vote for a library. Heretofore, residents of Bnei Braq had to travel to nearby Ramat Gan if they wished to obtain a book other than a religious tract.

#### RUSSIAN WOMAN, CLAIMING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HER IN ISRAEL, GIVEN ASYLUM

BONN, Jan. 26 (JTA)—A West German court has granted political asylum to Mrs. Dora Czczesna, a non-Jewish former resident of Israel who came here with her 14-year-old son allegedly to escape discrimination and harassment in Israel. Mrs. Czczesna, 41, is a Russian Christian who recently divorced her Polish Jewish husband. She told the court that she had suffered "serious religious discrimination" in Israel, was unable to find work there because of her religion and that after her divorce she found herself homeless and penniless.

The woman said that her son was unable to find a place in a normal Jewish school in Israel. She claimed that all schools to which she applied turned him down when his non-Jewish origin became known. She said further that her son was frequently beaten by Jewish children, insulted and jeered at and that despite her many complaints to the police they refused to take action or even to investigate her charges. The court ruled that Mrs. Czcresna was entitled to asylum under the Federal Constitution.

# 45 SENATORS URGE FULBRIGHT TO BEGIN HEARINGS ON RESOLUTION REGARDING PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (JTA)—A bipartisan bloc of 45 Senators today asked Senator J. William Fulbright (D., Ark), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, to begin hearings at the "earliest possible date" on a Senate concurrent resolution regarding the plight of Soviet Jews. The resolution was referred to Fulbright's committee July 12, but no hearings have yet been scheduled. Fulbright did not immediately respond to the JTA's request for comment on the Senators' action.

Sen. William E. Brock (R., Tenn.) and Henry M. Jackson (D., Wash.), the original co-sponsors of the resolution, pointed out in a letter to Fulbright that the House Foreign Affairs Committee had held hearings Nov. 9-10 on the House concurrent resolution. According to the letter, made public this afternoon, the House resolution "expresses that it is the sense of Congress that Soviet Jews and all others within the border of that country should be entitled the free exercise of religion."

The Senate resolution, Brock and Jackson said in a joint statement issued with the letter, "calls on President Nixon to raise the issue of the denial of religious freedom in Russia with the highest levels of the Soviet government," and "also calls on the State Department to present Soviet violations of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights before the General Assembly." At the House hearings the State Department presented a statement, read by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Richard T. Davies, saying it would be "appropriate" for the Congress to pass a resolution on the plight of Soviet Jews."

## FIDLER DEFENDS GOLDMANN, DISPUTES PINCUS' VIEW OF GOLDMANN'S SPEECH

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA)--Michael Fidler, chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has disputed a contention by World Zionist Executive chairman Louis A. Pincus that certain anecdotal material which set the tone of Dr. Nahum Goldmann's controversial speech before the Board of Deputies in London Dec. 19 was omitted from the official transcript of the speech released by the World Jewish Congress in London.

The speech, in which Dr. Goldmann, WJC president, urged that the struggle for the rights of Jews who remain in the Soviet Union be given equal priority with the struggle of other Jews to emigrate resulted in the withdrawal by the WZO in Jerusalem of its invitation to Dr. Goldmann to address a festive session of the 28th World Zionist Congress which took place last Saturday night.

Fidler, who is attending the Congress as an observer on the invitation of Pincus, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Pincus' allegation that the omitted material set the tone of Dr. Goldmann's speech was "quite untrue." He said they were "anecdotes in the usual Goldmann style and did not affect the sense of the speech." In a letter published in the Jerusalem Post yesterday, Fidler said there were no important cuts in the released text of his speech. "As a guest of the Congress and an invitee of Mr. Pincus, I have no wish to comment on the decision in connection with the invitation (to Dr. Goldmann) but while comment is free, facts are sacred." Fidler said. Pincus received a copy of Fidler's letter to the Post several days ago but has not yet replied.

Meanwhile, police have released the last five of 34 persons arrested a week ago during a street demonstration at the opening of the Zionist Congress. It was not certain today how many of the

demonstrators will be charged in court. Chief Superintendent of Police Avraham Turgemann said that 35 firecrackers were found in court-yards and buildings near the Congress hall during the demonstrations. He said the demonstrators planned to create chaos in the area.

## DENMARK'S QUEEN ACCEPTS SHAZAR'S INVITATION TO VISIT ISRAEL

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 26 (JTA)--Queen Margrethe II of Denmark has accepted an invitation from President Zalman Shazar to visit Israel. No date has been announced. The Queen will be accompanied by her husband, Prince Henrik, a French-born former diplomat. Shazar extended the invitation during his visit here to attend the funeral of King Frederik IX.

Meanwhile, the Israeli chief of state himself accepted an invitation from President Kristjan Eldjarn of Iceland to visit that country, probably next year. The two met at King Frederik's funeral. Shazar had been scheduled to visit Iceland in the spring of 1967 but his trip was cancelled by the Middle East crisis that sparked the Six-Day War.

#### Shazar Defends 'Danish Conversions'

Shazar talked at length in private with Denmark's Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior last night when both were guests at the home of Israel Ambassador Moshe Leshem. According to sources present they discussed among other things recent allegations made in some Orthodox circles abroad that conversions performed by Rabbi Melchior were not valid. On leaving the Ambassador's home, Shazar told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the allegations were "pure nonsense" and that Rabbi Melchior had been "falsely accused."

#### HIGH COURT RULES SHALIT'S THIRD CHILD NOT TO BE REGISTERED AS HEBREW

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA)—The third child of Commander Benjamin Shalit, chief psychologist of Israəl's armed forces, is not to be registered as belonging to the "Hebrew" community in his identification papers, the Supreme Court decided here today. The first two Shalit children were registered as belonging to the Jewish community (being of Jewish "nationality") and of no religion. Their mother, an atheist, is not Jewish and the case was heard by an unprecedented bench of nine high court judges two years ago.

However, the law was changed afterwards and for registration purposes Jewish means a child born to a Jewish mother or having undergone conversion and having no other religion. Shalit, therefore, applied to have his child, born last year, registered as Hebrew. In its judgement, the high court said that Hebrew and Jewish are synonymous and the registration asked for by Shalit would be misleading. His plea was, therefore, rejected. However, the three justices added that their judgement applies to the population registration ordinance only and is no reflection on the feeling of belonging that a person may have.

#### COLPA HAILS SABBATH OBSERVER ACTION

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA)—Howard Rhine, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, applauded today the adoption last Friday by the Senate by a vote of 55-0 of an amendment to a pending Human Rights bill that would protect Sabbath observers in employment. The amendment, initially drafted by COLPA vice-president Nathan Lewin, would require employers to show that it would cause an unreasonable hardship on their business to hire or retain a Sabbath observer.

## 'Disenfranchising Jews' RABBI OBTAINS COURT ORDER IN EFFORT TO HALT SABBATH ANTI-POVERTY ELECTIONS

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- A Brooklyn Orthodox rabbl said today that he has obtained a court order giving the City Administration 20 days to reply to complaints against the scheduling of community anti-poverty corporation elections on a Saturday. Rabbi Sholom B. Gorodetsky, a Crown Heights delegate to the New York City Council Against Poverty, said he obtained the order from the State Supreme Court on Jan. 20 as "a first move to stop Sabbath elections."

He charged that the poverty agency and the city's Human Resources Administration "are clearly disenfranchising Jews from participating in poverty elections by purposely and maliciously scheduling them on the Jewish Sabbath."

The Council Against Poverty voted Jan. 13 to allow the local anti-poverty corporations the option of scheduling their elections, to be held next April, either on a Saturday or a week day. That decision has aiready been protested vigorously by the B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League, the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, the Association of Jewish Anti-Poverty Workers and the Rabbinical Alliance of America.

Rabbi Gorodetsky also denounced a tentative compromise proposed by the city last week which would spread the elections over two days allowing observant Jews to cast their bailots on a Sunday or week day and other voters on Saturday. "As long as an election is held on the Jewish Sabbath there will be no compromise no matter how many extra days and nights are offered, no matter how many house Jews' push for it," the Crown Heights rabbi said.

He noted that last year, in response to community protests, the NY City Council passed a unanimous resolution instructing the HRA and the Council Against Poverty never to hold another election on a Sabbath. He said that when given the option to select a voting day last year, 22 of the 26 local poverty corporations chose Saturday. In at least 16 of those poverty areas there were substantial numbers of Jews, Rabbi Gorodetsky said.

## JEWISH VIETNAM PEACE COALITION LAUNCHED Calls For Immediate Withdrawal Of US Troops

ELKINS PARK, Pa., Jan. 26 (JTA)--Some 85 persons, representing a cross-section of the Jewish community of Greater Philadelphia, met at Congregation Adath Jeshurun here Monday night in an attempt to create a "coalition" for peace in Vietnam, the synagogue's spiritual leader, Rabbi Yaakov Rosenberg, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last night. The participants drew up a "statement of principle" which will be sent tomorrow to area Jewish communal leaders, to every member of the Greater Philadelphia Board of Rabbis, and to members of the general Jewish community, Rabbi Rosenberg said.

The "statement of principles" calls for an immediate withdrawal of American troops from Indochina and the establishment of an international body to oversee those steps needed to bring about a lasting peace and oversee free elections that would be binding "even if the Communists are voted into

In the general discussion, Sanford Weinreb, executive director of the Greater Philadelphia Council of the American Jewish Congress, said the
'coalition' hoped to provide an outlet for those
Jews who disapprove of the Vietnam War but have
been 'reluctant' to participate in anti-war demonstrations which often include persons unfriendly to

Israel. "The ocalition will have an avowed pro-Israel bias." he said.

Rabbi Lewis E. Bogage, director of the Federation of Reform Synagogues of Greater Philadelphia, admitted that there was a "reluctance" on the part of the Jewish community to become "actively involved" in the peace effort because, he said, "they erroneously relate US support of the Vietnamese government with US support of Israel." They fear, he added, that if they oppose US support of the Vietnam war, they would somehow weaken US support for Israel. "The two situations are not comparable in any way," he concluded.

Sponsors of the organizational meeting included Rabbis Rosenberg and Bogage, Weinreb, and Rabbis Henry Cohen of Beth David Reform Congregation and Harold Waintrup of Old York Road Temple-Beth Am. The next "coalition" meeting will be held in February at a date to be set.

### RABBIS CALL FOR STRICTER APPLICATION OF CONVERSION LAWS. LAW OF RETURN

PARIS, Jan. 26 (JTA)—A number of French rabbis have established a special committee to ask for a stricter application of conversion laws and for a change in the Israeli Law of Return which they claim is "too lax and liberal." The committee, Ygud Lemaan Kium Hayahadut (Organization for the Existence of Judaism), calls for the strict application of halachic law which prescribes that a Jew is one born of a Jewish mother. The committee organizers say that a number of lay people including students have joined the organization and expressed their support of the group's objective.

#### UNIVERSITIES LAUNCH JEWISH INSTITUTE

BRUSSELS, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Thirty-four Belgian universities announced yesterday the joint establishment of an institute for Jewish studies to be located in Brussels and named after Martin Buber. The universities will cooperate in jointly supplying the academic staff and will share the expenses. The institute will provide courses in the history, philosophy and sociology of Judaism. The opening lecture Feb. 1 by Prof. Emmanuel Levinas of the Sorbonne in Paris will deal with Buber's philosophical and social views. Other foreign visiting professors will also be invited to deliver lectures in the future.

#### SOVIET IMMIGRANTS STAGE SITDOWN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Three newly arrived families of Georgian Jews went on a sit-down strike at Lydda Airport today after refusing the housing offered them by the Absorption Ministry. Altogether there were 15 Soviet Jews striking there today over the housing issue. Efforts are being made to persuade them to accept the proffered apartments.

#### HAND GRENADE INJURES FOUR IN GAZA

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA)--Blood was shed again today in Gaza when a hand grenade aimed at an Israeli civilian car missed and exploded in the street injuring four local residents including two children. None of the occupants in the car were injured. Security forces started an investigation.

Meanwhile, security statistics released yesterday recorded Il incidents along Israel's border, during the week that ended Jan. 22. Six occurred on the Syrian border, three in Gaza, one in the Jordan River and one within the administered territories. The Lebanese and Egyptian borders were quiet.



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larger youth aliya budget.

#### JURISTS URGE USSR TO ALLOW JEWS TO EMIGRATE, COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

CARACAS, Jan. 26 (JTA)—The Forum for the Analysis of the Situation of the Jewish Minority in the Soviet Union unanimously adopted resolutions calling on the USSR to give its Jewish citizens full cultural freedom as well as the right to emigrate. The gathering two days ago, attended by prominent jurists from 10 Latin American countries, also asked the Soviet Union "in strict application of its own legislation," to combat any practice which "stimulates racial hatrad or anti-Semitic prejudice."

The Forum received extensive coverage by the Venezuelan press. "Tribuna," the organ of the Communist Party, viciously attacked the gathering alleging that "anti-Soviet forums of the shareholders of the great capitalist monopoly will not be able to hide the truth." Among those attending the parley were Dr. Fernando Ojesto, dean of the Law Faculty at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and Dr. Refael Pizani, one of Venezuela's outstanding jurists.

## BNEI BRAQ TO GET FIRST FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY DESPITE ORTHODOX OPPOSITION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA)—Despite opposition by ultra-Orthodox elements, the religious township of Baei Braq will soon get its first free public library, to be housed in an old fire brigade building. The decision was made at a town council meeting. Baai Braq, a suburb of Tel Aviv, was founded 48 years ago and became a municipality 25 years ago. It has no movie house and is the only township in Israel where all traffic is forbidden on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays.

The Agudath Israel representatives on the town council claimed that religious Jews who studied the Torah had no need for a library where 'pornography' might be found on the shelves. The Poale Agudat Israel members abstained from voting on the issue but contended that the town would lose its unique character with the introduction of a general library. But the more moderate National Religious Party, supported by religious Labor Party members, mustered a majority vote for a library. Heretofore, residents of Bnei Braq had to travel to nearby Ramat Gan if they wished to obtain a book other than a religious tract.

#### RUSSIAN WOMAN, CLAIMING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HER IN ISRAEL, GIVEN ASYLUM

BONN, Jan. 26 (JTA)—A West German court has granted political asylum to Mrs. Dora Czczesna, a non-Jewish former resident of Israel who came here with her 14-year-old son allegedly to escape discrimination and harassment in Israel. Mrs. Czczesna, 41, is a Russian Christian who recently divorced her Polish Jewish husband. She told the court that she had suffered "serious religious discrimination" in Israel, was unable to find work there because of her religion and that after her divorce she found herself homeless and penniless.

The woman said that her son was unable to find a place in a normal Jewish school in Israel. She claimed that all schools to which she applied turned him down when his non-Jewish origin became known. She said further that her son was frequently beaten by Jewish children, insulted and jeered at and that despite her many complaints to the police they refused to take action or even to investigate her charges. The court ruled that Mrs. Czcresna was entitled to asylum under the Federal Constitution.

# 45 SENATORS URGE FULBRIGHT TO BEGIN HEARINGS ON RESOLUTION REGARDING PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (JTA)—A bipartisan bloc of 45 Senators today asked Senator J. William Fulbright (D., Ark), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, to begin hearings at the "earliest possible date" on a Senate concurrent resolution regarding the plight of Soviet Jews. The resolution was referred to Fulbright's committee July 12, but no hearings have yet been scheduled. Fulbright did not immediately respond to the JTA's request for comment on the Senators' action.

Sen. William E. Brock (R., Tenn.) and Henry M. Jackson (D., Wash.), the original co-sponsors of the resolution, pointed out in a letter to Fulbright that the House Foreign Affairs Committee had held hearings Nov. 9-10 on the House concurrent resolution. According to the letter, made public this afternoon, the House resolution "expresses that it is the sense of Congress that Soviet Jews and all others within the border of that country should be entitled the free exercise of religion."

The Senate resolution, Brock and Jackson said in a joint statement issued with the letter, "calls on President Nixon to raise the issue of the denial of religious freedom in Russia with the highest levels of the Soviet government," and "also calls on the State Department to present Soviet violations of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights before the General Assembly." At the House hearings the State Department presented a statement, read by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Richard T. Davies, saying it would be "appropriate" for the Congress to pass a resolution on the plight of Soviet Jews."

## FIDLER DEFENDS GOLDMANN, DISPUTES PINCUS' VIEW OF GOLDMANN'S SPEECH

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA)--Michael Fidler, chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has disputed a contention by World Zionist Executive chairman Louis A. Pincus that certain anecdotal material which set the tone of Dr. Nahum Goldmann's controversial speech before the Board of Deputies in London Dec. 19 was omitted from the official transcript of the speech released by the World Jewish Congress in London.

The speech, in which Dr. Goldmann, WJC president, urged that the struggle for the rights of Jews who remain in the Soviet Union be given equal priority with the struggle of other Jews to emigrate resulted in the withdrawal by the WZO in Jerusalem of its invitation to Dr. Goldmann to address a festive session of the 28th World Zionist Congress which took place last Saturday night.

Fidler, who is attending the Congress as an observer on the invitation of Pincus, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Pincus' allegation that the omitted material set the tone of Dr. Goldmann's speech was "quite untrue." He said they were "anecdotes in the usual Goldmann style and did not affect the sense of the speech." In a letter published in the Jerusalem Post yesterday, Fidler said there were no important cuts in the released text of his speech. "As a guest of the Congress and an invitee of Mr. Pincus, I have no wish to comment on the decision in connection with the invitation (to Dr. Goldmann) but while comment is free, facts are sacred." Fidler said. Pincus received a copy of Fidler's letter to the Post several days ago but has not yet replied.

Meanwhile, police have released the last five of 34 persons arrested a week ago during a street demonstration at the opening of the Zionist Congress. It was not certain today how many of the

demonstrators will be charged in court. Chief Superintendent of Police Avraham Turgemann said that 35 firecrackers were found in court-yards and buildings near the Congress hall during the demonstrations. He said the demonstrators planned to create chaos in the area.

## DENMARK'S QUEEN ACCEPTS SHAZAR'S INVITATION TO VISIT ISRAEL

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 26 (JTA)--Queen Margrethe II of Denmark has accepted an invitation from President Zalman Shazar to visit Israel. No date has been announced. The Queen will be accompanied by her husband, Prince Henrik, a French-born former diplomat. Shazar extended the invitation during his visit here to attend the funeral of King Frederik IX.

Meanwhile, the Israeli chief of state himself accepted an invitation from President Kristjan Eldjarn of Iceland to visit that country, probably next year. The two met at King Frederik's funeral. Shazar had been scheduled to visit Iceland in the spring of 1967 but his trip was cancelled by the Middle East crisis that sparked the Six-Day War.

#### Shazar Defends 'Danish Conversions'

Shazar talked at length in private with Denmark's Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior last night when both were guests at the home of Israel Ambassador Moshe Leshem. According to sources present they discussed among other things recent allegations made in some Orthodox circles abroad that conversions performed by Rabbi Melchior were not valid. On leaving the Ambassador's home, Shazar told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the allegations were "pure nonsense" and that Rabbi Melchior had been "falsely accused."

#### HIGH COURT RULES SHALIT'S THIRD CHILD NOT TO BE REGISTERED AS HEBREW

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The third child of Commander Benjamin Shalit, chief psychologist of Israel's armed forces, is not to be registered as belonging to the "Hebrew" community in his identification papers, the Supreme Court decided here today. The first two Shalit children were registered as belonging to the Jewish community (being of Jewish "nationality") and of no religion. Their mother, an atheist, is not Jewish and the case was heard by an unprecedented bench of nine high court judges two years ago.

However, the law was changed afterwards and for registration purposes Jewish means a child born to a Jewish mother or having undergone conversion and having no other religion. Shalit, therefore, applied to have his child, born last year, registered as Hebrew. In its judgement, the high court said that Hebrew and Jewish are synonymous and the registration asked for by Shalit would be misleading. His plea was, therefore, rejected. However, the three justices added that their judgement applies to the population registration ordinance only and is no reflection on the feeling of belonging that a person may have.

#### COLPA HAILS SABBATH OBSERVER ACTION

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA)—Howard Rhine, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, applauded today the adoption last Friday by the Senate by a vote of 55-0 of an amendment to a pending Human Rights bill that would protect Sabbath observers in employment. The amendment, initially drafted by COLPA vice-president Nathan Lewin, would require employers to show that it would cause an unreasonable hardship on their business to hire or retain a Sabbath observer.

## 'Disenfranchising Jews' RABBI OBTAINS COURT ORDER IN EFFORT TO HALT SABBATH ANTI-POVERTY ELECTIONS

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- A Brooklyn Orthodox rabbl said today that he has obtained a court order giving the City Administration 20 days to reply to complaints against the scheduling of community anti-poverty corporation elections on a Saturday. Rabbi Sholom B. Gorodetsky, a Crown Heights delegate to the New York City Council Against Poverty, said he obtained the order from the State Supreme Court on Jan. 20 as "a first move to stop Sabbath elections."

He charged that the poverty agency and the city's Human Resources Administration "are clearly disenfranchising Jews from participating in poverty elections by purposely and maliciously scheduling them on the Jewish Sabbath."

The Council Against Poverty voted Jan. 13 to allow the local anti-poverty corporations the option of scheduling their elections, to be held next April, either on a Saturday or a week day. That decision has already been protested vigorously by the B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League, the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, the Association of Jewish Anti-Poverty Workers and the Rabbinical Alliance of America.

Rabbi Gorodetsky also denounced a tentative compromise proposed by the city last week which would spread the elections over two days allowing observant Jews to cast their bailots on a Sunday or week day and other voters on Saturday. "As long as an election is held on the Jewish Sabbath there will be no compromise no matter how many extra days and nights are offered, no matter how many house Jews' push for it," the Crown Heights rabbi said.

He noted that last year, in response to community protests, the NY City Council passed a unanimous resolution instructing the HRA and the Council Against Poverty never to hold another election on a Sabbath. He said that when given the option to select a voting day last year, 22 of the 26 local poverty corporations chose Saturday. In at least 16 of those poverty areas there were substantial numbers of Jews, Rabbi Gorodetsky said.

## JEWISH VIETNAM PEACE COALITION LAUNCHED Calls For Immediate Withdrawal Of US Troops

ELKINS PARK, Pa., Jan. 26 (JTA)--Some 85 persons, representing a cross-section of the Jewish community of Greater Philadelphia, met at Congregation Adath Jeshurun here Monday night in an attempt to create a "coalition" for peace in Vietnam, the synagogue's spiritual leader, Rabbi Yaakov Rosenberg, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last night. The participants drew up a "statement of principle" which will be sent tomorrow to area Jewish communal leaders, to every member of the Greater Philadelphia Board of Rabbis, and to members of the general Jewish community, Rabbi Rosenberg said.

The "statement of principles" calls for an immediate withdrawal of American troops from Indochina and the establishment of an international body to oversee those steps needed to bring about a lasting peace and oversee free elections that would be binding "even if the Communists are voted into

In the general discussion, Sanford Weinreb, executive director of the Greater Philadelphia Council of the American Jewish Congress, said the "coalition" hoped to provide an outlet for those Jews who disapprove of the Vietnam War but have been "reluctant" to participate in anti-war demonstrations which often include persons unfriendly to Israel. "The ocalition will have an avowed pro-Israel bias." he said.

Rabbi Lewis E. Bogage, director of the Federation of Reform Synagogues of Greater Philadelphia, admitted that there was a "reluctance" on the part of the Jewish community to become "actively involved" in the peace effort because, he said, "they erroneously relate US support of the Vietnamese government with US support of Israel." They fear, he added, that if they oppose US support of the Vietnam war, they would somehow weaken US support for Israel. "The two situations are not comparable in any way," he concluded.

Sponsors of the organizational meeting included Rabbis Rosenberg and Bogage, Weinreb, and Rabbis Henry Cohen of Beth David Reform Congregation and Harold Waintrup of Old York Road Temple-Beth Am. The next "coalition" meeting will be held in February at a date to be set.

### RABBIS CALL FOR STRICTER APPLICATION OF CONVERSION LAWS. LAW OF RETURN

PARIS, Jan. 26 (JTA)—A number of French rabbis have established a special committee to ask for a stricter application of conversion laws and for a change in the Israeli Law of Return which they claim is "too lax and liberal." The committee, Ygud Lemaan Kium Hayahadut (Organization for the Existence of Judaism), calls for the strict application of halachic law which prescribes that a Jew is one born of a Jewish mother. The committee organizers say that a number of lay people including students have joined the organization and expressed their support of the group's objective.

#### UNIVERSITIES LAUNCH JEWISH INSTITUTE

BRUSSELS, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Thirty-four Belgian universities announced yesterday the joint establishment of an institute for Jewish studies to be located in Brussels and named after Martin Buber. The universities will cooperate in jointly supplying the academic staff and will share the expenses. The institute will provide courses in the history, philosophy and sociology of Judaism. The opening lecture Feb. 1 by Prof. Emmanuel Levinas of the Sorbonne in Paris will deal with Buber's philosophical and social views. Other foreign visiting professors will also be invited to deliver lectures in the future.

#### SOVIET IMMIGRANTS STAGE SITDOWN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Three newly arrived families of Georgian Jews went on a sitdown strike at Lydda Airport today after refusing the housing offered them by the Absorption Ministry. Altogether there were 15 Soviet Jews striking there today over the housing issue. Efforts are being made to persuade them to accept the proffered apartments.

#### HAND GRENADE INJURES FOUR IN GAZA

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA)--Blood was shed again today in Gaza when a hand grenade aimed at an Israeli civilian car missed and exploded in the street injuring four local residents including two children. None of the occupants in the car were injured. Security forces started an investigation.

Meanwhile, security statistics released yesterday recorded Il incidents along Israel's border, during the week that ended Jan. 22. Six occurred on the Syrian border, three in Gaza, one within the administered ter-Jordan River and one within the administered territories. The Lebanese and Egyptian borders were quiet.