

daily news bulletin

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Vol. XXXIX - Flifty-Fifth Year

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ISRAEL READY FOR PROXIMITY TALKS: PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM EAST BANK OF CANAL WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ACCORD

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According to today's communique, the talks will be free and the US will endeavor to bring both sides to an agreement without itself becoming a party. Reliable sources here said that if and when the proximity talks materialize, the US will not advance suggestions of its own without prior consulta-

tion with Israel.

The sources said, however, that the US has not undertaken to refrain from raising any point without Israel's prior agreement but would make a serious effort to reach an agreement with Israel before substantive proposals on any subject are broached. The sources noted that the US position did not quite come up to Israeli expectations but that Israel was nevertheless satisfied.

Up To U.S. To Convene Talks

Israel on its part has expressed readiness to make a partial withdrawal from the east bank of the Suez Canal within the framework of an interim agreement with Egypt. This includes withdrawal behind the line of fortifications known as the Barlev line. The depth of the withdrawal has not been disclosed. A major condition for the Israeli withdrawal is that no Egyptian troops be allowed to enter the evacuated zone. The precise nature of the force that will be stationed there is a matter to be decided at the talks themselves.

Sources here said it was now up to the US to bring Israel and Egypt together for the talks. The expectation here is that no action will be taken before President Anwar Sadat of Egypt returns from Moscow where he arrived today. Egypt's position is unclear and must be probed now that the obstacles between Israel and the US have been removed, ac-

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Bray refused to say whether there has been any written assurances by the US to Israel that the US will not propose its own plans in proximity talks between Israel and Egypt. His prepared statement said, "We welcome Israel's decision to enter talks in proximity for a possible interim Suez agreement. For our part we remain available to help in this process if it is the desire of the parties concerned. We hope the opportunity for diplomacy that it provides will be taken in the interests of both sides and in the interests of stability in the area."

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Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Yitzhak Rabin and the chief Egyptian diplomatic representative here. Dr. Ashraf Ghorbal, visited the State Department today. The two diplomats met separately with Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J.Sisco. The meetings were at the request of Rabin and Ghorbal. The State Department refused to reveal the nature of the meetings.

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community.

(Since 1961, when, according to the American Jewish Yearbook, there were about 32,000 Jews in Poland, the number of Jews has dwindled to under 9,000. In the two years between 1968 and 1970, emigration and deaths out the size of the community by more than 50 percent, from 21,000 to 9,000.) The few Jewish leaders left are loyal members of the Party and the active members of the Association also belong to the Party. The elderly and infirm, including those in old-age homes, are left alone to pray or read Yiddish writings of the past.

JEWISH LEADERS DEMAND POLICE PROTECTION IN WAKE OF NEO-NAZIACTIONS

BOSTON, Feb. 2 (JTA)--An outbreak of swastika-smearings, broken windows, and paintings of anti-Semitic slogans on store windows in the City Point area of South Boston has upset Jewish storekeepers and brought demands of increased police protection. Representatives of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said they had met with police authorities and had been assured that detectives and other special police officers are making a "concerted effort to apprehend those suspected of involvement in this outrage."

Council President Justin L. Wyner and Simon Scheff, regional AUL chairman, commenting on the "Kill niggers and Jews" and "kill price gougers from the suburbs" signs that had been painted on the store windows, said "The South Boston excesses are all too reminiscent of the Brown Shirt era of the late 1930s and 1940s; and they must be halted." They noted that effective counter-action has been taken by police in previous instances of vandalism and stated, "We insist that every possible reassurance be given victims of these forays."

RELIGIOUS YOUTH SUPPORT CONVERSIONS

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 2 (JTA)--The local Bnei Akiva, a religious Zionist youth organization, came out today in support of Denmark's Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior in his controversy with ultra-Orthodox leaders in Israel and other countries on the validity of his conversions. Some ultra-Orthodox rabbis have intimated that conversions performed by Rabbi Melchior were not in struct compliance with halacha, religious law.

In a statement issued today, Bnai Akiva said it rejected completely the criticism of Rabbi Meichior. "Such criticism, levelied without any prior investigation of the facts, undermines seriously our religious life and particularly that of those whose Jewish character is suddenly surrounded with great doubts," the statement said. "It is our sincere hope that wherever a Jewish heart beats it will be understood that a great injustice has been done and one which strikes hard at our united people and ite national ideals."

AGREEMENT ON U.S. ROLE IN TALKS STEMMED FROM NIXON-MEIR TALK LAST DECEMBER Nixon Overruled State Dep't Bureaucracy

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA)—Israeli sources here said this afternoon that the agreement announced earlier in the day on the US role in Israeli-Egyptian proximity talks for an interim Suez agreement stemmed directly from an unparalleled understanding reached by President Nixon and Premier Golda Meir at their White House meeting last Dec. 2. The sources said that Nixon ple ged that Israel would receive all the planes and military equipment it would need for two years and that Israel would not have to pay in political terms either in talks with Egypt on an interim accord or in negotiations for an overall Middle East settlement.

According to the sources, Israel received virtually everything it wanted with regard to the US position except a guarantee that the US would use its veto in any action at the United Nations with which Israel disagreed. Other sources noted that it was clearly understood that the US could never in any event give the right of its veto to any other power.

According to the Israeli sources, the Nixon-Meir accord was followed by instructions to US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco and Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin from their respective governments to follow up and bring about a complete understanding with regard to the US role in interim talks. The sources cautioned, however, that this was only the beginning toward arriving at some agreement in the Middle East. They stressed that it would be a mistake to think differently.

India-Pakistan War Factor In Decision

The sources said that Nixon's order which, in effect overruled the position of the State Department bureaucracy, was based least of all on election year political consideration. They contended that Nixon's position was based on the results of the recent India-Pakistan war which convinced him that the military imbalance which prevailed on the Indian sub-continent must not be repeated in the Middle East.

The thinking in Israeli circles here is that Egypt may not go along with the American initiative for an interim agreement but will probably seek to urge action along the lines of UN mediator Gunnar V. Jarring's proposals of Feb. 8, 1971 which Egypt accepted and Israel rejected. The circles pointed out that Dr. Jarring went to Africa last week to develop a different formulation of his proposals in consultation with African leaders.

However, they said, it seemed clear that Dr. Jarring is not seeking any change in the matter of boundaries between Israel and Egypt. Mrs. Meir said in an interview with the NY Times last week that Israel will insist on retaining Sharm el-Sheikh and a land bridge linking it to Israel. Egypt and the Soviet Union are expected to hold to the Jarring formula.

BRITAIN WELCOMES TALKS: UN WITHHOLDS COMMENT

LONDON, Feb. 2 (JTA)—The British Government today welcomed Israel's announcement that it is ready to participate in proximity talks with Egypt. A statement issued by the Foreign Office today said, "We welcome the outcome of the talks between the United States and Israel. Our attitude to an interim arrangement for the reopening of the Suez Canal was stated by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, in Ankara on April 30, 1971, when he said that an interim arrangement for the reopening of the Suez Canal would help reduce ten-

sion in the Middle East and break the present deadlock but it should be a step towards a comprehensive settlement and not an end in itself."

(In New York, the United Nations' acting press spokesman said today there would be no UN comment on the development in the absence of Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and intermediary Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring.)

JARRING TALKS IN CAIRO, JERUSALIM, NOT CONFIRMED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)—The Israeli radio said today that United Nations special envoy Gunnar V. Jarring will return to the Middle East within the month for talks in Cairo and Jerusalem on the possibility of resuming his peace mission. There was no confirmation from any other official or unofficial sources that a visit Ly Dr. Jarring was pending.

The UN mediator is presently in Europe where he flew from Africa following a meeting with African leaders on matters relating to a Middle East settlement. He will meet in Rome later this week with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim who is presently attending a special meeting of the Security Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

MIRAGE TALKS CONCLUDING; FRANCE TO PAY ISRAEL \$75M PLUS INTEREST

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Treasury circles confirmed here tonight that the Paris talks over reimbursement to Israel for 50 embargoed Mirage V jet fighters are drawing to a conclusion. According to the sources, France will pay Israel about \$75 million to cover the sum Israel originally paid for the aircraft plus four percent interest per annum. The Mirages were embargoed by the late President Charles De Gaulle on the eve of the 1967 Six-Day War.

Israel's Accountant General, Hami Stessel, is presently in Paris participating in the talks, Treasury circles said. France's payment will be entirely in French francs and will not take into account the devaluations and revaluations of French currency that occurred in the interim. The Mirages, once the backbone of Israel's Air Force, have since become obsolete.

JEWISH STATESMAN IN HIGHEST COUNCIL

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Robert Van Den Bergh, a Jewish statesman, has become a member of the Netherlands Council of State, it was learned here today. Van Den Bergh is a lawyer and a member of the government Labor Party. He was a member of the Dutch Parliament from 1963 to 1971. His father, the late Prof. George Van Den Bergh, was a famous lecturer of administrative law at Amsterdam University. His grandfather was the liberal Senator, Samual Van Den Bergh, a founding member of the Dutch Keren Hayesod. The 20-man Netherlands Council of State is the highest advisory body in Holland.

TORAH SCROLLS STOLEN

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Police in Beisan arrested a local resident today for the theft of two Torah scrolls valued at \$2,400 from the Baruch Meir synagogue. The theft was discovered when worshippers arrived at the synagogue this morning. Police said the scrolls were in the possession of the person arrested and that they are looking for an accomplice. One theory advanced was that the theft was the outcome of a personal quarrel between the thief and synagogue functionaries.

FOCUS ON SOVIET JEWRY

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry learned Wednesday of the first cases of direct police action against Soviet Jews in more than a year. These occurred when some Jews in Kharkov, who had applied for emigration, recently had their homes searched by the police. Among them was Solomon Greenberg, who applied for an emigration visa six months ago and was refused last month on the grounds that his wife is employed in a security-classified plant.

On January 28, the 38-year-old Greenberg, who lives with his wife, daughter and mother, had his apartment searched for more than five hours by the police. The search warrant (Number 10-002) was for handwritten and printed correspondence containing "slander" and "lies" about the Soviet Union. Thirty-one pieces of allegedly "slanderous" printed material were confiscated by the police from Greenberg's apartment, including a Hebrew study book and

a Hebrew-Russian dictionary.

After the search, Greenberg protested to the police that the confiscated items did not correspond with the material specified in the search warrant. As of now, Greenberg has not been officially charged by the Soviet authorities. In releasing the news, the NCSJ said that such direct police action against Jews is reminiscent of the period preceding the Leningrad and other trials of late 1970, and expressed concern that it is being resumed by the Soviet authorities.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--At least six Jewish political prisoners in the Potma camp in Soviet Mordovia have declared a hunger strike in protest against prison conditions, accerding to reports Wednesday from Soviet Jewish sources. Their action has resulted in a prohibition against their learning Hebrew and meeting with other Jewish inmates. The six are Lt. Wolf Zalmanson, Yisroel Zalmanson, Solomon (Shlomo) Dreizner, Vladimir Osherovich Mogilever, David Iserovich Chernoglaz and Semeon Abramovich Levit.

CINCINNATI, Ohio (JTA) -- The City Council adopted a resolution last week in support of Soviet Jewry and urged President Nixon to discuss "atrocities" against Jews when he meets with Soviet leaders in Moscow next May. It also appealed to the International Red Cross to ask the Soviet government to allow its representatives to visit Soviet prison camps to investigate allegations of the mistreatment of Jews and other prisoners. The City Council action was taken after Councilmen heard an address by Judy Silver, a former Cincinnati social worker who is now residing in Israel and is active on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

LONDON (JTA) -- Yuri Aronovich, who was recently fired as conductor of the Moscow radio-television orchestra after applying for migration to Israel, has been attacked in the street and injured by two "hooligans" who expressed anti-Semitic remarks to him, Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported Tuesday. It was another in a series of harassments Aronovich has suffered since applying for a visa, the sources said. The police reportedly were unable to locate the assailants in the latest incidents.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Sylva Zalmanson Kuznetsov, the Soviet Jewish political prisoner who has reportedly become seriously ill while serving her 10-year sentence, complained recently of "strong stomach pains," the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported Tues-

day. A prison official told her, however, "It would be better if you would work much more." the SSSJ said.

In other developments reported by the student group, six Jewish prisoners at the Potma jail in Soviet Mordovia have written to the Supreme Soviet to protest inaction on their demand for removal of Soviet citizenship; Leib G. Khanokh has completed a 10-day hunger strike and been put back to work; Mikhail Korenblit has been transferred to a KGB camp in Saransk, Eastern Mordovia, and relatives of Mikhail Shepshelovich have had packages returned marked: "The correspondent is absent."

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (JTA)--Joining a nationwide drive, Mayor Stephen May has written to Soviet Communist Party Chairman Leonid Brezhnev to protest the imprisonment of Sylva Zalmanson Kuznetsov. May said his letter sought to express the widespread sense of outrage concerning Mrs. Kuznetsov's treatment and to add "one more urgent voice in an appeal for justice and humanity" in response to a local campaign sparked by the Committee on the Plight of Soviet Jewry of the Jewish Community Council and its president, îrving Ruderman. May also urged Rochesterians to join him in sending letters of encouragement to Mrs. Kuznetsov.

In the letter to Brezhnev, the Mayor stated, "It is with a deep feeling of sorrow and concern that I view the inhumanity in the Soviet Union's treatment of Sylva Zalmanson. May also urged Brezhnev to "arrange immediately for Sylva Zalmanson's release, for proper medical troatment for her, and for an opportunity to live the

decent life she rightfully deserves."

To Mrs. Kuznetsov the Mayor wrote: "In our hearts and minds we abhor the callous attitude and acts which cause your present plight, and we are making every effort to crase such tragic behavior from all mankind. Be assured that many old and new friends are with you each day in spirit, joining in protest to the government of the Soviet Union and urging your release in the cause of restoring decency, honesty and compassion as a way of life in your country."

TEL AVIV, (JTA) -- A large group of Soviet Jews arrived early Wednesday morning by way of Vienna. They included families from Odessa, Wilna, Kovno and the Georgian Republic. Gershon Mazin, a writer and journalist who has had seven plays produced in Russia, said a majority of Odessa's Jews want to go to Israel but fear reprisals from the government.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Arkady Voloshin, a Jewish political prisoner serving a two-year sentence in the Potma prison in Soviet Mordovia, has been denied permission to marry, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported Tuesday. The prison authorities were said to have rejected a request from Ella Gittelman that she and Voloshin be allowed to wed. Voloshin, 25, is scheduled for release Aug. 15, the second anniversary of his arrest.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Jewish emigres from the USSR who arrived here several days ago reported that two Jews were badly beaten in a Riga street and that one was hospitalized.



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She said the Association must see itself as an integral part of Poland and active within the framework of the Party. Even when it comes to Jewish cultural activity, Mrs. Gutkowska asserted, it must be realized that the Party is all-important and its aims and purposes valid for all citizens at all times. Maintaining such an attitude towards their cultural heritage is not expected to prove difficult for the small Polish Jewish

community.

(Since 1961, when, according to the American Jewish Yearbook, there were about 32,000 Jews in Poland, the number of Jews has dwindled to under 9,000. In the two years between 1968 and 1970, emigration and deaths out the size of the community by more than 50 percent, from 21,000 to 9,000.) The few Jewish leaders left are loyal members of the Party and the active members of the Association also belong to the Party. The elderly and infirm, including those in old-age homes, are left alone to pray or read Yiddish writings of the past.

JEWISH LEADERS DEMAND POLICE PROTECTION IN WAKE OF NEO-NAZIACTIONS

BOSTON, Feb. 2 (JTA)--An outbreak of swastika-smearings, broken windows, and paintings of anti-Semitic slogans on store windows in the City Point area of South Boston has upset Jewish storekeepers and brought demands of increased police protection. Representatives of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said they had met with police authorities and had been assured that detectives and other special police officers are making a "concerted effort to apprehend those suspected of involvement in this outrage."

Council President Justin L. Wyner and Simon Scheff, regional AUL chairman, commenting on the "Kill niggers and Jews" and "kill price gougers from the suburbs" signs that had been painted on the store windows, said "The South Boston excesses are all too reminiscent of the Brown Shirt era of the late 1930s and 1940s; and they must be halted." They noted that effective counter-action has been taken by police in previous instances of vandalism and stated, "We insist that every possible reassurance be given victims of these forays."

RELIGIOUS YOUTH SUPPORT CONVERSIONS

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 2 (JTA)--The local Bnei Akiva, a religious Zionist youth organization, came out today in support of Denmark's Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior in his controversy with ultra-Orthodox leaders in Israel and other countries on the validity of his conversions. Some ultra-Orthodox rabbis have intimated that conversions performed by Rabbi Melchior were not in struct compliance with halacha, religious law.

In a statement issued today, Bnai Akiva said it rejected completely the criticism of Rabbi Meichior. "Such criticism, levelied without any prior investigation of the facts, undermines seriously our religious life and particularly that of those whose Jewish character is suddenly surrounded with great doubts," the statement said. "It is our sincere hope that wherever a Jewish heart beats it will be understood that a great injustice has been done and one which strikes hard at our united people and ite national ideals."

AGREEMENT ON U.S. ROLE IN TALKS STEMMED FROM NIXON-MEIR TALK LAST DECEMBER Nixon Overruled State Dep't Bureaucracy

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA)—Israeli sources here said this afternoon that the agreement announced earlier in the day on the US role in Israeli-Egyptian proximity talks for an interim Suez agreement stemmed directly from an unparalleled understanding reached by President Nixon and Premier Golda Meir at their White House meeting last Dec. 2. The sources said that Nixon ple ged that Israel would receive all the planes and military equipment it would need for two years and that Israel would not have to pay in political terms either in talks with Egypt on an interim accord or in negotiations for an overall Middle East settlement.

According to the sources, Israel received virtually everything it wanted with regard to the US position except a guarantee that the US would use its veto in any action at the United Nations with which Israel disagreed. Other sources noted that it was clearly understood that the US could never in any event give the right of its veto to any other power.

According to the Israeli sources, the Nixon-Meir accord was followed by instructions to US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco and Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin from their respective governments to follow up and bring about a complete understanding with regard to the US role in interim talks. The sources cautioned, however, that this was only the beginning toward arriving at some agreement in the Middle East. They stressed that it would be a mistake to think differently.

India-Pakistan War Factor In Decision

The sources said that Nixon's order which, in effect overruled the position of the State Department bureaucracy, was based least of all on election year political consideration. They contended that Nixon's position was based on the results of the recent India-Pakistan war which convinced him that the military imbalance which prevailed on the Indian sub-continent must not be repeated in the Middle East.

The thinking in Israeli circles here is that Egypt may not go along with the American initiative for an interim agreement but will probably seek to urge action along the lines of UN mediator Gunnar V. Jarring's proposals of Feb. 8, 1971 which Egypt accepted and Israel rejected. The circles pointed out that Dr. Jarring went to Africa last week to develop a different formulation of his proposals in consultation with African leaders.

However, they said, it seemed clear that Dr. Jarring is not seeking any change in the matter of boundaries between Israel and Egypt. Mrs. Meir said in an interview with the NY Times last week that Israel will insist on retaining Sharm el-Sheikh and a land bridge linking it to Israel. Egypt and the Soviet Union are expected to hold to the Jarring formula.

BRITAIN WELCOMES TALKS: UN WITHHOLDS COMMENT

LONDON, Feb. 2 (JTA)—The British Government today welcomed Israel's announcement that it is ready to participate in proximity talks with Egypt. A statement issued by the Foreign Office today said, "We welcome the outcome of the talks between the United States and Israel. Our attitude to an interim arrangement for the reopening of the Suez Canal was stated by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, in Ankara on April 30, 1971, when he said that an interim arrangement for the reopening of the Suez Canal would help reduce ten-

sion in the Middle East and break the present deadlock but it should be a step towards a comprehensive settlement and not an end in itself."

(In New York, the United Nations' acting press spokesman said today there would be no UN comment on the development in the absence of Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and intermediary Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring.)

JARRING TALKS IN CAIRO, JERUSALIM, NOT CONFIRMED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)—The Israeli radio said today that United Nations special envoy Gunnar V. Jarring will return to the Middle East within the month for talks in Cairo and Jerusalem on the possibility of resuming his peace mission. There was no confirmation from any other official or unofficial sources that a visit Ly Dr. Jarring was pending.

The UN mediator is presently in Europe where he flew from Africa following a meeting with African leaders on matters relating to a Middle East settlement. He will meet in Rome later this week with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim who is presently attending a special meeting of the Security Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

MIRAGE TALKS CONCLUDING; FRANCE TO PAY ISRAEL \$75M PLUS INTEREST

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Treasury circles confirmed here tonight that the Paris talks over reimbursement to Israel for 50 embargoed Mirage V jet fighters are drawing to a conclusion. According to the sources, France will pay Israel about \$75 million to cover the sum Israel originally paid for the aircraft plus four percent interest per annum. The Mirages were embargoed by the late President Charles De Gaulle on the eve of the 1967 Six-Day War.

Israel's Accountant General, Hami Stessel, is presently in Paris participating in the talks, Treasury circles said. France's payment will be entirely in French francs and will not take into account the devaluations and revaluations of French currency that occurred in the interim. The Mirages, once the backbone of Israel's Air Force, have since become obsolete.

JEWISH STATESMAN IN HIGHEST COUNCIL

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Robert Van Den Bergh, a Jewish statesman, has become a member of the Netherlands Council of State, it was learned here today. Van Den Bergh is a lawyer and a member of the government Labor Party. He was a member of the Dutch Parliament from 1963 to 1971. His father, the late Prof. George Van Den Bergh, was a famous lecturer of administrative law at Amsterdam University. His grandfather was the liberal Senator, Samual Van Den Bergh, a founding member of the Dutch Keren Hayesod. The 20-man Netherlands Council of State is the highest advisory body in Holland.

TORAH SCROLLS STOLEN

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Police in Beisan arrested a local resident today for the theft of two Torah scrolls valued at \$2,400 from the Baruch Meir synagogue. The theft was discovered when worshippers arrived at the synagogue this morning. Police said the scrolls were in the possession of the person arrested and that they are looking for an accomplice. One theory advanced was that the theft was the outcome of a personal quarrel between the thief and synagogue functionaries.

FOCUS ON SOVIET JEWRY

NEW YORK (JTA)—The National Conference on Soviet Jewry learned Wednesday of the first cases of direct police action against Soviet Jews in more than a year. These occurred when some Jews in Kharkov, who had applied for emigration, recently had their homes searched by the police. Among them was Solomon Greenberg, who applied for an emigration visa six months ago and was refused last month on the grounds that his wife is employed in a security-classified plant.

On January 28, the 38-year-old Greenberg, who lives with his wife, daughter and mother, had his apartment searched for more than five hours by the police. The search warrant (Number 10-002) was for handwritten and printed correspondence containing "slander" and "lies" about the Soviet Union. Thirty-one pieces of allegedly "slanderous" printed material were confiscated by the police from Greenberg's apartment, including a Hebrew study book and a Hebrew-Russian dictionary.

After the search, Greenberg protested to the police that the confiscated items did not correspond with the material specified in the search warrant. As of now, Greenberg has not been officially charged by the Soviet authorities. In releasing the news, the NCSJ said that such direct police action against Jews is reminiscent of the period preceding the Leningrad and other trials of late 1970, and expressed concern that it is being resumed by the Soviet authorities.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--At least six Jewish political prisoners in the Potma camp in Soviet Mordovia have declared a hunger strike in protest against prison conditions, according to reports Wednesday from Soviet Jewish sources. Their action has resulted in a prohibition against their learning Hebrew and meeting with other Jewish inmates. The six are Lt. Wolf Zalmanson, Yisroel Zalmanson, Solomon (Shlomo) Dreizner, Vladimir Osherovich Mogilever, David Iserovich Chernoglaz and Semeon Abramovich Levit.

CINCINNATI, Ohio (JTA)—The City Council adopted a resolution last week in support of Soviet Jewry and urged President Nixon to discuss "atrocities" against Jews when he meets with Soviet leaders in Moscow next May. It also appealed to the International Red Cross to ask the Soviet government to allow its representatives to visit Soviet prison camps to investigate allegations of the mistreatment of Jews and other prisoners. The City Council action was taken after Councilmen heard an address by Judy Silver, a former Cincinnati social worker who is now residing in Israel and is active on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

LONDON (JTA)--Yuri Aronovich, who was recentified as conductor of the Moscow radio-television orchestra after applying for migration to Israel, has been attacked in the street and injured by two "hooligans" who expressed anti-Semitic remarks to him, Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported Tuesday. It was another in a series of harassments Aronovich has suffered since applying for a visa, the sources said. The police reportedly were unable to locate the assailants in the latest incidents.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Sylva Zalmanson Kuznetsov, the Soviet Jewish political prisoner who has reportedly become seriously ill while serving her 10-year sentence, complained recently of "strong stomach pains," the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported Tues-

day. A prison official told her, however, "It would be better if you would work much more," the SSSJ said.

In other developments reported by the student group, six Jewish prisoners at the Potmajail in Soviet Mordovia have written to the Supreme Soviet to protest inaction on their demand for removal of Soviet citizenship; Leib G. Khanokh has completed a 10-day hunger strike and been put back to work; Mikhail Korenblit has been transferred to a KGB camp in Saransk, Eastern Mordovia, and relatives of Mikhail Shepshelovich have had packages returned marked: "The correspondent is absent."

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (JTA)--Joining a nation-wide drive, Mayor Stephen May has written to Soviet Communist Party Chairman Leonid Brezhnev to protest the imprisonment of Sylva Zalmanson Kuznetsov. May said his letter sought to express the widespread sense of outrage concerning Mrs. Kuznetsov's treatment and to add "one more urgent voice in an appeal for justice and humanity" in response to a local campaign sparked by the Committee on the Plight of Soviet Jewry of the Jewish Community Council and its president, irving Ruderman. May also urged Rochesterians to join him in sending letters of encouragement to Mrs. Kuznetsov.

In the letter to Brezhnev, the Mayor stated, "It is with a deep feeling of sorrow and concern that I view the inhumanity in the Soviet Union's treatment of Sylva Zalmanson." May also urged Brezhnev to "arrange immediately for Sylva Zalmanson's release, for proper medical treatment for her, and for an opportunity to live the decent life she rightfully deserves."

To Mrs. Kuznetsov the Mayor wrote: "In our hearts and minds we abhor the callous attitude and acts which cause your present plight, and we are making every effort to erase such tragic behavior from all mankind. Be assured that many old and new friends are with you each day in spirit, joining in protest to the government of the Soviet Union and urging your release in the cause of restoring decency, honesty and compassion as a way of life in your country."

TEL AVIV, (JTA)--A large group of Soviet Jews arrived early Wednesday morning by way of Vienna. They included families from Odessa, Wilna, Kovno and the Georgian Republic. Gershon Mazin, a writer and journalist who has had seven plays produced in Russia, said a majority of Odessa's Jews want to go to Israel but fear reprisals from the government.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Arkady Voloshin, a Jewish political prisoner serving a two-year sentence in the Potma prison in Soviet Mordovia, has been denied permission to marry, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported Tuesday. The prison authorities were said to have rejected a request from Ella Gittelman that she and Voloshin be allowed to wed. Voloshin, 25, is scheduled for release Aug. 15, the second anniversary of his arrest.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Jewish emigres from the USSR who arrived here several days ago reported that two Jews were badly beaten in a Riga street and that one was hospitalized.