



# daily news bulletin

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Vol. XXXIX - Fifty-Fifth Year

Wednesday, March 29, 1972

No. 62

## Operation Pesach

### 500 IMMIGRANTS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD ARRIVE IN ISRAEL FOR PASSOVER

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Throughout Israel, Passover preparations were virtually complete. Hotels were reported booked to capacity with both local and overseas tourists. Roads were reported heavy with traffic of Israelis departing to celebrate the feast with relatives. Transport firms and railroads put into service every available vehicle to transport the public. The new immigrants will participate in public seders in new immigrant centers and in kibbutzim and settlements.

## Reform Seder Banned

A dispute over the seder night developed at the new immigrants hostel in Jaffa where the Reform congregation in Tel Aviv suggested a seder in their synagogue. The Tel Aviv rabbinate banned that arrangement and threatened to take sanctions against the new immigrant hostels, according to Rabbi Moshe Zemer of the Reform congregation.

Rabbi Mordechai Kirshblum of the Jewish Agency denied any such threats had been made. He said that an official at the hostel promised without authorization the seder evening to the Reform congregation. The Agency, Rabbi Kirshblum added, has agreements with the rabbinate and the religious council of Tel Aviv which would make the Reform congregation unable to conduct the seder evening with the newcomers.

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In Hamburg, an eight-month trial ended in the acquittal of former Nazi police commissioner Walter Becker, 74, of charges of murdering six persons in Starachowice, Poland, and participating in the transporting of Jews from the local ghetto to death camps. The prosecutor had asked for life imprisonment, but the jury cited contradictory evidence.

In Dusseldorf, former Nazi police commissioner Friedrich Niehoff, 57, was acquitted after a four-week trial of killing a child in Mogilev, Russia, in Oct. 1941. The court said that after 36 years "there is insufficient proof to reach a verdict and pass a sentence."

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The prosecutor called him an "excessive criminal" who exceeded even Eichmann's orders, persecuting Italian Jews through personal hatred and to further his career. He said the trial had proved "beyond any doubt" that Bosshammer had known the fate awaiting Jews at Auschwitz and the conditions to be endured on the way there. Bosshammer was a participant in mass murder and not just an "aid to murder," the prosecutor asserted. The jury is expected to reach a verdict April 11.

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The high percentage of voter participation was seen as a substantial success for the Israeli administration in Judea and Samaria. In the last elections--under the Jordanian regime eight years ago--75 percent of the eligible voters (property-owning males over 21) turned out. Of the 400,000 inhabitants of Samaria, only 16,950 were eligible today under Jordanian law.

The voting results were expected to be known after midnight (6 p.m. New York time). All incumbent mayors were up for election, and there were 145 candidates for 82 council seats. The elections in Judea will be held May 2. The voting today was covered by some 100 Israeli and foreign newsmen.

Official sources dismissed speculation that the West Bank would be granted some kind of political autonomy, stressing that the balloting was confined to the municipal level. But there was significance in the fact that the traditional West Bank leadership, holdovers from the Jordanian administration, was being challenged by new blood for the first time since the Six-Day War.

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by a vote of 52-4. The bill was approved by the Assembly on March 15 by a 127-9 vote.

Meanwhile, Justice Dominic S. Rinaldi of the State Supreme Court, Kings County, handed down a ruling, disclosed today, granting a permanent injunction against the holding of elections for anti-poverty boards on the Jewish Sabbath. A suit for such a ban was filed several months ago by Rabbi Shlomo Gorodetsky, chairman of the Crown Heights Community Corp.

Disclosure of the election postponement by the CAP was made by David J. Billings III, CAP chairman, at a meeting yesterday with representatives of seven major Jewish organizations comprising the Ad Hoc Committee on the Jewish Poor. They met with Billings and the CAP executive committee to discuss a number of issues of concern to the Jewish community and the Jewish poor. (See story Page 3) Billings said that the CAP had decided to postpone the April 22 elections and that the CAP executive council had considered alternate dates in July or September. He said the executive council had decided to recommend July elections to avoid conflict with the Jewish High Holy Days in September.

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They said several of the corporations had already selected Saturday, presumably a reference to April 22. Jewish critics of such scheduling contend that Sabbath elections disfranchise Orthodox Jews, who comprise most of the Jewish poor, because they cannot vote on the Jewish Sabbath, or even have their names on the ballots. They also may not serve as poll watchers.

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It was noted that the shift of elections to July would not automatically mean the cancellation of poverty board elections on the Jewish Sabbath. However, the postponement to July will provide ample time for Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller to sign the legislation and thus prevent Saturday elections whether held in July or any other time of the year. Presumably Justice Rinaldi's ruling makes that issue moot, unless there is an appeal from his ruling.

#### Black Legislator Opposes Bill

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Chief of Staff David Elazar said he had accepted the recommendations of a committee named to investigate complaints against army officers in the evacuation of the Bedouins, which also involved security considerations and the demolition of Bedouin houses.

The committee also recommended that another Israeli, who was not named, a civilian employe of the Military Governor's office, face a disciplinary court on the same charges. He was accused of not carrying out the evacuations in accordance with a plan, the details of which were not disclosed. The committee said there was no evidence to support charges, reported last week, that Israeli officers urged the Bedouins to complain to the International Red Cross about the evacuation measures.

#### POSTAL AUTHORITIES DESTROY MATZOS SENT TO SOVIET EMBASSY; SENATOR CALLS FOR 'FULL EXPLANATION'

WASHINGTON, March 28 (JTA)--Postal authorities said today they had "disposed of" matzos sent to the Soviet Embassy for Jews in the Soviet Union and refused by the Embassy. Alfred Huffer, communications officer for metropolitan Washington, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that on authorization from the national level of the Postal Service, the matzos were removed from the basement of the main Post Office last night and "disposed of like any perishable material." Huffer declined to name the authorizing officers or describe the process of disposition.

Robert C. Kohler of Newark, director of the New Jersey regional office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which had sponsored the matzo campaign to help draw attention to the plight of Soviet Jews, said yesterday that "in excess of 20,000 pounds" of matzo had been mailed to the Embassy by groups in Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Delaware, plus some 600 pounds from Greensboro, North Carolina, and other points.

A spokesman for Sen. Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D. N.J.) told the JTA today that the legislator had asked the Postal Service for a "full explanation" of why the matzo was "destroyed." The spokesman, Walter Ramsey, said the Service had told Williams only yesterday that he would be advised in advance of a decision, but Ramsey declined to attribute deviousness to the Service's prompt disposal of the matzo. "I wouldn't want to draw any conclusions," he said. Asked how 20,000 pounds of matzo could be so quickly disposed of without attracting attention, Ramsey said Postal officials had told him the total was 8000 pounds.

#### SYRIAN OFFICIAL AGREES TO DISCUSS PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWS, BUT CANCELS MEETING BECAUSE AN ISRAELI IS PRESENT

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--The Syrian Mission's counsellor welcomed a delegation of three Jews today for a prearranged discussion of the situation of Syrian Jews, then ended the meeting before it began on learning that one of his visitors was an Israeli. The three members of the World Union of Jewish Students--Yona

Yahav, secretary general, an Israeli; Martin Salowitz, North American representative, and Marc Mishaan, chairman of the Association of Sephardic Jews--had an appointment with Dia-Allah el-Fattal, the third-ranking official of the Syrian Mission.

It was not immediately clear if he had noted in advance his refusal to meet with an Israeli, as the discussion was arranged through an American Mission intermediary who was not available for comment. A spokeswoman for Fattal told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the counsellor was willing to meet with "any Jewish person" other than an Israeli.

Salowitz told the JTA that before inviting them in, Fattal asked if the three were members of the Jewish Defense League and was told they were not. In his room he asked their names and nationalities. On learning Yahav's nationality, he asked the trio to leave, even though Yahav was not representing Israel and WUJS is London-based.

Salowitz indicated that WUJS would ask for another meeting and not include an Israeli in that delegation. He added: "We expect to press the issue. We're not taking the issue lying down." Describing the aborted session as "friendly," Salowitz said of Fattal: "He was not rude. He just simply suggested that we leave."

#### BILLINGS AGREES TO REQUEST FROM JEWISH GROUPS THAT HE ISSUE A STATEMENT OF APOLOGY FOR REMARKS ON RADIO INTERVIEW

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--The Ad Hoc Committee on the Jewish Poor reported today that David Billings III, chairman of the New York City Council Against Poverty, agreed to a request from the Ad Hoc group that he place before the CAP executive committee a public statement of apology and regret for some remarks he made on radio station WNYC which were denounced by Jewish organizations as anti-Semitic. The meeting was the first between the ad hoc group and the CAP and its chairman.

The request was made by Jewish organizations comprising the Ad Hoc Committee at a meeting yesterday with Billings and members of the executive committee. The Jewish representatives told Billings that the Jewish community regarded Billings' remarks as a slur against Jews. He made the remarks Feb. 29 on an interview program on the city-operated radio station saying, among other things that foes of the bitterly-contested low-income housing project in Forest Hills were "an influential group religiously," many of whom "control the school system" and "the mass media."

The Jewish representatives asked that the public statement be coupled with an expression from the CAP that it did not and will not condone slurs against any group as a matter of official policy. Billings said he had already issued statements to make clear that he did not intend any expression of anti-Semitism in his WNYC remarks. Sanford Solender, executive vice-president of the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, who served as principal spokesman for the Ad Hoc Committee, urged Billings to make a further statement specifically in response to the request from the Ad Hoc Committee.

#### Broader Definition Of Jewish Poor

On the issue of Sabbath elections for poverty agency boards, Solender said that the Jewish community believed such elections were a disfranchisement of many Jews and therefore unconstitutional. He pledged the cooperation of the seven Jewish groups in urging both public and private employers to cooperate so that there would be the fullest turnout possible for week-day elections.

Solender expressed the "growing concern" of the

Ad Hoc Committee that the criteria used originally to set up the city's 26 poverty areas acted to exclude whole pockets of Jewish poor. He asked for adoption of broader criteria to insure that the Jewish poor of New York City would be serviced, represented and funded. He offered cooperation of the Jewish groups in pressuring the federal government for more funds for the city's poverty program, noting that serious problems had been posed by limited federal funding.

Solender said that the Center for Urban Studies of the New School had been commissioned by the Federation to make a study of that problem and make recommendations. He said the results of that study would be made available to the CAP when completed. In addition to the Federation, the Jewish organizations in the Ad Hoc Committee are: American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Congress, New York Board of Rabbis, Jewish Community Relations Council, and Jewish Labor Committee.

#### Nixon, Hussein Meet IMPRESSION LEFT THAT U.S. IS NOT UNSYMPATHETIC TO KING'S PLAN; PALESTINIAN ASPIRATIONS CITED

WASHINGTON, March 28 (JTA)--The White House today publicly refused to take any position on King Hussein's announced plan for a United Arab Kingdom embracing the Israeli occupied West Bank of the Jordan River but left an impression that President Nixon is not unsympathetic with it. Meeting the press after the President had conferred with King Hussein for 80 minutes, Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler said:

"We are not commenting on the substance of the plan at all. This is an internal matter. I'm not willing to enter into it--one way or another." State Department and White House officials have consistently refused comment on the King's plan since he announced it on March 15. Israel and most Arab countries and the Palestinian groups have all denounced it. The Soviet Union, England and France have been silent on the plan.

In discussing the King's plan, Ziegler stressed that the "legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians must be reached." He added, "We are not injecting ourselves by publicly saying what the agreement should be, but the legitimate aspirations must be met." King Hussein is in Washington for a "private visit," the White House announced, and will remain in Washington for "a few days" before returning to Amman.

#### Plan Can Create Peaceful Environment

Ziegler emphasized, in response to questions from the press, that King Hussein's "proposal for an autonomous Palestine is a reorganization plan after a peace agreement is achieved in the Middle East or between Israel and Jordan." The King's plan, Ziegler added, is not "directly" tied to a peace settlement. The US, Ziegler said, is "prepared to help facilitate progress for peace and play a constructive role to that end" in accordance with UN Resolution 242.

Ziegler described the talks between the two leaders as "very cordial and to the point." He said that "in particular" the status of the current efforts for a peaceful settlement were reviewed.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN: The New York City Council by a vote of 35-2 adopted today a bill banning Sabbath elections for official and quasi-official posts. The bill had been introduced by Councilman Theodore Silverman (D, Bklyn) to prevent Sabbath elections for members of the city's 26 anti-poverty community boards.

**'Magna Carta of Religious Liberty'  
NIXON SIGNS BILL TO PROTECT RELIGIOUS  
BELIEFS, PRACTICES OF SABBATH OBSERVERS**

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--A bill amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to provide protection to Sabbath observers was signed Friday night in a quiet ceremony by President Nixon it was reported today by the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA). Howard Rhine, COLPA president, characterized the new law as "the Magna Carta of religious liberty in America."

He noted further that "it makes the promise of religious freedom a reality by extending protection to practice as well as belief. No longer will a person be required to choose between his religion and his job." Thus, a private employer engaged in interstate commerce (one who has 25 or more employees) and all public agencies cannot refuse to hire an applicant for a job merely because religious obligations require the person to deviate from uniform work rules.

The amendment also provides on-the-job protection to observant Jews whose religious practices and beliefs require them to wear religious garb. Such employees cannot be dismissed unless the employer can prove undue hardship. Rhine stated that COLPA would spare no effort to secure compliance by employers with the new law.

**AZYP INAUGURATES NATIONWIDE  
PROGRAMS ON THE HOLOCAUST**

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--The first New York project in a nationwide series of intensive college campus programs on the holocaust organized by the American Zionist Youth Foundation University Service Department, will take place on April 7-9. Eighty selected N.Y.-N.J. metropolitan Jewish college students will participate in a weekend seminar at Hechalutz Farm, in Hightstown, N.J., led by five distinguished lecturers and discussants.

They are Prof. Raoul Hilberg of the University of Vermont, author of "Destruction of European Jewry"; Prof. Henry Feingold of the College of the City of N.Y., among whose published works is the "Politics of Rescue"; Avraham Yekel, former partisan and resistance fighter, who now directs the "Center for Peoples Culture" in Israel; Arik Carmon, Ph.D. candidate in the Nazi period of history at the University of Wisconsin; and Prof. Samuel Abrahamsen, acting chairman of the Department of Judaic Studies at Brooklyn College, authority on the rescue of Danish Jews.

William Levine, executive director of AZYP, noted that "intensified Jewish student interest in the holocaust reflects a return to the realm of history for existential answers to the eternal twin-dilemmas - identity and belonging. They pursue their present and their future in their Jewish past." The seminar, organized at the request of some of the participating students, will serve as a model and stimulus for student projects on campuses across the country. The projects will be related to Remembrance Day for the six million Jewish martyrs and heroes to be observed on April 11.

**PRIEST WHO ASSAILED ISRAEL  
AS OPPRESSOR TERMED PRO-ARAB**

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--Arnold Forster, general counsel to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said today that he was "dismayed but not surprised by the inaccurate and unfair statements" about Israel in a Palm Sunday sermon in Washington this week by the Rev. Francis B. Sayre, Jr. Dean Sayre, of the Washington Cathedral, charged Sunday that the "once-op-

pressed" Israelis had become the "oppressors" of Jerusalem, depriving Palestinians "unjustly" of land and rights and creating a "moral tragedy."

Forster, noting that Dean Sayre has been "partial to the Arab side" for many years, declared: "His false assertion that Israelis are 'oppressing' in Jerusalem and that Jewish rule of the city is a 'moral tragedy' is as far from the conciliatory spirit of this holy season as it is from the facts." He remarked that "Knowing the dean's general attitudes about the Middle East explains why no ringing sermons of protest were heard from him during Jordan's 19-year illegal occupation of the Old City."

Abe Foxman, the ADL's Mideast affairs chief, added that in Jan. 1970 Dean Sayre organized a national prayer meeting at his Cathedral in behalf of the Palestinians. "All the pro-Arabists that exist were there," Foxman said.

**SOVIET OFFICIAL SAYS FEW APPLICATIONS  
FOR EMIGRATION ON FILE AT THIS TIME**

WASHINGTON, March 28 (JTA)--Deputy Minister Boris T. Shumlin of the Soviet Union's Interior Ministry said in an interview reaching here yesterday that there were only an "insignificant" number of applications for emigration on file at this time, and called foreign estimates of the number "absurd...truly fantastic." It was ascertained here today that the interview, circulated by the Novosti feature service via Tass, the government press agency, was not published within the USSR.

Shumlin said 21,000 Soviet Jews had gone to Israel since World War II--10,000 of them last year alone--and said there were only 258 applications on file in Moscow, 119 in Kiev and 50 in Leningrad. At the same time, he downplayed Arab apprehensions over any Jewish migration to Israel at all, pointing out that of Israel's population of three million, 800,000 were refugees from Arab lands. Shumlin also became apparently the first top Kremlin official to acknowledge that Soviet citizens with knowledge of secret defense information were barred from leaving the country.

**SHAREF: HOUSING CRISIS IN ISRAEL**

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA)--Housing Minister Zeev Sharef said last night that the housing problem in Israel has reached crisis proportions that only large scale pre-fabricated or mobile housing could solve. He said his ministry was working hard to implement such plans. Sharef disclosed that the price of housing rose by 29 percent in 1971 compared to a general price rise of only 12 percent.

As a result, he told a Labor Party meeting here, a third of the couples who married last year applied for government aid in housing. Sharef said that building more houses for rental, as demanded in some quarters, was not a solution applicable to conditions in Israel. He said the initial investment would be so high that the rents would be prohibitive.

**TOURISM FROM U.S. UP 62 PERCENT**

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA)--North American tourism here from Dec. 1971 to Feb. 1972 rose by 62 percent over the same period last year, reaching a total of 51,600, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. Tourism from Britain increased 51 percent and from France 24 percent. The total number of visitors was 126,600.

Israel will be represented at a mammoth open-air horticultural exhibition in Amsterdam from March 30 to September 15.



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The committee also recommended that another Israeli, who was not named, a civilian employe of the Military Governor's office, face a disciplinary court on the same charges. He was accused of not carrying out the evacuations in accordance with a plan, the details of which were not disclosed. The committee said there was no evidence to support charges, reported last week, that Israeli officers urged the Bedouins to complain to the International Red Cross about the evacuation measures.

#### POSTAL AUTHORITIES DESTROY MATZOS SENT TO SOVIET EMBASSY; SENATOR CALLS FOR 'FULL EXPLANATION'

WASHINGTON, March 28 (JTA)--Postal authorities said today they had "disposed of" matzos sent to the Soviet Embassy for Jews in the Soviet Union and refused by the Embassy. Alfred Huffer, communications officer for metropolitan Washington, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that on authorization from the national level of the Postal Service, the matzos were removed from the basement of the main Post Office last night and "disposed of like any perishable material." Huffer declined to name the authorizing officers or describe the process of disposition.

Robert C. Kohler of Newark, director of the New Jersey regional office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which had sponsored the matzo campaign to help draw attention to the plight of Soviet Jews, said yesterday that "in excess of 20,000 pounds" of matzo had been mailed to the Embassy by groups in Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Delaware, plus some 600 pounds from Greensboro, North Carolina, and other points.

A spokesman for Sen. Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D. N.J.) told the JTA today that the legislator had asked the Postal Service for a "full explanation" of why the matzo was "destroyed." The spokesman, Walter Ramsey, said the Service had told Williams only yesterday that he would be advised in advance of a decision, but Ramsey declined to attribute deviousness to the Service's prompt disposal of the matzo. "I wouldn't want to draw any conclusions," he said. Asked how 20,000 pounds of matzo could be so quickly disposed of without attracting attention, Ramsey said Postal officials had told him the total was 8000 pounds.

#### SYRIAN OFFICIAL AGREES TO DISCUSS PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWS, BUT CANCELS MEETING BECAUSE AN ISRAELI IS PRESENT

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--The Syrian Mission's counsellor welcomed a delegation of three Jews today for a prearranged discussion of the situation of Syrian Jews, then ended the meeting before it began on learning that one of his visitors was an Israeli. The three members of the World Union of Jewish Students--Yona

Yahav, secretary general, an Israeli; Martin Salowitz, North American representative, and Marc Mishaan, chairman of the Association of Sephardic Jews--had an appointment with Dia-Allah el-Fattal, the third-ranking official of the Syrian Mission.

It was not immediately clear if he had noted in advance his refusal to meet with an Israeli, as the discussion was arranged through an American Mission intermediary who was not available for comment. A spokeswoman for Fattal told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the counsellor was willing to meet with "any Jewish person" other than an Israeli.

Salowitz told the JTA that before inviting them in, Fattal asked if the three were members of the Jewish Defense League and was told they were not. In his room he asked their names and nationalities. On learning Yahav's nationality, he asked the trio to leave, even though Yahav was not representing Israel and WUJS is London-based.

Salowitz indicated that WUJS would ask for another meeting and not include an Israeli in that delegation. He added: "We expect to press the issue. We're not taking the issue lying down." Describing the aborted session as "friendly," Salowitz said of Fattal: "He was not rude. He just simply suggested that we leave."

#### BILLINGS AGREES TO REQUEST FROM JEWISH GROUPS THAT HE ISSUE A STATEMENT OF APOLOGY FOR REMARKS ON RADIO INTERVIEW

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--The Ad Hoc Committee on the Jewish Poor reported today that David Billings III, chairman of the New York City Council Against Poverty, agreed to a request from the Ad Hoc group that he place before the CAP executive committee a public statement of apology and regret for some remarks he made on radio station WNYC which were denounced by Jewish organizations as anti-Semitic. The meeting was the first between the ad hoc group and the CAP and its chairman.

The request was made by Jewish organizations comprising the Ad Hoc Committee at a meeting yesterday with Billings and members of the executive committee. The Jewish representatives told Billings that the Jewish community regarded Billings' remarks as a slur against Jews. He made the remarks Feb. 29 on an interview program on the city-operated radio station saying, among other things that foes of the bitterly-contested low-income housing project in Forest Hills were "an influential group religiously," many of whom "control the school system" and "the mass media."

The Jewish representatives asked that the public statement be coupled with an expression from the CAP that it did not and will not condone slurs against any group as a matter of official policy. Billings said he had already issued statements to make clear that he did not intend any expression of anti-Semitism in his WNYC remarks. Sanford Solender, executive vice-president of the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, who served as principal spokesman for the Ad Hoc Committee, urged Billings to make a further statement specifically in response to the request from the Ad Hoc Committee.

#### Broader Definition Of Jewish Poor

On the issue of Sabbath elections for poverty agency boards, Solender said that the Jewish community believed such elections were a disfranchisement of many Jews and therefore unconstitutional. He pledged the cooperation of the seven Jewish groups in urging both public and private employers to cooperate so that there would be the fullest turnout possible for week-day elections.

Solender expressed the "growing concern" of the

Ad Hoc Committee that the criteria used originally to set up the city's 26 poverty areas acted to exclude whole pockets of Jewish poor. He asked for adoption of broader criteria to insure that the Jewish poor of New York City would be serviced, represented and funded. He offered cooperation of the Jewish groups in pressuring the federal government for more funds for the city's poverty program, noting that serious problems had been posed by limited federal funding.

Solender said that the Center for Urban Studies of the New School had been commissioned by the Federation to make a study of that problem and make recommendations. He said the results of that study would be made available to the CAP when completed. In addition to the Federation, the Jewish organizations in the Ad Hoc Committee are: American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Congress, New York Board of Rabbis, Jewish Community Relations Council, and Jewish Labor Committee.

#### Nixon, Hussein Meet IMPRESSION LEFT THAT U.S. IS NOT UNSYMPATHETIC TO KING'S PLAN; PALESTINIAN ASPIRATIONS CITED

WASHINGTON, March 28 (JTA)--The White House today publicly refused to take any position on King Hussein's announced plan for a United Arab Kingdom embracing the Israeli occupied West Bank of the Jordan River but left an impression that President Nixon is not unsympathetic with it. Meeting the press after the President had conferred with King Hussein for 80 minutes, Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler said:

"We are not commenting on the substance of the plan at all. This is an internal matter. I'm not willing to enter into it--one way or another." State Department and White House officials have consistently refused comment on the King's plan since he announced it on March 15. Israel and most Arab countries and the Palestinian groups have all denounced it. The Soviet Union, England and France have been silent on the plan.

In discussing the King's plan, Ziegler stressed that the "legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians must be reached." He added, "We are not injecting ourselves by publicly saying what the agreement should be, but the legitimate aspirations must be met." King Hussein is in Washington for a "private visit," the White House announced, and will remain in Washington for "a few days" before returning to Amman.

#### Plan Can Create Peaceful Environment

Ziegler emphasized, in response to questions from the press, that King Hussein's "proposal for an autonomous Palestine is a reorganization plan after a peace agreement is achieved in the Middle East or between Israel and Jordan." The King's plan, Ziegler added, is not "directly" tied to a peace settlement. The US, Ziegler said, is "prepared to help facilitate progress for peace and play a constructive role to that end" in accordance with UN Resolution 242.

Ziegler described the talks between the two leaders as "very cordial and to the point." He said that "in particular" the status of the current efforts for a peaceful settlement were reviewed.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN: The New York City Council by a vote of 35-2 adopted today a bill banning Sabbath elections for official and quasi-official posts. The bill had been introduced by Councilman Theodore Silverman (D, Bklyn) to prevent Sabbath elections for members of the city's 26 anti-poverty community boards.

**'Magna Carta of Religious Liberty'  
NIXON SIGNS BILL TO PROTECT RELIGIOUS  
BELIEFS, PRACTICES OF SABBATH OBSERVERS**

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--A bill amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to provide protection to Sabbath observers was signed Friday night in a quiet ceremony by President Nixon it was reported today by the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA). Howard Rhine, COLPA president, characterized the new law as "the Magna Carta of religious liberty in America."

He noted further that "it makes the promise of religious freedom a reality by extending protection to practice as well as belief. No longer will a person be required to choose between his religion and his job." Thus, a private employer engaged in interstate commerce (one who has 25 or more employees) and all public agencies cannot refuse to hire an applicant for a job merely because religious obligations require the person to deviate from uniform work rules.

The amendment also provides on-the-job protection to observant Jews whose religious practices and beliefs require them to wear religious garb. Such employees cannot be dismissed unless the employer can prove undue hardship. Rhine stated that COLPA would spare no effort to secure compliance by employers with the new law.

**AZYP INAUGURATES NATIONWIDE  
PROGRAMS ON THE HOLOCAUST**

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--The first New York project in a nationwide series of intensive college campus programs on the holocaust organized by the American Zionist Youth Foundation University Service Department, will take place on April 7-9. Eighty selected N.Y.-N.J. metropolitan Jewish college students will participate in a weekend seminar at Hechalutz Farm, in Hightstown, N.J., led by five distinguished lecturers and discussants.

They are Prof. Raoul Hilberg of the University of Vermont, author of "Destruction of European Jewry"; Prof. Henry Feingold of the College of the City of N.Y., among whose published works is the "Politics of Rescue"; Avraham Yekel, former partisan and resistance fighter, who now directs the "Center for Peoples Culture" in Israel; Arik Carmon, Ph.D. candidate in the Nazi period of history at the University of Wisconsin; and Prof. Samuel Abrahamsen, acting chairman of the Department of Judaic Studies at Brooklyn College, authority on the rescue of Danish Jews.

William Levine, executive director of AZYP, noted that "intensified Jewish student interest in the holocaust reflects a return to the realm of history for existential answers to the eternal twin-dilemmas - identity and belonging. They pursue their present and their future in their Jewish past." The seminar, organized at the request of some of the participating students, will serve as a model and stimulus for student projects on campuses across the country. The projects will be related to Remembrance Day for the six million Jewish martyrs and heroes to be observed on April 11.

**PRIEST WHO ASSAILED ISRAEL  
AS OPPRESSOR TERMED PRO-ARAB**

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--Arnold Forster, general counsel to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said today that he was "dismayed but not surprised by the inaccurate and unfair statements" about Israel in a Palm Sunday sermon in Washington this week by the Rev. Francis B. Sayre, Jr. Dean Sayre, of the Washington Cathedral, charged Sunday that the "once-op-

pressed" Israelis had become the "oppressors" of Jerusalem, depriving Palestinians "unjustly" of land and rights and creating a "moral tragedy."

Forster, noting that Dean Sayre has been "partial to the Arab side" for many years, declared: "His false assertion that Israelis are 'oppressing' in Jerusalem and that Jewish rule of the city is a 'moral tragedy' is as far from the conciliatory spirit of this holy season as it is from the facts." He remarked that "Knowing the dean's general attitudes about the Middle East explains why no ringing sermons of protest were heard from him during Jordan's 19-year illegal occupation of the Old City."

Abe Foxman, the ADL's Mideast affairs chief, added that in Jan. 1970 Dean Sayre organized a national prayer meeting at his Cathedral in behalf of the Palestinians. "All the pro-Arabists that exist were there," Foxman said.

**SOVIET OFFICIAL SAYS FEW APPLICATIONS  
FOR EMIGRATION ON FILE AT THIS TIME**

WASHINGTON, March 28 (JTA)--Deputy Minister Boris T. Shumlin of the Soviet Union's Interior Ministry said in an interview reaching here yesterday that there were only an "insignificant" number of applications for emigration on file at this time, and called foreign estimates of the number "absurd...truly fantastic." It was ascertained here today that the interview, circulated by the Novosti feature service via Tass, the government press agency, was not published within the USSR.

Shumlin said 21,000 Soviet Jews had gone to Israel since World War II--10,000 of them last year alone--and said there were only 258 applications on file in Moscow, 119 in Kiev and 50 in Leningrad. At the same time, he downplayed Arab apprehensions over any Jewish migration to Israel at all, pointing out that of Israel's population of three million, 800,000 were refugees from Arab lands. Shumlin also became apparently the first top Kremlin official to acknowledge that Soviet citizens with knowledge of secret defense information were barred from leaving the country.

**SHAREF: HOUSING CRISIS IN ISRAEL**

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA)--Housing Minister Zeev Sharef said last night that the housing problem in Israel has reached crisis proportions that only large scale pre-fabricated or mobile housing could solve. He said his ministry was working hard to implement such plans. Sharef disclosed that the price of housing rose by 29 percent in 1971 compared to a general price rise of only 12 percent.

As a result, he told a Labor Party meeting here, a third of the couples who married last year applied for government aid in housing. Sharef said that building more houses for rental, as demanded in some quarters, was not a solution applicable to conditions in Israel. He said the initial investment would be so high that the rents would be prohibitive.

**TOURISM FROM U.S. UP 62 PERCENT**

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA)--North American tourism here from Dec. 1971 to Feb. 1972 rose by 62 percent over the same period last year, reaching a total of 51,600, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. Tourism from Britain increased 51 percent and from France 24 percent. The total number of visitors was 126,600.

Israel will be represented at a mammoth open-air horticultural exhibition in Amsterdam from March 30 to September 15.