



# daily news bulletin

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Monday, April 17, 1972

No. 74

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But its most important characteristic is its ability to take off from and land on short strips, even improvised ones. The Hercules transports saw action in Israel's recent exercises in the Sinai. Each costs \$4 million. At the same time, a contract for construction of three submarines for Israel's Navy by the British Vickers firm was understood to have been signed April 6.

The submarines will be small, conventional ones of the "coastal" variety in the 500-ton range. Egypt mounted a diplomatic offensive to block the contract. According to Arab diplomats in London, Vickers also offered--with British government approval--to build submarines for Egypt. Neither the Defense Ministry nor the Israeli Embassy would comment on these reports. Arms supplies are traditionally never revealed by official sources.

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An Arab League delegation visited Vickers last week and threatened it with a total boycott unless it canceled the Israeli contract. The delegation was told that Vickers would go through with the contract no matter what the League might do. Several Arab countries are negotiating with Vickers for various purchases despite the Arab League threat.

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An additional novelty is the fourth new weapon announced last week--a Czech-built Katyusha-rocket launcher. These units contain 32 rockets of 130-mm. caliber, all of which can be fired in a single salvo. The launchers are mounted on Czech-made vans called Pragas. Both launchers and vans were captured by Israel during the Six-Day War and used by its artillery units.

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ally." The proposed remedies, including elimination of the red tape that delays the approval of building plans, and the introduction of new materials and construction methods, emerged from a week-long symposium on housing problems that ended here Friday.

The symposium, chaired by New York realtor Jack D. Weiler, chairman of the Jewish Agency's housing committee, was attended by 15 building experts from abroad, by Israeli builders, officials of the Housing Ministry and the Jewish Agency. Some of the sessions were attended personally by Housing Minister Ze'ev Sharef and Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive. The technical discussions were chaired by Joseph Newman, vice-president for building research and technology of the Tishman Realty and Construction Corp., one of the world's largest building firms, builders of the 110-story twin towers of the New York World Trade Center.

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They referred especially to a remark made early in March by the Bishop of Chios in the presence of prominent government leaders. The Bishop referred to the discredited "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" in describing Judaism and Zionism as

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In an official reply, Frangatos said such remarks come from "irresponsible people who represent neither the State nor the Church." He stressed that "the Greek State does not differentiate among Greek citizens" and considers Greek Jews "beloved and honored citizens."

Jewish circles here noted, however, that Frangatos did not indicate what measures--if any--the military government planned to take against the Bishop of Chios and other bishops who have made similar statements, or how--if at all--it would act to prevent such declarations in the future. The Greek Orthodox Church is the "state religion," and the government has ample means to control remarks by its leaders.

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The message stated: "The Palestinian people have a glorious tradition of struggle against imperialism. Their armed struggle holds aloft the banner of the fight against the imperialists and has dealt mighty blows to the United States, the Israeli aggressors and their lackeys." The latter appeared to be a reference to King Hussein of Jordan. It was learned, meanwhile, that the executive committee of the PLO plans to meet soon in Beirut, Lebanon, to discuss steps for merging all terrorist forces.

#### COMMITTEE CLEARS FRIEDMAN, DINSTEN OF CHARGES; CRITICIZES NEEV WHO BROUGHT CHARGES AGAINST FRIEDMAN

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA)--A three-man State committee of inquiry today cleared Mordechai Friedman of all charges of mismanagement and corruption brought against him in his capacity as managing director of the government-owned Netivei Neft Oil Co. drilling for oil in the Sinai. Friedman was cleared in a majority report signed by Supreme Court Justice Albert Vitkon, the committee chairman, and one of its lay members, Abraham Kalir, an industrialist. The other lay member, Reserve Maj. Gen. Meir Zorea, dissented. The hearings lasted over four months.

Also cleared of charges was Deputy Finance Minister Zvi Dinstein. The panel, however, expressed disapproval over the way he had overseen Netivei Neft's operations. The committee was sharply critical of Dr. David Neev, a government geologist who had brought the charges against Friedman. They ranged from bribery, theft and conflict of interest to holding orgies and condoning immoral behavior among oil field workers. The committee report found that Dr. Neev's charges were grossly exaggerated and that his testimony before the panel included hearsay and gossip.

While Zorea contended that Friedman should be dismissed, the majority report found nothing wrong in the sale of equipment belonging to a private company owned by Friedman to a company having connections with the government. The majority report also refused to accept the contention that the establishment of Netivei Neft to exploit the Sinai oil fields captured from Egypt in 1967 was unnecessary because existing companies could have done the job. The committee report was submitted today to the Cabinet and immediately released to the public.

# RUMANIA BELIEVES EGYPT WANTS A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL

May Try To Act As Mediator In Israel-Egypt Dispute

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA)--Rumania, which maintains friendly relations with both Israel and the Arab states, believes that Egypt wants a political settlement of its dispute with Israel, though no one in the Israeli government shares that view. That was the gist of the report Foreign Minister Abba Eban submitted today to the Cabinet following a visit by the Rumanian Deputy Foreign Minister, Giorghiu Macovescu, who conferred last Friday with Eban and met for 30 minutes with Premier Golda Meir.

Macovescu's visit took place two weeks after President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania conferred with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and with Palestinian terrorist leaders in Cairo.

Eban reportedly said that Rumania gives credence to frequent statements by Sadat that Egypt seeks a political settlement. He was reported to have told Macovescu that Israel would welcome progress toward any kind of settlement and that, realistically, a partial agreement to reopen the Suez Canal has more chance at the moment than an over-all settlement. Macovescu left Israel yesterday.

According to unconfirmed reports, one subject he discussed with Mrs. Meir at a meeting at which no aides or other persons were present, was the possibility of Rumania assuming a mediating role between Israel and Egypt for an interim Suez agreement. Such an agreement has long been promoted by the US without results.

Diplomatic circles here expressed satisfaction that Rumania's position on the Middle East has not changed since the Six-Day War when Rumania alone of the East European Communist nations refused to break diplomatic relations with Israel.

## STEIN BRINGS GREETINGS FROM NIXON

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA)--Dr. Herbert Stein, President Nixon's senior economic adviser, arrived here last night on a private visit carrying the President's personal Independence Day greetings to Premier Golda Meir. Dr. Stein will be in Israel for six days. He will meet with Mrs. Meir; Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir; Minister of Commerce and Industry Haim Barlev; and Moshe Zanbar, Governor of the Bank of Israel.

## ISRAEL ATTACKED AT UNCTAD PARLEY

Chilean Unmoved By Arab Pressure

SANTIAGO, Chile, April 16 (JTA)--Israel failed to get an item dealing with the Suez Canal removed from the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) here over the week-end but Israel's protest was not stricken from the agenda as demanded by the Arab delegates.

The item was titled "The Economic Effects of the Closure of the Suez Canal."

Israel's delegate, Gideon Rafael, argued that its wording had political implications and that its discussion would introduce sterile political disputes and divert attention from the main points on the agenda. The Libyan delegate, A. El-Atrash, claimed that the situation at the canal and the continued occupation of Arab territories east of it caused the total disruption of economic development in that area and threatened not only Egypt but all developing countries with a cruel form of economic strangulation.

The Egyptian delegate insisted that the subject of the agenda item was directly connected with trade and development and the Algerian delegate asked that Israel's objections be deleted from the record. Clodomiro Almeyda, the Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs who was elected president of UNCTAD, ruled that

the item be retained since no formal motion had been made to the contrary. But he said all interventions on the matter would be included in the records.

Earlier the Afghanistani delegate, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Ravan Farhadi, claimed that it was essential to deprive Israel of control of the Suez Canal. Yesterday, the heads of all delegations, including Rafael, attended a reception given by President Salvador Allende.

## HADASSAH CONCERNED WITH PLIGHT OF JEWISH PHYSICIST IN MOSCOW

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA)--Prof. Sergie Gurevitz, a Jewish physicist in Moscow, faces a year in prison unless he accepts a job in a factory. "It is a punishment," he told Mrs. Faye Schenk, national president of Hadassah, who telephoned the professor Friday to let him know that her organization was concerned with his plight.

"A punishment for what?" Mrs. Schenk asked. "For asking for an exit visa," Prof. Gurevitz replied. Fired from his teaching post at Moscow University eight months ago after applying for a visa to go to Israel, he was supporting himself by private tutoring when he was summoned to the local employment office last week and ordered to accept a job in a factory. He was given three days to decide.

According to the Soviet penal code, an unemployed person who refuses to accept a job faces up to a year in jail for "parasitism." Prof. Gurevitz told Mrs. Schenk he didn't know what Hadassah could do for him. "The problem is the work I am assigned to do," he said.

## MEASURES PROPOSED TO STEM RAPIDLY RISING INFLATION SPIRAL

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA)--Moshe Zanbar, the Governor of the Bank of Israel, warned today of a rapidly rising spiral of inflation and proposed far-ranging measures to stem it. Zanbar presented his report at today's Cabinet meeting. His recommendations have been referred to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs.

Zanbar reported that money in circulation (means of payment) rose by more than 15 percent in less than a year. He said the inflationary pressures stemmed from the manpower shortage which has led to increased wage demands. There are about 30,000 jobs unfilled in the country. Zanbar said the present 12 percent ceiling on wage hikes must be maintained or higher tax rates would have to be introduced. Other causes of inflation were the large amounts of foreign currency being converted into Israeli pounds, mainly investments in building and in the stock exchange here and the proceeds from exports.

Zanbar called for an immediate cessation of all new public building and said mortgages should be made more expensive; proposed a six-month moratorium on all new development projects and suggested that the government sell some of its holdings in various companies as well as government-owned land and houses; proposed an increase in the cost of government credit for development projects; and called for higher interest on government bonds and savings plans to encourage saving and lower duties on foreign products to make Israeli made goods more competitive.

Sen. James L. Buckley (R.-Conn., N.Y.) has informed the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry that he endorses the National Solidarity Day April 30. He reiterated his request to President Nixon to raise the issue of Soviet Jewry in his meetings next month in Moscow.

### RABBI RACKMAN: JEWS MUST BE THE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY

ATLANTA, April 16 (JTA)--Jews have a responsibility for bringing sanity to "a mad world," a New York rabbi told Jewish communal leaders gathered here for the 1972 biennial convention of the National Jewish Welfare Board. In a sermon delivered at a G.I. Sabbath service, Rabbi Emanuel Rackman of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue said "our world is quite mad. The century that made possible the greatest prolongation of human life destroyed more tens of millions of human beings than any preceding century. The century that worships science--fact, provendata --is more obsessed with myths and idols than many pagans were in the past."

Rabbi Rackman, who is also a member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Board of Directors, told the convention that it is the "eternal mission of the eternal people" to remind the world that it is mad. "We must," he said, "communicate this leadership to our youth that they shall not be deterred because of the smallness of their number from articulating this stance."

Mordecai Bar-On, chairman of the Youth and Hechalutz Department of the World Zionist Organization in Jerusalem, said that encounters with Israel and its people "has helped young American Jews to better understand their own Jewish identity." At the same time, he told a luncheon honoring international guests, "the contacts with American youth have brought about a change in the understanding of Jewishness among Israelis." Israel, he added, is unable to exist without the diaspora, nor can the diaspora survive spiritually without Israel.

### Community Centers Unify Jewish People

Herbert Millman, executive vice-president of the JWB, stated that Jewish community centers, one of the few Jewish institutions native to the American scene, are "firmly established in many lands and share the common cause of contributing to the sense of oneness of the Jewish people."

He recalled that Jewish community centers in Europe helped the war-ravaged Jewish communities develop foundations for meaningful Jewish existence and noted that the emergence in Israel of the community center as a basic institutional form draws from the same need that brought the centers into being in America, Europe, South America and elsewhere; "the need to weld a sense of community among settlers with diverse backgrounds."

Millman announced the establishment of an International Jewish Program Materials Project co-sponsored by the World Federation of YMHAs and Jewish community centers, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, the Youth and Hechalutz Department of WZO and the American Joint Distribution Committee.

### B'NAI B'RITH APPEALS TO UN TO AID SOME 4000 JEWS REMAINING IN SYRIA

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA)--The International Council of B'nai B'rith has appealed to the United Nations to intercede on behalf of the approximately 4000 Jews remaining in Syria before they are "consumed" by the harassment of the Syrian regime.

Representatives from 40 countries at the Council's annual meeting at the B'nai B'rith building here accused Syria of "plain violation" of the UN Genocide Convention which outlaws "serious bodily or mental harm" against any ethnic or religious group. Syria is among the 75 signatories to the Convention.

Maurice A. Weinstein of Charlotte, N.C., the Council's retiring chairman, declared: "the Damascus regime's efforts to reduce Jews to a state of total economic helplessness together with its imposition of

curfews, the use of special identity cards, police interrogation and other anti-Jewish measures, are brutal demonstrations of Syrian violations of the Convention."

Dr. William A. Wexler, a past international president of B'nai B'rith and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, was elected to a three-year term to succeed Weinstein.

### INTERFAITH GROUP APPEALS TO KOSYGIN FOR RELEASE OF JEWISH PRISONERS

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y., April 16 (JTA)--A group of 19 Christian and Jewish leaders of the Long Island religious community has appealed to Soviet Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin "for the prompt release of the Jewish prisoners in your country who have fervently expressed their desire to go to Israel," it was reported by the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry. The interfaith group expressed particular concern over the plight of Sylvia Zalmanson Kuznetsov whose "strict regime" imprisonment was termed by the religious leaders "a direct threat to her life."

The interfaith group entreated the Soviet government "to let humanitarian considerations alone guide it in granting freedom to those prisoners so that they may depart to Israel where their people await them." A copy of the appeal was sent to President Nixon who will be visiting the USSR next month. Last fall, the Committee for Soviet Jewry sponsored an interfaith clergy rally to protest the persecution of Roman Catholic priests by Soviet authorities in Lithuania.

### NIXON URGED TO RECONSIDER PLEDGE TO AID NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA)--The National Council of Jewish Women has expressed concern over President Nixon's pledge to extend federal aid to non-public schools. Nixon made the pledge April 6 to the convention of the National Catholic Education Committee in Philadelphia. In a letter to the President, Mrs. Earl Marvin, NCJW president, stated that the intent to give aid to parochial schools runs counter to a number of court decisions.

"We strongly oppose any attempts to circumvent the principle of separation of church and state," she wrote and expressed the hope that "as a demonstration of your devotion to a strict interpretation of our Constitution you will reconsider this commitment." Mrs. Marvin added that apart from the Constitutional question involved, federal aid to non-public schools would diminish funds for public education, which are already inadequate, and thus further weaken public education.

Israel's cost of living index rose by two percent during Feb., the Central Bureau of Statistics reported today. While most items remained stable, there were steep rises in the prices of clothing, footwear and housing.

The Buchenwald Memorial Committee in West Germany announced today that more than five million persons have visited the site of that Nazi concentration camp since its memorial stone was erected in 1958. Last year, there were 387,000 visitors. Some of the visitors have been German, but many have come from the US, Israel and France.

Israel's wheat crop is expected to reach a record 270,000 tons this year, more than 80 percent of the country's annual wheat consumption, Agriculture Minister Haim Gvati reported. The reason is the correct distribution of rains over the course of the growing season.





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#### PEKING REAFFIRMS SUPPORT OF TERRORISTS

LONDON, April 16 (JTA)--Premier Chou En-lai of China has sent a message to the Congress of the Palestine Liberation Organization meeting in Cairo which reaffirms "the unfailing and resolute support of China to the Palestinians." The message was addressed to El Fatah leader Yassir Arafat. Its text was made public today by the Chinese Embassy here.

The message stated: "The Palestinian people have a glorious tradition of struggle against imperialism. Their armed struggle holds aloft the banner of the fight against the imperialists and has dealt mighty blows to the United States, the Israeli aggressors and their lackeys." The latter appeared to be a reference to King Hussein of Jordan. It was learned, meanwhile, that the executive committee of the PLO plans to meet soon in Beirut, Lebanon, to discuss steps for merging all terrorist forces.

#### COMMITTEE CLEARS FRIEDMAN, DINSTEN OF CHARGES; CRITICIZES NEEV WHO BROUGHT CHARGES AGAINST FRIEDMAN

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA)--A three-man State committee of inquiry today cleared Mordechai Friedman of all charges of mismanagement and corruption brought against him in his capacity as managing director of the government-owned Netivei Neft Oil Co. drilling for oil in the Sinai. Friedman was cleared in a majority report signed by Supreme Court Justice Albert Vitkon, the committee chairman, and one of its lay members, Abraham Kalir, an industrialist. The other lay member, Reserve Maj. Gen. Meir Zorea, dissented. The hearings lasted over four months.

Also cleared of charges was Deputy Finance Minister Zvi Dinstein. The panel, however, expressed disapproval over the way he had overseen Netivei Neft's operations. The committee was sharply critical of Dr. David Neev, a government geologist who had brought the charges against Friedman. They ranged from bribery, theft and conflict of interest to holding orgies and condoning immoral behavior among oil field workers. The committee report found that Dr. Neev's charges were grossly exaggerated and that his testimony before the panel included hearsay and gossip.

While Zorea contended that Friedman should be dismissed, the majority report found nothing wrong in the sale of equipment belonging to a private company owned by Friedman to a company having connections with the government. The majority report also refused to accept the contention that the establishment of Netivei Neft to exploit the Sinai oil fields captured from Egypt in 1967 was unnecessary because existing companies could have done the job. The committee report was submitted today to the Cabinet and immediately released to the public.

# RUMANIA BELIEVES EGYPT WANTS A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL

May Try To Act As Mediator In Israel-Egypt Dispute

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA)--Rumania, which maintains friendly relations with both Israel and the Arab states, believes that Egypt wants a political settlement of its dispute with Israel, though no one in the Israeli government shares that view. That was the gist of the report Foreign Minister Abba Eban submitted today to the Cabinet following a visit by the Rumanian Deputy Foreign Minister, Giorghiu Macovescu, who conferred last Friday with Eban and met for 30 minutes with Premier Golda Meir.

Macovescu's visit took place two weeks after President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania conferred with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and with Palestinian terrorist leaders in Cairo.

Eban reportedly said that Rumania gives credence to frequent statements by Sadat that Egypt seeks a political settlement. He was reported to have told Macovescu that Israel would welcome progress toward any kind of settlement and that, realistically, a partial agreement to reopen the Suez Canal has more chance at the moment than an over-all settlement. Macovescu left Israel yesterday.

According to unconfirmed reports, one subject he discussed with Mrs. Meir at a meeting at which no aides or other persons were present, was the possibility of Rumania assuming a mediating role between Israel and Egypt for an interim Suez agreement. Such an agreement has long been promoted by the US without results.

Diplomatic circles here expressed satisfaction that Rumania's position on the Middle East has not changed since the Six-Day War when Rumania alone of the East European Communist nations refused to break diplomatic relations with Israel.

## STEIN BRINGS GREETINGS FROM NIXON

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA)--Dr. Herbert Stein, President Nixon's senior economic adviser, arrived here last night on a private visit carrying the President's personal Independence Day greetings to Premier Golda Meir. Dr. Stein will be in Israel for six days. He will meet with Mrs. Meir; Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir; Minister of Commerce and Industry Haim Barlev; and Moshe Zanbar, Governor of the Bank of Israel.

## ISRAEL ATTACKED AT UNCTAD PARLEY

Chilean Unmoved By Arab Pressure

SANTIAGO, Chile, April 16 (JTA)--Israel failed to get an item dealing with the Suez Canal removed from the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) here over the week-end but Israel's protest was not stricken from the agenda as demanded by the Arab delegates.

The item was titled "The Economic Effects of the Closure of the Suez Canal."

Israel's delegate, Gideon Rafael, argued that its wording had political implications and that its discussion would introduce sterile political disputes and divert attention from the main points on the agenda. The Libyan delegate, A. El-Atrash, claimed that the situation at the canal and the continued occupation of Arab territories east of it caused the total disruption of economic development in that area and threatened not only Egypt but all developing countries with a cruel form of economic strangulation.

The Egyptian delegate insisted that the subject of the agenda item was directly connected with trade and development and the Algerian delegate asked that Israel's objections be deleted from the record. Clodomiro Almeyda, the Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs who was elected president of UNCTAD, ruled that

the item be retained since no formal motion had been made to the contrary. But he said all interventions on the matter would be included in the records.

Earlier the Afghanistani delegate, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Ravan Farhadi, claimed that it was essential to deprive Israel of control of the Suez Canal. Yesterday, the heads of all delegations, including Rafael, attended a reception given by President Salvador Allende.

## HADASSAH CONCERNED WITH PLIGHT OF JEWISH PHYSICIST IN MOSCOW

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA)--Prof. Sergie Gurevitz, a Jewish physicist in Moscow, faces a year in prison unless he accepts a job in a factory. "It is a punishment," he told Mrs. Faye Schenk, national president of Hadassah, who telephoned the professor Friday to let him know that her organization was concerned with his plight.

"A punishment for what?" Mrs. Schenk asked. "For asking for an exit visa," Prof. Gurevitz replied. Fired from his teaching post at Moscow University eight months ago after applying for a visa to go to Israel, he was supporting himself by private tutoring when he was summoned to the local employment office last week and ordered to accept a job in a factory. He was given three days to decide.

According to the Soviet penal code, an unemployed person who refuses to accept a job faces up to a year in jail for "parasitism." Prof. Gurevitz told Mrs. Schenk he didn't know what Hadassah could do for him. "The problem is the work I am assigned to do," he said.

## MEASURES PROPOSED TO STEM RAPIDLY RISING INFLATION SPIRAL

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA)--Moshe Zanbar, the Governor of the Bank of Israel, warned today of a rapidly rising spiral of inflation and proposed far-ranging measures to stem it. Zanbar presented his report at today's Cabinet meeting. His recommendations have been referred to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs.

Zanbar reported that money in circulation (means of payment) rose by more than 15 percent in less than a year. He said the inflationary pressures stemmed from the manpower shortage which has led to increased wage demands. There are about 30,000 jobs unfilled in the country. Zanbar said the present 12 percent ceiling on wage hikes must be maintained or higher tax rates would have to be introduced. Other causes of inflation were the large amounts of foreign currency being converted into Israeli pounds, mainly investments in building and in the stock exchange here and the proceeds from exports.

Zanbar called for an immediate cessation of all new public building and said mortgages should be made more expensive; proposed a six-month moratorium on all new development projects and suggested that the government sell some of its holdings in various companies as well as government-owned land and houses; proposed an increase in the cost of government credit for development projects; and called for higher interest on government bonds and savings plans to encourage saving and lower duties on foreign products to make Israeli made goods more competitive.

Sen. James L. Buckley (R.-Conn., N.Y.) has informed the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry that he endorses the National Solidarity Day April 30. He reiterated his request to President Nixon to raise the issue of Soviet Jewry in his meetings next month in Moscow.

### RABBI RACKMAN: JEWS MUST BE THE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY

ATLANTA, April 16 (JTA)--Jews have a responsibility for bringing sanity to "a mad world," a New York rabbi told Jewish communal leaders gathered here for the 1972 biennial convention of the National Jewish Welfare Board. In a sermon delivered at a G.I. Sabbath service, Rabbi Emanuel Rackman of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue said "our world is quite mad. The century that made possible the greatest prolongation of human life destroyed more tens of millions of human beings than any preceding century. The century that worships science--fact, provendata --is more obsessed with myths and idols than many pagans were in the past."

Rabbi Rackman, who is also a member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Board of Directors, told the convention that it is the "eternal mission of the eternal people" to remind the world that it is mad. "We must," he said, "communicate this leadership to our youth that they shall not be deterred because of the smallness of their number from articulating this stance."

Mordecai Bar-On, chairman of the Youth and Hechalutz Department of the World Zionist Organization in Jerusalem, said that encounters with Israel and its people "has helped young American Jews to better understand their own Jewish identity." At the same time, he told a luncheon honoring international guests, "the contacts with American youth have brought about a change in the understanding of Jewishness among Israelis." Israel, he added, is unable to exist without the diaspora, nor can the diaspora survive spiritually without Israel.

### Community Centers Unify Jewish People

Herbert Millman, executive vice-president of the JWB, stated that Jewish community centers, one of the few Jewish institutions native to the American scene, are "firmly established in many lands and share the common cause of contributing to the sense of oneness of the Jewish people."

He recalled that Jewish community centers in Europe helped the war-ravaged Jewish communities develop foundations for meaningful Jewish existence and noted that the emergence in Israel of the community center as a basic institutional form draws from the same need that brought the centers into being in America, Europe, South America and elsewhere; "the need to weld a sense of community among settlers with diverse backgrounds."

Millman announced the establishment of an International Jewish Program Materials Project co-sponsored by the World Federation of YMHAs and Jewish community centers, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, the Youth and Hechalutz Department of WZO and the American Joint Distribution Committee.

### B'NAI B'RITH APPEALS TO UN TO AID SOME 4000 JEWS REMAINING IN SYRIA

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA)--The International Council of B'nei B'rith has appealed to the United Nations to intercede on behalf of the approximately 4000 Jews remaining in Syria before they are "consumed" by the harassment of the Syrian regime.

Representatives from 40 countries at the Council's annual meeting at the B'nei B'rith building here accused Syria of "plain violation" of the UN Genocide Convention which outlaws "serious bodily or mental harm" against any ethnic or religious group. Syria is among the 75 signatories to the Convention.

Maurice A. Weinstein of Charlotte, N.C., the Council's retiring chairman, declared: "the Damascus regime's efforts to reduce Jews to a state of total economic helplessness together with its imposition of

curfews, the use of special identity cards, police interrogation and other anti-Jewish measures, are brutal demonstrations of Syrian violations of the Convention."

Dr. William A. Wexler, a past international president of B'nei B'rith and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, was elected to a three-year term to succeed Weinstein.

### INTERFAITH GROUP APPEALS TO KOSYGIN FOR RELEASE OF JEWISH PRISONERS

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y., April 16 (JTA)--A group of 19 Christian and Jewish leaders of the Long Island religious community has appealed to Soviet Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin "for the prompt release of the Jewish prisoners in your country who have fervently expressed their desire to go to Israel," it was reported by the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry. The interfaith group expressed particular concern over the plight of Sylvia Zalmanson Kuznetsov whose "strict regime" imprisonment was termed by the religious leaders "a direct threat to her life."

The interfaith group entreated the Soviet government "to let humanitarian considerations alone guide it in granting freedom to those prisoners so that they may depart to Israel where their people await them." A copy of the appeal was sent to President Nixon who will be visiting the USSR next month. Last fall, the Committee for Soviet Jewry sponsored an interfaith clergy rally to protest the persecution of Roman Catholic priests by Soviet authorities in Lithuania.

### NIXON URGED TO RECONSIDER PLEDGE TO AID NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA)--The National Council of Jewish Women has expressed concern over President Nixon's pledge to extend federal aid to non-public schools. Nixon made the pledge April 6 to the convention of the National Catholic Education Committee in Philadelphia. In a letter to the President, Mrs. Earl Marvin, NCJW president, stated that the intent to give aid to parochial schools runs counter to a number of court decisions.

"We strongly oppose any attempts to circumvent the principle of separation of church and state," she wrote and expressed the hope that "as a demonstration of your devotion to a strict interpretation of our Constitution you will reconsider this commitment." Mrs. Marvin added that apart from the Constitutional question involved, federal aid to non-public schools would diminish funds for public education, which are already inadequate, and thus further weaken public education.

Israel's cost of living index rose by two percent during Feb., the Central Bureau of Statistics reported today. While most items remained stable, there were steep rises in the prices of clothing, footwear and housing.

The Buchenwald Memorial Committee in West Germany announced today that more than five million persons have visited the site of that Nazi concentration camp since its memorial stone was erected in 1958. Last year, there were 387,000 visitors. Some of the visitors have been German, but many have come from the US, Israel and France.

Israel's wheat crop is expected to reach a record 270,000 tons this year, more than 80 percent of the country's annual wheat consumption, Agriculture Minister Haim Gvati reported. The reason is the correct distribution of rains over the course of the growing season.