



daily news bulletin

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Tuesday, April 25, 1972

No. 80

JEWISH LEADERS SEEK SUPPORT OF MAJOR PARTIES FOR PROPOSAL TO MOVE U.S. EMBASSY FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM

WASHINGTON, April 24 (JTA)--American Jewish leaders are trying to get the support of both major parties for a proposal to move the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Such a move would be tantamount to US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a status the US has refused to acknowledge since the State was formed in 1948. The Jewish efforts, begun in the wake of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's 13th annual conference here last week, are aimed at the Platform Committees of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

The Democratic Platform Committee, headed by Prof. Richard E. Neustadt of Harvard, will start hammering out its planks for the 1972 Presidential elections here on June 22, after receiving recommendations from eight regional hearings. The Democratic nominating convention opens in Miami Beach, Fla. on July 10. The Republican Platform Committee, headed by Rep. John J. Rhodes of Arizona, is scheduled to meet Aug. 14 in San Diego, a week before the convention opening on Aug. 21. It is possible, however, that the Republican Convention will be shifted to Miami Beach.

The Jewish leadership hopes to get both parties to include planks calling on the President to order the transfer of the Embassy. The shift of pressure from the State Department to the two political parties is said to be the result of the State Department's continued refusal, publicly and privately, to consider the latest proposal for an Embassy shift.

The proposal was made last week by Sen. Robert F. Griffin (R. Mich.) acting Republican Senate Minority Leader. Addressing 300 delegates attending an AIPAC luncheon for Congressmen, Griffin said he endorsed the Embassy transfer to Jerusalem which was proposed last month by Rep. Gerald Ford (R. Mich.), House Republican Minority Leader, at a meeting of the Zionist Organization of America's Cleveland Region.

Move Would Come After Peace

Griffin said the establishment of the US Embassy in Jerusalem would have "a dramatic impact" on other countries which refuse to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and would reaffirm "our belief that Israel would uphold the rights of all religions in the Holy City."

Questioned afterwards by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, a State Department spokesman said the Department had no plans to "uproot" the Embassy from Tel Aviv. Later, AIPAC delegates were told that the Embassy would be moved to Jerusalem only when a Middle East peace settlement is achieved. Much of the impetus of the drive to move the Embassy to Jerusalem is expected to come from AIPAC which is headed by Irving Kane of Cleveland, and Isaiiah L. Kenen, executive vice chairman. Kenen was honored at the AIPAC conference dinner for his 30 years of service to the Jewish community.

In a speech on that occasion, Kenen lauded Nixon and Congress for US support of Israel. "Little by little" he said, the issues which divided the US and Israel have been "resolved by events." He derided "petrol-diplomacy" which he claimed was exercised by "oil lobbyists and missionaries" to block

Washington's support for Israeli independence.

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First Official Visit

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DUE IN ISRAEL

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Wants His Brother Out Of The USSR

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DETAILS RELEASED ON POW ESCAPE

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All three were sergeants and at least one of the escapees was an intelligence agent who had been gathering information from a Druze notable in the Golan Heights who has since been arrested on espionage charges. They effected their escape by digging a nine-foot tunnel from a prison camp lavatory to a point outside the camp's perimeter fence. The digging took them seven hours, security sources said. Once outside the camp, one of the escapees made for Tel Aviv where he was captured the next day at the central bus terminal. The other two pressed eastward toward the Jordan River.

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ISRAEL SELLS COMMODORE JET TO U.S. FOR AN ESTIMATED \$950,000

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The Israeli display at the Air Show covers an indoor area of 260 square meters and an outdoor area of 700 square meters. The Israeli exhibit was formally welcomed at the opening by Premier Alfred Kubel of Lower Saxony and by Dr. Karstein Rohwedder, State Secretary of the Lower Saxony Finance Ministry.

GOLDMANN SAYS ISRAEL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT EXERT PRESSURE ON WJC

LONDON, April 24 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said today that he was compelled to correct "inaccurate assertions" about the WJC by Jack Winocour who resigned last week as director of its information department in London. Winocour attributed his resignation to the alleged usurpation of the WJC's independence by the Israeli government. Dr. Goldmann said, "In my long years as president of the WJC, I have never witnessed any attempt on the part of the Israeli authorities to enforce an attitude on the WJC leadership."

Dr. Goldmann referred specifically to the issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, a subject on which his own expressed views conflicted with those of the World Zionist Organization Executive, leading to the withdrawal of the WZO's invitation to him to address the 28th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem last Jan. Dr. Goldmann stressed the invitation was withdrawn by the Jerusalem members of the Executive, not by the government of Israel. "The whole incident concerned me personally and had nothing to do with the WJC," he said.

"The government of Israel," Dr. Goldmann continued, "is obviously interested in a large immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, but it is not true that they have ever demanded the immigration of all Soviet Jews. The Israeli government has always supported the demand of the WJC and other Jewish organizations that those Jews who wish to remain in the USSR be given the right to live as a Jewish minority and to develop their own religious and cultural life," he said.

Dr. Goldmann said that while the Israeli people are represented in the WJC, the government of Israel holds no official position within that organization, the large majority of which is comprised of representatives of 62 diaspora communities and organizations.

DAVID MARKISH BEGINS HUNGER STRIKE

TEL AVIV, April 24 (JTA)--David Markish, son of the late poet Peretz Markish who was a victim of the Stalin purge of Jewish intellectuals in 1952, has started a hunger strike in his Moscow home to protest the continued refusal of Soviet authorities to grant him and his mother exit visas to go to Israel.

Markish informed Maariv of his latest action in a telephone conversation from Moscow. He also gave the names of six Jewish painters who he said were ousted from the Russian Artists Association after they applied for exit visas. The six ousted artists, according to Markish, are Lev Sverski, Lev Podolsky, Yuri Krasni, Vladimir Grigorovitz, Ahron April and Tatyana Novozilova.

Markish's wife, Mrs. Irina Markish, left Israel for the US yesterday to rally support on behalf of her husband and mother-in-law, Mrs. Esther Markish.

ABANDONMENT OF TRADITIONAL VALUES AND OPTING FOR MIDDLE CLASS NORMS LEADS TO BREAKDOWN OF CLASSICAL JEWISH FAMILY

COLLEGE PARK, Md., April 24 (JTA)--The Jewish community is endangered by a "vicious circle" in which "the weakened Jewish family leads to a weakened Jewish identity which leads to a weakened Jewish family." This warning, sounded by Dr. Mervin Verbit, professor of sociology at Brooklyn College, emerged as the dominant concern this weekend at a B'nai B'rith conference on the Jewish family, the first national assembly of its kind.

The "breakdown" in the traditional close-knit unity of the classical Jewish family, creating problems of growing infidelity, divorce, intermarriage, drug addiction and sexual liberalism, were attributed by conference speakers to "middle-class" Jews having opted for the "middle-class norms" of their environment, abandoning traditional Jewish norms--like that of the cohesive family unit--in the process.

The sociologists, theologians and educators who addressed the major conference sessions, held on the University of Maryland campus, agreed that restoring the behavior patterns of the classical Jewish family, which made it "the primary force for transmitting Judaism and Jewishness from one generation to the next," was fundamental to the future of a viable Jewish community. A selected group of 200 persons from 26 states and Canada--teenagers and under-thirties among them--are participating in the conference.

Sin Of Boredom

In charting the decline of the American Jewish family, Dr. Verbit noted the "well motivated but ill advised" efforts of second generation Jews. The children of immigrants, they had tried to reshape the nature of their Jewishness to make it more acceptable to their children. But the blurring of Jewish distinctiveness had not proved attractive to many Jewish youth, he said.

The same emphasis on renewing the Jewish family as the vehicle of Jewish continuity was made by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Dr. Louis L. Kaplan, former president of the Baltimore Hebrew College. "Judaism is a home-grown commitment," Dr. Heschel asserted. "The real sanctuary is the home, the synagogue is an auxiliary. The tendency in American Jewish life to localize Judaism in the synagogue threatens to destroy the vitality and unique relevance of Judaism." Dr. Heschel said the widening gap between parents and children and the rise of the drug culture was partly the result of the sin of boredom.

Dr. Kaplan, who is chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland, warned against parents allowing themselves "to be cowed by the unwarranted denunciation of their children." He said that parents "have been too ready to accept the charge of hypocrisy levelled against them by a generation of students with its own share of dishonesty."

BORIS KOCHUBIEVSKY, IRINA MARKISH IN U.S. ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWRY

NEW YORK, April 24 (JTA)--Boris Kochubievsky and Mrs. Irina Markish, two Soviet Jews who won acclaim for their successful struggle to leave the Soviet Union, arrived in New York yesterday afternoon from Israel. On debarking from the Eilat plane, Kochubievsky said "I come here to reawaken the American Jewish community in the fight for Soviet Jewry, because the period of time left in our battle may not be long."

He said that at any time "we may return to a period of Stalinism and therefore the fact that thousands (of Jews) are coming out now does not

mean we have attained victory. It is most urgent to double our efforts so that many more can come to Israel." Kochubievsky added that he had come to participate in the National Solidarity Day for Soviet Jewry April 30.

Mrs. Markish, daughter-in-law of the famed Jewish author, Peretz Markish, who was executed by the Soviet government in 1952, said she had come here to continue the battle so that her husband, David, and her mother-in-law, Esther Markish, can join her in Israel. Kochubievsky and Mrs. Markish will spend three weeks in the US.

FRANCO-ISRAELI AMITY STRESSED AT INAUGURATION OF FRANCE HOUSE

JERUSALEM, April 24 (JTA)--Political differences between France and Israel were submerged here tonight and both nations' dedication to the principles of "Liberty, equality and personal dignity" were stressed at ceremonies inaugurating France House on the Hebrew University campus. Addressing the gathering that included Cabinet Ministers and a delegation of the Friends of the Hebrew University in France, were Louis Joxe, representing the French government; Shlomo Hillel, Israel's Minister of Police, representing the Israeli government and Mayor Teddy Kollek.

All but forgotten was the political storm that developed two weeks ago when French authorities objected to the official presence of Kollek at the opening of a Paris exhibit to take place here tomorrow night. The mayor referred to the episode in passing when he noted that the standing ovation he received tonight indicated that it was closed. The objections stemmed from French fears that Kollek's appearance in his official capacity might be interpreted as recognition by France of Israel's sovereignty over united Jerusalem. Kollek will speak at the opening.

Israel Deserves Peace With Neighbors

Joxe, a former Deputy Premier of France, stressed the cultural significance of France House and praised the Hebrew University. His reference to politics was limited to the observation that after a history filled with suffering, the Jewish State deserved peace and cooperation with its neighbors.

Hillel referred directly to Franco-Israeli difficulties and expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would improve. He called on France to remember the words of Montesquieu that small countries must fight for their independence more frequently because they are exposed to destruction more often than large countries. He asked France not to demand from Israel what she does not demand from other countries.

An honorary doctorate was bestowed by the Hebrew University on Prof. Raymond Aron, a French Jewish philosopher and historian who was expelled by the Vichy regime during World War II. The degree was presented on behalf of the university's Senate by Prof. Shmuel Aizenstadt.

TWO ISRAELI CIVILIANS KILLED

TEL AVIV, April 24 (JTA)--Two Israeli civilians were killed yesterday when their vehicle struck a plastic mine planted on a dirt road near Kibbutz Ein Hashlosa adjacent to the Gaza Strip. The victims were identified as Nathan Taft of Rehovot and Tzvi Balta of Tel Aviv. Security forces are investigating the mining which occurred near the Deir el Balah and Khan Yunis refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

Arab laborers predominate in the Jerusalem building trade. Arabs comprise 7800 of the 11,300 building workers employed in the city.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

SANTIAGO (JTA)--An Egyptian government leader asked the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to condemn Israel for allegedly obstructing a reopening of the Suez Canal. Mohamed Abdullallah Merzbah, Deputy Premier and Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade, said Friday that the canal is closed because of Israeli occupation of Egyptian territory. Another speaker, Chou Hua-min of China, reiterated that his countrymen support the Palestinians and other Arabs against American-Israeli "aggression."

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LONDON (JTA)--Four Jewish prisoners at Potma in the Mordovian Republic--Boris Penson, Hillel Shur, Arkady Shpilberg and Lassal Kaminsky--were illegally removed from that camp April 4 and confined to the prison in Saransk, also in the Mordovian Republic, apparently to isolate them, according to Jewish sources in the Soviet Union. The four were sentenced to terms in a labor camp, not a prison. The sources also reported that 309 Soviet Jews have signed an appeal to Jewish communities and organizations for help in securing visas to Israel. Many of them have lost their jobs because of this and are under surveillance; others have been interrogated and warned but have signed anyway. The signers are from Moscow, Wilna, Riga, Tallin, Kharkov, Kiev, Leningrad, Kishinev, Minsk, Sverdlovsk and Rostov.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--The Presidium of Agudath Israel of America has asked members of the New York State Assembly to vote against ratification of the women's equal rights amendment to the Constitution. The Orthodox Jewish movement claimed that this amendment would "mandate the conscription of women into the armed services," and declared that "this would be a severe setback to the moral tone of our nation's youth as well as to the moral climate of our entire society." The State Senate has already approved ratification of the amendment and Agudath Israel hopes to be able to defeat it in the lower chamber. Agudath Israel noted that the national director of Selective Service, Dr. Curtis Tarr, stated officially on April 7 that women would be automatically drafted into the Armed Service if the amendment in its present language is ratified.

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COPENHAGEN (JTA)--Some 60,000 visitors came to the Swedish Historical Museum to see the exhibition of archaeological findings in the Masada region of Israel, according to the director of the museum. He termed it one of the museum's biggest successes noting that some 100,000 people visit the museum annually. The exhibition closed last Sunday.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Haifa University is conducting a study to find out why about 25 percent of its Arab students drop out at the end of their first year. Eliezer Rafaell, vice-president of the university, said one explanation of the high drop-out rate is due to the difficulties in the transition from Arabic-speaking schools in the sheltered social climate of the traditional Arab community to the sophisticated environment of a modern Hebrew-speaking university. Another difficulty, he noted, was the need for many Arab students to travel long distances from their villages to Haifa because of the shortage of accommodations in town. Jewish home-owners, Rafaell said, are reluctant to rent rooms to Arab students and Arabs do not usually take in lodgers.

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BONN (JTA)--The desecration last weekend of the Jewish monument and gravestones on the site of the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp has been condemned by the Central Council of Jews in Germany as "moral treason." In a statement released Sunday, the Council said it was a criminal act and a "shameless provocation" against Jewish victims of the Nazi terror. The statement added that the Council hoped police would find and punish the vandals who painted anti-Semitic slogans on the monument and gravestones because "words of regret alone are not enough." The Minister of Interior of Lower Saxony, Richard Lehnert, condemned the desecration in a telegram last Thursday to the Jewish community and expressed his government's sorrow and regrets. He gave his assurance that everything would be done to find the criminals who painted such slogans such as "Jews Get Out" on the stones.

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AMSTERDAM (JTA)--Dutch television broadcast last night a 30-minute children's program on "The History of the Jewish People and the State of Israel." The program, under the auspices of the Dutch Protestant Church, inclined strongly toward anti-Israel propaganda. The program showed that Jews, expelled from numerous countries, had established their State by killing or expelling 100,000 Arabs, destroying their homes and forcing them to live in refugee camps.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--The Cunard Line has announced that its cruise liner Queen Elizabeth 2 will visit Israel for the first time during Passover, 1973, Israel's 25th anniversary year, and will spend 18 days there as a floating hotel. The 66,000-ton liner will be the largest passenger vessel ever to call at Israeli ports and her stay there--from April 21 to May 8--will be the longest for any cruise ship.

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MONTREAL (JTA)--Some 400 persons gathered at the Spanish-Portuguese synagogue here to commemorate the arrival in 1945 of the first group of Canada's postwar Jewish immigrants. The synagogue's new president, Max Wolofsky, called for better integration of newcomers and expressed concern over the plight of Syrian and Soviet Jews. Dr. Joseph Kage, national director of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (JIAS), said that since 1945 the country has taken in 95,000 Jews, with one-third of Canada's Jews today being postwar immigrants.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, announced today that a delegation of Jewish leaders will meet tomorrow with Secretary of State William P. Rogers in Washington to discuss current problems faced by Jews in the Soviet Union. The delegation will include Max Fisher, president of the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds; Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry; and Stein.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--The Haifa Journalists Association will award honorary membership to the Swiss-Jewish author, Hans Habe, who is due here May 2 as a guest of the government.



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The Israeli display at the Air Show covers an indoor area of 260 square meters and an outdoor area of 700 square meters. The Israeli exhibit was formally welcomed at the opening by Premier Alfred Kubel of Lower Saxony and by Dr. Karstein Rohwedder, State Secretary of the Lower Saxony Finance Ministry.

GOLDMANN SAYS ISRAEL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT EXERT PRESSURE ON WJC

LONDON, April 24 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said today that he was compelled to correct "inaccurate assertions" about the WJC by Jack Winocour who resigned last week as director of its information department in London. Winocour attributed his resignation to the alleged usurpation of the WJC's independence by the Israeli government. Dr. Goldmann said, "In my long years as president of the WJC, I have never witnessed any attempt on the part of the Israeli authorities to enforce an attitude on the WJC leadership."

Dr. Goldmann referred specifically to the issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, a subject on which his own expressed views conflicted with those of the World Zionist Organization Executive, leading to the withdrawal of the WZO's invitation to him to address the 28th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem last Jan. Dr. Goldmann stressed the invitation was withdrawn by the Jerusalem members of the Executive, not by the government of Israel. "The whole incident concerned me personally and had nothing to do with the WJC," he said.

"The government of Israel," Dr. Goldmann continued, "is obviously interested in a large immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, but it is not true that they have ever demanded the immigration of all Soviet Jews. The Israeli government has always supported the demand of the WJC and other Jewish organizations that those Jews who wish to remain in the USSR be given the right to live as a Jewish minority and to develop their own religious and cultural life," he said.

Dr. Goldmann said that while the Israeli people are represented in the WJC, the government of Israel holds no official position within that organization, the large majority of which is comprised of representatives of 62 diaspora communities and organizations.

DAVID MARKISH BEGINS HUNGER STRIKE

TEL AVIV, April 24 (JTA)--David Markish, son of the late poet Peretz Markish who was a victim of the Stalin purge of Jewish intellectuals in 1952, has started a hunger strike in his Moscow home to protest the continued refusal of Soviet authorities to grant him and his mother exit visas to go to Israel.

Markish informed Maariv of his latest action in a telephone conversation from Moscow. He also gave the names of six Jewish painters who he said were ousted from the Russian Artists Association after they applied for exit visas. The six ousted artists, according to Markish, are Lev Sverski, Lev Podolsky, Yuri Krasni, Vladimir Grigorovitz, Ahron April and Tatyana Novozilova.

Markish's wife, Mrs. Irina Markish, left Israel for the US yesterday to rally support on behalf of her husband and mother-in-law, Mrs. Esther Markish.

ABANDONMENT OF TRADITIONAL VALUES AND OPTING FOR MIDDLE CLASS NORMS LEADS TO BREAKDOWN OF CLASSICAL JEWISH FAMILY

COLLEGE PARK, Md., April 24 (JTA)--The Jewish community is endangered by a "vicious circle" in which "the weakened Jewish family leads to a weakened Jewish identity which leads to a weakened Jewish family." This warning, sounded by Dr. Mervin Verbit, professor of sociology at Brooklyn College, emerged as the dominant concern this weekend at a B'nai B'rith conference on the Jewish family, the first national assembly of its kind.

The "breakdown" in the traditional close-knit unity of the classical Jewish family, creating problems of growing infidelity, divorce, intermarriage, drug addiction and sexual liberalism, were attributed by conference speakers to "middle-class" Jews having opted for the "middle-class norms" of their environment, abandoning traditional Jewish norms--like that of the cohesive family unit--in the process.

The sociologists, theologians and educators who addressed the major conference sessions, held on the University of Maryland campus, agreed that restoring the behavior patterns of the classical Jewish family, which made it "the primary force for transmitting Judaism and Jewishness from one generation to the next," was fundamental to the future of a viable Jewish community. A selected group of 200 persons from 26 states and Canada--teenagers and under-thirties among them--are participating in the conference.

Sin Of Boredom

In charting the decline of the American Jewish family, Dr. Verbit noted the "well motivated but ill advised" efforts of second generation Jews. The children of immigrants, they had tried to reshape the nature of their Jewishness to make it more acceptable to their children. But the blurring of Jewish distinctiveness had not proved attractive to many Jewish youth, he said.

The same emphasis on renewing the Jewish family as the vehicle of Jewish continuity was made by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Dr. Louis L. Kaplan, former president of the Baltimore Hebrew College. "Judaism is a home-grown commitment," Dr. Heschel asserted. "The real sanctuary is the home, the synagogue is an auxiliary. The tendency in American Jewish life to localize Judaism in the synagogue threatens to destroy the vitality and unique relevance of Judaism." Dr. Heschel said the widening gap between parents and children and the rise of the drug culture was partly the result of the sin of boredom.

Dr. Kaplan, who is chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland, warned against parents allowing themselves "to be cowed by the unwarranted denunciation of their children." He said that parents "have been too ready to accept the charge of hypocrisy levelled against them by a generation of students with its own share of dishonesty."

BORIS KOCHUBIEVSKY, IRINA MARKISH IN U.S. ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWRY

NEW YORK, April 24 (JTA)--Boris Kochubievsky and Mrs. Irina Markish, two Soviet Jews who won acclaim for their successful struggle to leave the Soviet Union, arrived in New York yesterday afternoon from Israel. On debarking from the Eilat plane, Kochubievsky said "I come here to reawaken the American Jewish community in the fight for Soviet Jewry, because the period of time left in our battle may not be long."

He said that at any time "we may return to a period of Stalinism and therefore the fact that thousands (of Jews) are coming out now does not

mean we have attained victory. It is most urgent to double our efforts so that many more can come to Israel." Kochubievsky added that he had come to participate in the National Solidarity Day for Soviet Jewry April 30.

Mrs. Markish, daughter-in-law of the famed Jewish author, Peretz Markish, who was executed by the Soviet government in 1952, said she had come here to continue the battle so that her husband, David, and her mother-in-law, Esther Markish, can join her in Israel. Kochubievsky and Mrs. Markish will spend three weeks in the US.

FRANCO-ISRAELI AMITY STRESSED AT INAUGURATION OF FRANCE HOUSE

JERUSALEM, April 24 (JTA)--Political differences between France and Israel were submerged here tonight and both nations' dedication to the principles of "Liberty, equality and personal dignity" were stressed at ceremonies inaugurating France House on the Hebrew University campus. Addressing the gathering that included Cabinet Ministers and a delegation of the Friends of the Hebrew University in France, were Louis Joxe, representing the French government; Shlomo Hillel, Israel's Minister of Police, representing the Israeli government and Mayor Teddy Kollek.

All but forgotten was the political storm that developed two weeks ago when French authorities objected to the official presence of Kollek at the opening of a Paris exhibit to take place here tomorrow night. The mayor referred to the episode in passing when he noted that the standing ovation he received tonight indicated that it was closed. The objections stemmed from French fears that Kollek's appearance in his official capacity might be interpreted as recognition by France of Israel's sovereignty over united Jerusalem. Kollek will speak at the opening.

Israel Deserves Peace With Neighbors

Joxe, a former Deputy Premier of France, stressed the cultural significance of France House and praised the Hebrew University. His reference to politics was limited to the observation that after a history filled with suffering, the Jewish State deserved peace and cooperation with its neighbors.

Hillel referred directly to Franco-Israeli difficulties and expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would improve. He called on France to remember the words of Montesquieu that small countries must fight for their independence more frequently because they are exposed to destruction more often than large countries. He asked France not to demand from Israel what she does not demand from other countries.

An honorary doctorate was bestowed by the Hebrew University on Prof. Raymond Aron, a French Jewish philosopher and historian who was expelled by the Vichy regime during World War II. The degree was presented on behalf of the university's Senate by Prof. Shmuel Aizenstadt.

TWO ISRAELI CIVILIANS KILLED

TEL AVIV, April 24 (JTA)--Two Israeli civilians were killed yesterday when their vehicle struck a plastic mine planted on a dirt road near Kibbutz Ein Hashlosa adjacent to the Gaza Strip. The victims were identified as Nathan Taft of Rehovot and Tzvi Balta of Tel Aviv. Security forces are investigating the mining which occurred near the Deir el Balah and Khan Yunis refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

Arab laborers predominate in the Jerusalem building trade. Arabs comprise 7800 of the 11,300 building workers employed in the city.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

SANTIAGO (JTA)--An Egyptian government leader asked the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to condemn Israel for allegedly obstructing a reopening of the Suez Canal. Mohamed Abdullaah Merzbah, Deputy Premier and Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade, said Friday that the canal is closed because of Israeli occupation of Egyptian territory. Another speaker, Chou Hua-min of China, reiterated that his countrymen support the Palestinians and other Arabs against American-Israeli "aggression."

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LONDON (JTA)--Four Jewish prisoners at Potma in the Mordovian Republic--Boris Penson, Hillel Shur, Arkady Shpilberg and Lassal Kaminsky--were illegally removed from that camp April 4 and confined to the prison in Saransk, also in the Mordovian Republic, apparently to isolate them, according to Jewish sources in the Soviet Union. The four were sentenced to terms in a labor camp, not a prison. The sources also reported that 309 Soviet Jews have signed an appeal to Jewish communities and organizations for help in securing visas to Israel. Many of them have lost their jobs because of this and are under surveillance; others have been interrogated and warned but have signed anyway. The signers are from Moscow, Wilna, Riga, Tallin, Kharkov, Kiev, Leningrad, Kishinev, Minsk, Sverdlovsk and Rostov.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--The Presidium of Agudath Israel of America has asked members of the New York State Assembly to vote against ratification of the women's equal rights amendment to the Constitution. The Orthodox Jewish movement claimed that this amendment would "mandate the conscription of women into the armed services," and declared that "this would be a severe setback to the moral tone of our nation's youth as well as to the moral climate of our entire society." The State Senate has already approved ratification of the amendment and Agudath Israel hopes to be able to defeat it in the lower chamber. Agudath Israel noted that the national director of Selective Service, Dr. Curtis Tarr, stated officially on April 7 that women would be automatically drafted into the Armed Service if the amendment in its present language is ratified.

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COPENHAGEN (JTA)--Some 60,000 visitors came to the Swedish Historical Museum to see the exhibition of archaeological findings in the Masada region of Israel, according to the director of the museum. He termed it one of the museum's biggest successes noting that some 100,000 people visit the museum annually. The exhibition closed last Sunday.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Haifa University is conducting a study to find out why about 25 percent of its Arab students drop out at the end of their first year. Eliezer Rafaell, vice-president of the university, said one explanation of the high drop-out rate is due to the difficulties in the transition from Arabic-speaking schools in the sheltered social climate of the traditional Arab community to the sophisticated environment of a modern Hebrew-speaking university. Another difficulty, he noted, was the need for many Arab students to travel long distances from their villages to Haifa because of the shortage of accommodations in town. Jewish home-owners, Rafaell said, are reluctant to rent rooms to Arab students and Arabs do not usually take in lodgers.

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BONN (JTA)--The desecration last weekend of the Jewish monument and gravestones on the site of the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp has been condemned by the Central Council of Jews in Germany as "moral treason." In a statement released Sunday, the Council said it was a criminal act and a "shameless provocation" against Jewish victims of the Nazi terror. The statement added that the Council hoped police would find and punish the vandals who painted anti-Semitic slogans on the monument and gravestones because "words of regret alone are not enough." The Minister of Interior of Lower Saxony, Richard Lehnert, condemned the desecration in a telegram last Thursday to the Jewish community and expressed his government's sorrow and regrets. He gave his assurance that everything would be done to find the criminals who painted such slogans such as "Jews Get Out" on the stones.

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AMSTERDAM (JTA)--Dutch television broadcast last night a 30-minute children's program on "The History of the Jewish People and the State of Israel." The program, under the auspices of the Dutch Protestant Church, inclined strongly toward anti-Israel propaganda. The program showed that Jews, expelled from numerous countries, had established their State by killing or expelling 100,000 Arabs, destroying their homes and forcing them to live in refugee camps.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--The Cunard Line has announced that its cruise liner Queen Elizabeth 2 will visit Israel for the first time during Passover, 1973, Israel's 25th anniversary year, and will spend 18 days there as a floating hotel. The 66,000-ton liner will be the largest passenger vessel ever to call at Israeli ports and her stay there--from April 21 to May 8--will be the longest for any cruise ship.

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MONTREAL (JTA)--Some 400 persons gathered at the Spanish-Portuguese synagogue here to commemorate the arrival in 1945 of the first group of Canada's postwar Jewish immigrants. The synagogue's new president, Max Wolofsky, called for better integration of newcomers and expressed concern over the plight of Syrian and Soviet Jews. Dr. Joseph Kage, national director of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (JIAS), said that since 1945 the country has taken in 95,000 Jews, with one-third of Canada's Jews today being postwar immigrants.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, announced today that a delegation of Jewish leaders will meet tomorrow with Secretary of State William P. Rogers in Washington to discuss current problems faced by Jews in the Soviet Union. The delegation will include Max Fisher, president of the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds; Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry; and Stein.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--The Haifa Journalists Association will award honorary membership to the Swiss-Jewish author, Hans Habe, who is due here May 2 as a guest of the government.