



daily news bulletin

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Wednesday, April 26, 1972

No. 81

PROTESTS MOUNT OVER MAJORITY REPORT ABSOLVING HEAD OF NETIVEI NEFT FIRM

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA)--A wave of protests continued to mount today against a government panel's report absolving the managing director of the Netivei Neft oil company of charges of wrongdoing. The protests were directed against the majority of the three-man committee, headed by Supreme Court Justice Albert Vitkon, who found that although Mordechai Friedman, managing director of the government-owned firm, could be faulted for certain administrative irregularities, his dismissal was not warranted.

Hundreds of Hebrew University students signed a letter last night to Premier Golda Meir urging the Cabinet to reject the majority report, signed by Judge Vitkon and industrialist Avraham Kalir, in favor of the dissenting opinion of the third panel member, Reserves Maj. Gen. Meir Zorea. Zorea recommended that Friedman be fired and was critical of Deputy Finance Minister Zvi Dinstein for laxity in overseeing the operations of Netivei Neft.

Earlier, Prof. Natan Rotenstreich, a former Rector of the Hebrew University, and Prof. Shmuel Eisenstadt, dean of the social sciences faculty, accused the committee's majority report of using financial success as a yardstick and neglecting questions of ethical and moral conduct in the Netivei Neft case. The majority report found Friedman not guilty of wrongdoing in the sale, at a large profit, of equipment belonging to a private firm owned by him to another firm closely connected to Netivei Neft.

Rare Instance Of Criticism

The letter from Hebrew U. students stated: "We are infinitely concerned with the possibility that the social and moral norms legitimized by the report are apt to serve as educational guidelines." The students added that even if the conditions reported by the committee majority reflected realism, they could not accept the majority's acquiescence in them.

The government panel released its report last week after four weeks of hearings on charges that the management of Netivei Neft which operates captured Egyptian oil wells in the Sinai was guilty of fraud, bribery, corruption and immoral behavior. The charges, made by a government geologist, were sensationalized in some newspapers. The present public furor over the committee's majority findings is one of the rare instances here in which a Supreme Court Justice has been openly criticized.

The Labor Alignment's Knesset faction meanwhile has invited Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir to render a progress report on the draft of legislation that would tighten controls over state-owned corporations. The Vitkon committee recommended that existing rules be revised but claimed that it was difficult to find enough qualified economists to effectively control every aspect of State corporation activities.

MANY CEYLONESE FEEL DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH ISRAEL WAS A MISTAKE

COPENHAGEN, April 25 (JTA)--The consensus of opinion in Ceylon is that it was a mistake to have

broken diplomatic relations with Israel two years ago but most Ceylonese do not foresee a renewal of relations in the near future. Those sentiments were conveyed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent from Scandinavia during his recent visit to Ceylon.

The correspondent interviewed many government and United Nations officials on the island and members of the Moslem community. All persons interviewed asked not to be identified because of possible political repercussions and reaction from the Arab states. But they expressed disappointment over the lack of economic aid received from the Arab countries and recalled with gratitude Israeli aid missions to Ceylon before the break in 1970 and the opportunity afforded Ceylonese students to study in Israel.

NEARLY 200 TOMBSTONES DESECRATED

TEL AVIV, April 25 (JTA)--Immigrants arriving today from the Soviet Union reported that nearly 200 tombstones were broken or desecrated in Jewish cemeteries in the USSR during the last two weeks. They reported that 130 stones were broken in the Dniepropetrovsk cemetery and another 30 at the cemetery in Nikopol.

MEDICAL ABORTIONS INCREASE IN WAKE OF EPIDEMIC OF GERMAN MEASLES

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA)--An epidemic of German measles during the past two months has brought about a rise of between 30-50 percent in the number of medical abortions performed in Israeli hospitals, it was reported today. The disease can cause death or malformation of an unborn infant if contracted by the mother during the first three months of pregnancy.

Yesterday, the mother of a deformed infant brought suit against her physician whom she accused of failing to diagnose German measles during her pregnancy and consequently did not recommend abortion. Medical abortions are legal in Israel and free for members of the sickfunds. Abortions for non-medical reasons are illegal but no doctors have been prosecuted in recent years for performing them unless they acted negligently or contravened another law.

MOROCCAN PRESS FOCUSES ON CONGRESS

RABAT, Morocco, April 25 (JTA)--A world congress of Moroccan Jews which opened in Israel last March 28 has aroused the interest of the Moroccan press. Newspapers here have quoted large excerpts from the speeches made by participants in the Congress. The opposition newspaper L'Opinion published a lengthy commentary on the Congress today and quoted an interview, published in Maariv, with Ben Simhon, president of the World Association of Moroccan Jews.

Simhon said it wasn't necessary for Israel to try to attract Moroccan Jewish intellectuals and members of the monied classes so that they can become part of the ruling establishment in Israel, and accused the government of failing to build bridges with the 350,000 Moroccan Jews in Israel.

PLANS OFFERED TO RELIEVE HOUSING LAG

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA)--The Knesset

Interior and Finance committees heard proposals yesterday and today to relieve Israel's severe housing shortage and a complaint by Housing Minister Zeev Sharaf that government offices were circumventing a government curb on the construction of public buildings, thereby contributing to the dearth of private dwellings.

Sharaf told the Finance Committee today that there were a record 51,000 building starts in Israel in 1971 compared to half as many in 1968. Avraham Ofer, managing director of Shikun Ovdim, the Histadrut housing company, told the Interior Committee yesterday that an average of 50,000 flats would have to be built each year for the next 10 years and urged that land be made available for the half million new units.

Sharaf said two factors pushed up the price of housing--inflation and the purchase of apartments by foreign residents. He said that since the government put a ban on public building construction as an anti-inflation measure, government offices have been moved into private dwellings, a phenomenon that has doubled in the past year. According to Sharaf, construction standards will be lowered in 1972 and more small flats will be built to cut costs and provide young couples with inexpensive homes.

Appearing yesterday before the Finance Committee, Prof. Haim Barkai of Hebrew University opposed suggestions that government land be sold at cheap prices to contractors. He proposed its sale at regular market prices and direct government subsidies to tenants in special categories such as new immigrants, slum dwellers, young couples and large families. Aharon Becker, a Labor MK, described the housing shortage as the country's biggest economic failure and opposed the sale of government land to the highest bidder. He said that would only benefit the affluent.

FIVE JEWISH SCIENTISTS ORDERED TO REGISTER FOR ACTIVE DUTY

LONDON, April 25 (JTA)--Five young Jewish scientists in Russia, all of them officers in the Red Army Reserve, have been ordered to register for active service although they are not likely to be called to duty in the immediate future, Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported today. All five have applied for exit visas to go to Israel and the effect of their orders will be to reduce their chances of leaving the USSR, the sources said.

The five are Victor Yakhout, Gavriel Shapiro, Michael Kalatchnik, Dan Rozhinski, and Vladimir Lerner. Rozhinski is 36 years old. The others are under 30. Yakhout, who was fired from his teaching post after applying for a visa, was summoned before his local employment committee last week and ordered to find "useful" work or face a prison sentence for parasitism. Like several other unemployed Jewish scientists, Yakhout had been supporting himself by tutoring students in physics.

NEW HEAD OF EAST GERMANY'S NPD IS A FORMER NAZI PARTY MEMBER

BONN, April 25 (JTA)--Prof. Heinrich Homann, a 61-year-old former Nazi Party member who was trained in Moscow after World War II, has been elected chairman of East Germany's National Democratic Party at its recent conference in Potsdam, it was reported here today. Homann replaces Luther Bolz who was party chairman since it was formed 20 years ago.

East Germany's National Democratic Party was established for the purpose of organizing former Nazi officers and party members into a special faction to support the East German regime. The party often uses the vocabulary of Nazi anti-Semitism in

condemning Zionists and the State of Israel. It bears no relation to West Germany's neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) which is bitterly anti-Communist.

SADAT GOING TO MOSCOW THIS WEEK; SAYS USSR HAS REFUSED TO PROVIDE EGYPT WITH WEAPONS IT REQUESTED

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Sadat revealed that the Soviet Union has refused so far to provide Egypt with supersonic Tupolov-22 bombers, air-to-ground missiles and other weapons it has requested. He also disclosed that in addition to arms from the Soviet Union, Egypt was receiving British and French weapons through a third nation.

Sadat did not name the country but Israeli circles are convinced it is Libya which has gotten Centurion tanks from Britain and Mirage jets from France. Although France insists its contract for the Mirages forbids Libya to transfer the planes to a third party, Israelis claim that the planes are indeed intended for Egypt and transferred there by Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, leader of Libya's ruling military junta.

MAPAM WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING IN BULGARIA

TEL AVIV, April 25 (JTA)--The Women's Section of Mapam has been invited to participate in the congress of the International Democratic Women's Organization, a Communist-sponsored group, which opens April 30 in Varna, Bulgaria. Although the invitation was unexpected, the Mapam women will send two delegates with full voting power, it was announced today.

Mapam's political secretary, Naftali Feder, said that coming after years of suspended relations between the international organization and the Mapam women, the invitation doubtlessly has political significance. Mapam is a partner in Israel's Labor Alignment and is represented in the government.

\$1.4M APPROPRIATED TO AID POOR

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JEWISH LEADERS URGE BUSH TO AID JEWS REMAINING IN SYRIA

NEW YORK, April 25 (JTA)--A delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations met today with George Bush, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, to urge "compassionate and humanitarian assistance" on behalf of the remaining 4000 Jews in Syria. At a meeting at the US Mission here, Jacob Stein, chairman of the Presidents Conference, presented "a catalogue of oppression now plaguing the Jews in Syria," and stated that their condition continues to deteriorate.

Stein reported later that Bush expressed deep concern about the reported mistreatment of Jews in Syria and indicated readiness to pursue the matter with appropriate UN officials. The delegation, in addition to Stein, consisted of Phil Baum of the American Jewish Congress; Rabbi Haim Ben Olie of the Syrian Jewish community in New York; William Korey of B'nai B'rith; Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation; and Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Presidents Conference.

They noted that Syrian Jews are subject to arbitrary arrest; in their right to travel inside Syria and absolutely prohibited from travel abroad; restricted in their right to work, to sell their property or pass it on to their heirs; and suffer physical abuse and intimidation in the streets.

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SANTIAGO, Chile, April 25 (JTA)--Asserting that it was unrealistic to overlook political factors in discussing development, an Arab League spokesman told the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) yesterday that Israeli "aggression" compels the Arab states to divert a great percentage of their resources to defense and thwarts the just peace in the Middle East essential for economic development.

The speaker, Yusif el-Bandak, claimed that the closure of the Suez Canal was a direct result of the dangerous tension in the Middle East. He welcomed the participation of China in the Conference and observed that China has never recognized as legal the aggression committed against Palestine. Bandak said seven Arab member states of the Arab League have banded together for the creation of an Arab common market and other steps for industrial and agricultural development.

While the Arab spokesman at UNCTAD was accusing Israel, the Jewish State was warmly praised by the mass circulation newspaper "3A De La Hora." The paper Monday published two pages of photographs and text devoted to Israel, singling out that country as an example for the "Third World" of developing nations. An article signed by the editor, Nora Ferrada, said the secret of Israel's success was that in Israel all worked for the common good.

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But most observers here saw the easing of travel restrictions as nothing more than a consequence of the greatly improved security situation in the Strip. The freedom to travel does not include permission to remain in Israel overnight without special permission. Gaza Strip residents who want to work in Israel will still require permits. The new decision does not apply to persons classified as security risks.

Dayan pointed out that Israel is the only authority in the Strip and therefore has to take care of the population as if it were an Israeli population though they might be foreign citizens. Up to now, Gaza Strip residents were allowed to travel to and from the West Bank and into other Arab countries but had to have special permits and travel over a prescribed route.

Dayan met today with Gaza's Mayor Rashid Shawa who recently called for United Nations protection of the Gaza Strip to prevent Israeli annexation, a statement Israelis considered provocative. But according to Dayan, everyone is entitled to make statements as long as they don't undermine Israel's security.

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Stein was accompanied at the meeting by Max M. Fisher, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, and Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. The three leaders told the JTA they were very much satisfied with their session with Rogers.

Stein said the delegation had expressed concern about the plight of Soviet Jews and that Rogers was "sensitive and concerned" about the matter. They said Rogers "listened attentively" and was "extremely knowledgeable" about the circumstances of Soviet Jews. Rogers said he would communicate the Jewish community's feelings to the President, Stein reported.

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According to the announcement, the device, described as a high resolution fast neutron spectrometer, could be used for a number of other purposes including atomic safeguards and inventory control over fuels used in large atomic power stations. The device can detect the loss of atomic energy and the illicit diversion of nuclear materials from the peaceful purposes for which it was destined. The instrument, which has aroused tremendous interest among scientists, can also be used to safeguard nuclear workers and the public from atomic hazards as the spectrometer could be used in designing neutron shields for nuclear reactors and atomic smashers.

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'Thought It Was Another Religious Group' NEO-NAZIS HOLD RALLY AT HOLIDAY INN

TRENTON, N.J., April 25 (JTA)--The Holiday Inn here played host to a neo-Nazi rally Sunday because "we just thought it was another religious group," the front-desk manager told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. The participants--the White Action Movement, the National Renaissance Party, the Ku Klux Klan and others--were rented a room at the inn under the name of the "Mountain Church of Jesus Christ," reported John Thomson.

He added that once the true identities of the participants became known, "we tried every way possible" to bar them, but found there was "no legal right" to do so since "Mountain Church of Jesus Christ" is apparently the legally registered umbrella name for the group. Besides, Thomson said, spokesmen for the participants threatened to march on the Inn 400-strong, and the Inn was afraid that "someone might get hurt." As it turned out, several celebrants were involved in a scuffle at the Inn's bar that disrupted the "Church" social.

One man, a Philadelphian, was pummeled in a dispute over money with two others, one of whom shouted "I'll kill the Jew bastard." It was not clear if the man was really Jewish; he had come expecting "a beer-and-knockwurst session." A New Yorker and self-admitted Klan member was arrested for disorderly conduct and released on \$100 bail.

At the meeting, which lasted from 6 p.m. to nearly midnight, speeches were made in honor of Hitler's birthday--he would have been 83 last Tuesday--and a two-and-a-half-hour film of the 1934 Nuremberg Rally was shown. After singing the "George Lincoln Rockwell Battle Song" and "Happy Birthday, Dear Fuehrer," the celebrants shouted "Sieg Heil!" and shared a cake bedecked with swastikas.

12 Establishments Reject Group

Anthony Degleris, senior vice president of the 1400-unit Holiday Inn chain, declined comment from his headquarters in State College, Pa., on reports that the White Action Movement will sue the Inn in Bordentown, N.J., for not granting a meeting room. He confirmed, however, that the neo-Nazis had been rejected by 12 establishments--not necessarily all Holiday Inns--before being accepted by the Trenton Inn. (In Bordentown, Inn manager Douglas Neilson refused to discuss the matter.)

Degleris said the Bordentown Inn refused permission because it had received threatening telephone calls and was "responsible for the bodily integrity of our customers and their safety." The Inn feared "open confrontation" if the meeting was held, he contended, but he conceded that there was no known link between the callers and the would-be celebrants. "We have suffered enough, we have been harassed for days," Degleris said ruefully in asking the JTA not to publicize the incident after answering questions for 10 minutes.

ISRAELI'S PROPOSAL FOR MIDEAST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FAVORED BY MCGOVERN

WASHINGTON, April 25 (JTA)--Sen. George S. McGovern (D-S.D.) hopes the Israeli offer to enter a joint effort with neighboring states to attempt solutions of the Middle East economic problems "will be heeded." In a statement made available yesterday, McGovern, a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, welcomed a regional economic development plan for the Middle East which was presented April 19 by Gideon Rafael, Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Conference

on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Santiago, Chile. "Israel is today providing technical assistance for forty-six nations, particularly agricultural assistance," McGovern said, "Her technical assistance programs are widely considered to be very effective and are breaking ground for new understanding and friendship among the less-developed nations."

HUMPHREY SAYS ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWRY MUST BE ON NIXON'S MOSCOW AGENDA

PITTSBURGH, April 25 (JTA)--Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D. Minn.) declared here that "Everything must be done in order to pass in the Congress and in the Senate the resolution which calls upon President Nixon to place the agonizing problem of Soviet Jewry on the agenda during his discussions with the Kremlin leaders this coming May in Moscow."

In a speech at the (Orthodox) Shaare Torah Congregation, the Presidential hopeful asserted that "The heroic militancy of Soviet Jewry is virtually setting a new example of unprecedented human dignity and unsurpassed human courage to all mankind."

Soviet Jews, he said, "are offering a noble and valiant example to the enslaved peoples of the world as to how one is to fight for his rights and how to assert one's human image in those very same places where the mighty revolutionaries were rendered totally helpless cowards with their human personalities totally crushed."

The former Vice-President, who spoke here Sunday night to a full house of 500 persons while secret servicemen kept hundreds of others out for security reasons, also called on Washington to issue immediate "full legal recognition" to Jerusalem as Israel's capital. He protested Israel's having to pay for military materiel while other countries--which he did not name--get it gratis. Rep. William S. Moorhead (D.Pa.) urged the audience to come out en masse on Soviet Jewry Solidarity Day April 30 in support of "the three and a half million Jewish hostages languishing in the shadow of the Kremlin."

RABBI BRANDS JDL IRRESPONSIBLE FOR CALLING FOR MASS ALIYA TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 25 (JTA)--Rabbi Irving Lehrman, president of the Synagogue Council of America, today branded the Jewish Defense League "irresponsible merchants of doom" for exhorting American Jews to emigrate to Israel because a new holocaust could happen in the US. Rabbi Lehrman referred to a JDL advertisement that appeared yesterday in the New York Times announcing an emergency conference to be held May 7 at the McAlpin Hotel to organize the "mass aliya" of American Jews.

In a statement on behalf of the Synagogue Council, the coordinating body of Conservative, Reform and Orthodox Judaism in the US, Rabbi Lehrman said, "After Auschwitz there is no Jew anywhere in the world who can say with certainty 'it cannot happen here.' But the moral of that truth for American Jews, as for all American citizens, is that we must redouble our vigilance to make certain that it will not happen here. For neither Israel, nor the civilized world as we know it could survive such an eventuality in the United States which is still the best hope for mankind."

The JDL said the purpose of the conference will be "to create a private, permanent, non-political mass aliya organization which will think in terms of bringing masses of Jews to Israel."



daily news bulletin

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Wednesday, April 26, 1972

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PROTESTS MOUNT OVER MAJORITY REPORT ABSOLVING HEAD OF NETIVEI NEFT FIRM

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA)--A wave of protests continued to mount today against a government panel's report absolving the managing director of the Netivei Neft oil company of charges of wrongdoing. The protests were directed against the majority of the three-man committee, headed by Supreme Court Justice Albert Vitkon, who found that although Mordechai Friedman, managing director of the government-owned firm, could be faulted for certain administrative irregularities, his dismissal was not warranted.

Hundreds of Hebrew University students signed a letter last night to Premier Golda Meir urging the Cabinet to reject the majority report, signed by Judge Vitkon and industrialist Avraham Kalir, in favor of the dissenting opinion of the third panel member, Reserves Maj. Gen. Meir Zorea. Zorea recommended that Friedman be fired and was critical of Deputy Finance Minister Zvi Dinsteins for laxity in overseeing the operations of Netivei Neft.

Earlier, Prof. Natan Rotenstreich, a former Rector of the Hebrew University, and Prof. Shmuel Eisenstadt, dean of the social sciences faculty, accused the committee's majority report of using financial success as a yardstick and neglecting questions of ethical and moral conduct in the Netivei Neft case. The majority report found Friedman not guilty of wrongdoing in the sale, at a large profit, of equipment belonging to a private firm owned by him to another firm closely connected to Netivei Neft.

Rare Instance Of Criticism

The letter from Hebrew U. students stated: "We are infinitely concerned with the possibility that the social and moral norms legitimized by the report are apt to serve as educational guidelines." The students added that even if the conditions reported by the committee majority reflected realism, they could not accept the majority's acquiescence in them.

The government panel released its report last week after four weeks of hearings on charges that the management of Netivei Neft which operates captured Egyptian oil wells in the Sinai was guilty of fraud, bribery, corruption and immoral behavior. The charges, made by a government geologist, were sensationalized in some newspapers. The present public furor over the committee's majority findings is one of the rare instances here in which a Supreme Court Justice has been openly criticized.

The Labor Alignment's Knesset faction meanwhile has invited Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir to render a progress report on the draft of legislation that would tighten controls over state-owned corporations. The Vitkon committee recommended that existing rules be revised but claimed that it was difficult to find enough qualified economists to effectively control every aspect of State corporation activities.

MANY CEYLONESE FEEL DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH ISRAEL WAS A MISTAKE

COPENHAGEN, April 25 (JTA)--The consensus of opinion in Ceylon is that it was a mistake to have

broken diplomatic relations with Israel two years ago but most Ceylonese do not foresee a renewal of relations in the near future. Those sentiments were conveyed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent from Scandinavia during his recent visit to Ceylon.

The correspondent interviewed many government and United Nations officials on the island and members of the Moslem community. All persons interviewed asked not to be identified because of possible political repercussions and reaction from the Arab states. But they expressed disappointment over the lack of economic aid received from the Arab countries and recalled with gratitude Israeli aid missions to Ceylon before the break in 1970 and the opportunity afforded Ceylonese students to study in Israel.

NEARLY 200 TOMBSTONES DESECRATED

TEL AVIV, April 25 (JTA)--Immigrants arriving today from the Soviet Union reported that nearly 200 tombstones were broken or desecrated in Jewish cemeteries in the USSR during the last two weeks. They reported that 130 stones were broken in the Dniepropetrovsk cemetery and another 30 at the cemetery in Nikopol.

MEDICAL ABORTIONS INCREASE IN WAKE OF EPIDEMIC OF GERMAN MEASLES

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA)--An epidemic of German measles during the past two months has brought about a rise of between 30-50 percent in the number of medical abortions performed in Israeli hospitals, it was reported today. The disease can cause death or malformation of an unborn infant if contracted by the mother during the first three months of pregnancy.

Yesterday, the mother of a deformed infant brought suit against her physician whom she accused of failing to diagnose German measles during her pregnancy and consequently did not recommend abortion. Medical abortions are legal in Israel and free for members of the sickfunds. Abortions for non-medical reasons are illegal but no doctors have been prosecuted in recent years for performing them unless they acted negligently or contravened another law.

MOROCCAN PRESS FOCUSES ON CONGRESS

RABAT, Morocco, April 25 (JTA)--A world congress of Moroccan Jews which opened in Israel last March 28 has aroused the interest of the Moroccan press. Newspapers here have quoted large excerpts from the speeches made by participants in the Congress. The opposition newspaper L'Opinion published a lengthy commentary on the Congress today and quoted an interview, published in Maariv, with Ben Simhon, president of the World Association of Moroccan Jews.

Simhon said it wasn't necessary for Israel to try to attract Moroccan Jewish intellectuals and members of the monied classes so that they can become part of the ruling establishment in Israel, and accused the government of failing to build bridges with the 350,000 Moroccan Jews in Israel.

PLANS OFFERED TO RELIEVE HOUSING LAG

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA)--The Knesset

Interior and Finance committees heard proposals yesterday and today to relieve Israel's severe housing shortage and a complaint by Housing Minister Zeev Sharaf that government offices were circumventing a government curb on the construction of public buildings, thereby contributing to the dearth of private dwellings.

Sharaf told the Finance Committee today that there were a record 51,000 building starts in Israel in 1971 compared to half as many in 1968. Avraham Ofer, managing director of Shikun Ovdim, the Histadrut housing company, told the Interior Committee yesterday that an average of 50,000 flats would have to be built each year for the next 10 years and urged that land be made available for the half million new units.

Sharaf said two factors pushed up the price of housing--inflation and the purchase of apartments by foreign residents. He said that since the government put a ban on public building construction as an anti-inflation measure, government offices have been moved into private dwellings, a phenomenon that has doubled in the past year. According to Sharaf, construction standards will be lowered in 1972 and more small flats will be built to cut costs and provide young couples with inexpensive homes.

Appearing yesterday before the Finance Committee, Prof. Haim Barkai of Hebrew University opposed suggestions that government land be sold at cheap prices to contractors. He proposed its sale at regular market prices and direct government subsidies to tenants in special categories such as new immigrants, slum dwellers, young couples and large families. Aharon Becker, a Labor MK, described the housing shortage as the country's biggest economic failure and opposed the sale of government land to the highest bidder. He said that would only benefit the affluent.

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'Thought It Was Another Religious Group' NEO-NAZIS HOLD RALLY AT HOLIDAY INN

TRENTON, N.J., April 25 (JTA)--The Holiday Inn here played host to a neo-Nazi rally Sunday because "we just thought it was another religious group," the front-desk manager told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. The participants--the White Action Movement, the National Renaissance Party, the Ku Klux Klan and others--were rented a room at the inn under the name of the "Mountain Church of Jesus Christ," reported John Thomson.

He added that once the true identities of the participants became known, "we tried every way possible" to bar them, but found there was "no legal right" to do so since "Mountain Church of Jesus Christ" is apparently the legally registered umbrella name for the group. Besides, Thomson said, spokesmen for the participants threatened to march on the Inn 400-strong, and the Inn was afraid that "someone might get hurt." As it turned out, several celebrants were involved in a scuffle at the Inn's bar that disrupted the "Church" social.

One man, a Philadelphian, was pummeled in a dispute over money with two others, one of whom shouted "I'll kill the Jew bastard." It was not clear if the man was really Jewish; he had come expecting "a beer-and-knockwurst session." A New Yorker and self-admitted Klan member was arrested for disorderly conduct and released on \$100 bail.

At the meeting, which lasted from 6 p.m. to nearly midnight, speeches were made in honor of Hitler's birthday--he would have been 83 last Tuesday--and a two-and-a-half-hour film of the 1934 Nuremberg Rally was shown. After singing the "George Lincoln Rockwell Battle Song" and "Happy Birthday, Dear Fuehrer," the celebrants shouted "Sieg Heil!" and shared a cake bedecked with swastikas.

12 Establishments Reject Group

Anthony Degleris, senior vice president of the 1400-unit Holiday Inn chain, declined comment from his headquarters in State College, Pa., on reports that the White Action Movement will sue the Inn in Bordentown, N.J., for not granting a meeting room. He confirmed, however, that the neo-Nazis had been rejected by 12 establishments--not necessarily all Holiday Inns--before being accepted by the Trenton Inn. (In Bordentown, Inn manager Douglas Neilson refused to discuss the matter.)

Degleris said the Bordentown Inn refused permission because it had received threatening telephone calls and was "responsible for the bodily integrity of our customers and their safety." The Inn feared "open confrontation" if the meeting was held, he contended, but he conceded that there was no known link between the callers and the would-be celebrants. "We have suffered enough, we have been harassed for days," Degleris said ruefully in asking the JTA not to publicize the incident after answering questions for 10 minutes.

ISRAELI'S PROPOSAL FOR MIDEAST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FAVORED BY MCGOVERN

WASHINGTON, April 25 (JTA)--Sen. George S. McGovern (D.S.D.) hopes the Israeli offer to enter a joint effort with neighboring states to attempt solutions of the Middle East economic problems "will be heeded." In a statement made available yesterday, McGovern, a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, welcomed a regional economic development plan for the Middle East which was presented April 19 by Gideon Rafael, Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Conference

on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Santiago, Chile. "Israel is today providing technical assistance for forty-six nations, particularly agricultural assistance," McGovern said, "Her technical assistance programs are widely considered to be very effective and are breaking ground for new understanding and friendship among the less-developed nations."

HUMPHREY SAYS ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWRY MUST BE ON NIXON'S MOSCOW AGENDA

PITTSBURGH, April 25 (JTA)--Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D. Minn.) declared here that "Everything must be done in order to pass in the Congress and in the Senate the resolution which calls upon President Nixon to place the agonizing problem of Soviet Jewry on the agenda during his discussions with the Kremlin leaders this coming May in Moscow."

In a speech at the (Orthodox) Shaare Torah Congregation, the Presidential hopeful asserted that "The heroic militancy of Soviet Jewry is virtually setting a new example of unprecedented human dignity and unsurpassed human courage to all mankind."

Soviet Jews, he said, "are offering a noble and valiant example to the enslaved peoples of the world as to how one is to fight for his rights and how to assert one's human image in those very same places where the mighty revolutionaries were rendered totally helpless cowards with their human personalities totally crushed."

The former Vice-President, who spoke here Sunday night to a full house of 500 persons while secret servicemen kept hundreds of others out for security reasons, also called on Washington to issue immediate "full legal recognition" to Jerusalem as Israel's capital. He protested Israel's having to pay for military materiel while other countries--which he did not name--get it gratis. Rep. William S. Moorhead (D.Pa.) urged the audience to come out en masse on Soviet Jewry Solidarity Day April 30 in support of "the three and a half million Jewish hostages languishing in the shadow of the Kremlin."

RABBI BRANDS JDL IRRESPONSIBLE FOR CALLING FOR MASS ALIYA TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 25 (JTA)--Rabbi Irving Lehrman, president of the Synagogue Council of America, today branded the Jewish Defense League "irresponsible merchants of doom" for exhorting American Jews to emigrate to Israel because a new holocaust could happen in the US. Rabbi Lehrman referred to a JDL advertisement that appeared yesterday in the New York Times announcing an emergency conference to be held May 7 at the McAlpin Hotel to organize the "mass aliya" of American Jews.

In a statement on behalf of the Synagogue Council, the coordinating body of Conservative, Reform and Orthodox Judaism in the US, Rabbi Lehrman said, "After Auschwitz there is no Jew anywhere in the world who can say with certainty 'it cannot happen here.' But the moral of that truth for American Jews, as for all American citizens, is that we must redouble our vigilance to make certain that it will not happen here. For neither Israel, nor the civilized world as we know it could survive such an eventuality in the United States which is still the best hope for mankind."

The JDL said the purpose of the conference will be "to create a private, permanent, non-political mass aliya organization which will think in terms of bringing masses of Jews to Israel."