



# daily news bulletin

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Tuesday, May 16, 1972

No. 95

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### WAS ONCE MEMBER OF NAZI PARTY

#### UN Spokesman Rejects Charge As Trivial

UNITED NATIONS, May 15 (JTA)--A United Nations spokesman has rejected as trivial a charge by a Swedish newspaper that Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, the UN's special Middle East representative, was once a member of a Swedish Nazi Party. The spokesman replied to a charge by the Aftenbladet (Evening Blade), one of Sweden's largest papers, that Dr. Jarring was a parliamentary candidate of the National Unity Party in 1936, when he was 29.

The paper said Dr. Jarring, who is now Sweden's ambassador to the Soviet Union, was active in the party from 1926 to 1939, leaving it one year before entering the Foreign Ministry. The party, according to the Aftenbladet, demanded that Jews be barred from entering Sweden. The UN spokesman said that according to information obtained here--Dr. Jarring is in Moscow--the diplomat joined the youth organization of the Conservative Party in 1926 when it was considered respectable.

Later, however, the youth unit broke from the party and formed a Nazi-oriented organization of its own, he said, and Dr. Jarring left the group in 1937. "Somebody must be pretty hard up for news," the spokesman said, but he was unsure whether Dr. Jarring had left the party before or after it veered far right.

(In Washington, Swedish Embassy press attache Larus Lonnback said he could neither confirm nor deny the Aftenbladet allegations. Today's query by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, he said, was the first he had received.)

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Justin Wyner, president of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston, termed the incident an "outrage" and called for a complete investigation of the incident. He deplored the assault against "a distinguished visitor to Boston who himself endured so much suffering in the Soviet Union as one of the early heroes in the effort of Soviet Jews to obtain their rights or to leave for Israel." Allen Mallenbaum of the Jewish Survival Legion, which was showing Kochubievsky around the city, said "it was a communication problem." The Soviet activist plans to return to Israel later this week.

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They also reported that a gift Bible bearing the signatures of the British Prime Minister, the leader of Britain's parliamentary opposition and 200 members is being held up by Soviet customs authorities. The Bible was sent as a bar mitzvah present to Leonid Slepak, son of the Jewish activist, Vladimir Slepak. According to the boy's grandmother, Bertha Roshkovska, Slepak has gone to the Moscow airport several times to try to get the gift released. Mrs. Roshkovska, who is in London, learned of the matter in a telephone conversation with her son in Moscow.

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## BEN-AHARON'S RESIGNATION SPARKS

### STRIKES BY WORKERS WHO WANT HIM BACK

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA)--A threatened strike that would have shut down Israel's canning industry was averted last night when the Manufacturers Association agreed to a compromise proposed by Premier Golda Meir and accepted earlier by Histadrut's Central Committee. Histadrut's Secretary General Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, who submitted his resignation yesterday in protest against government intervention in the strike, said today that he was taking a few days off at his Kibbutz Givat Chaim home to ponder and possibly reconsider his decision.

Ben-Aharon's resignation was welcomed by centrist and rightist political factions but the Histadrut "strong man" received overwhelming support from workers who urged him to withdraw his resignation. Two hour strikes in support of his stand against government intervention erupted

today in factories and workshops all over Israel and at Lydda Airport. At Ashdod seaport, a hot-bed of labor militancy, workers said they would strike for two hours every day until Ben-Aharon withdraws his resignation.

But the State List, a breakaway faction founded some years ago by former Premier David Ben-Gurion, condemned Ben-Aharon's actions as anti-State and said his resignation could only be welcomed. A similar statement was issued by David Shifman, chairman of the Liberal Party's economic committee. Ben-Aharon's resignation could open a new chapter in labor relations in Israel, the statement said.

At the same time, the messages of support, pouring in from workers committees from Ellat and Timna in the Negev to Safad in Galilee, seemed to pave the way for Ben-Aharon to change his mind without losing face. "Such expressions of support --more than I deserve--compel me to weigh the decision of the labor committees that call on me to return to my post," the Histadrut leader said today.

#### Easy Choice But Not Responsible One

Details of the compromise that averted the cannery strike at the 11th hour were not disclosed this morning. It reportedly included an extension of paid vacations for per diem employees and a 13-year deadline after which per diem employees in the canning plants would gain the status and benefits of monthly employees. The agreement, however, was reportedly restricted to the canning industry.

Though the cannery dispute was settled without serious repercussions for Israel's economy, it revived the ongoing power struggle between the government and Histadrut.

At a Labor Party leadership meeting last night at Mrs. Meir's office in Jerusalem, Ben-Aharon charged that the Party and the government had shown a lack of confidence in Histadrut. He accused the government of taking sides in the dispute. Labor Minister Yosef Almogi challenged Ben-Aharon's contention. He said there were many precedents for government intervention and recalled that the government took the initiative some years ago to settle a dispute between the citrus growers and the agricultural workers union.

Almogi said government intervention in the cannery dispute was urgent because a strike in that sector could set off a chain reaction of industrial strikes. Mrs. Meir reportedly took Ben-Aharon to task for his criticism of the government but urged him to withdraw his resignation which she called an easy choice but not a responsible one.

#### HADASSAH APPEALS FOR RUSSIAN WOMAN PHARMACOLOGIST AND HER DAUGHTER

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)--Mrs. Faye L. Schenk, president of Hadassah, has urged an official of the World Health Organization and the Soviet Minister of Health to intervene on behalf of Paulina Eppelman, the head of pharmacology at the Leningrad Hospital, who has applied for an exit visa for herself and her nine-year-old daughter. According to Mrs. Schenk, the Soviet Jewish pharmacologist was "strictly non-political" until 14 months ago. She was neither a Zionist nor a member of the Communist Party. Then her husband, Michael, a university lecturer in mathematics, attended an academic conference in Sweden and from there he fled to Israel.

"Paulina has been allowed to keep her job," Mrs. Schenk related, "but great pressure has been put on her by colleagues at the hospital to divorce her husband. She has resisted and six times has applied for the exit visas to be reunited with her

husband in Israel." She was rebuffed each time, Mrs. Schenk said. "Meanwhile, the pressures have turned her into a militant Zionist who is now studying Hebrew."

#### Will Soon Go On Hunger Strike

Through correspondence and telephone communications Mrs. Eppelman has told her husband, who is presently in the United States under the auspices of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, that she will soon go on a hunger strike. Several days ago, Michael asked Mrs. Schenk for help. "Every effort is important," he told the Hadassah president. "It has a mounting impact on Soviet officials, more people become aware of the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union, and it encourages the Jews there to keep up their fight for freedom."

Mrs. Schenk responded by appealing to Dr. M. G. Candau, director-general of WHO in Geneva, and to Boris V. Petrovski, Soviet Minister of Health in Moscow. Additional cables urging Petrovski to intercede on humanitarian grounds were sent by Dr. George B. Koelle, vice-president of the International Union of Pharmacology, and Dr. Alfred Gillman, chairman, Department of Pharmacology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

#### TEL AVIV U WARNS IT MAY HAVE TO CLOSE FOR LACK OF FUNDS

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA)--The Tel Aviv University Senate has warned that the university could be forced to close for lack of funds if the government did not increase its contribution. The school's leaders have asked for meetings with Premier Golda Meir and Yigal Allon, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education and Culture. It was learned that unless funds are increased, the university could face a deficit of IL 35 million (\$8.3 million). "In such a state of financial difficulties we hardly see a possibility of continuing the studies," said Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, university president.

#### 5000 IN ISRAEL DAY PARADE

MONTREAL, May 15 (JTA)--More than 5000 persons participated yesterday in Israel Day festivities here sponsored by the Canadian Zionist Federation. Some 2500 marchers took part in the second annual Israel Day parade marking the 24th anniversary of Israel's independence. There were more than 20 floats and six bands and choirs. A rally addressed by the Israeli Ambassador, Theodore Meron, followed at the Sports Arena of Montreal University. Last night 4000 persons attended a Salute to Israel program at the Sports Arena. Similar events were held in Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton.

All Israeli Arabs will be allowed to visit Arab countries, it was announced in the Jerusalem Worker Council's bimonthly journal by Shmuel Toledano, the Premier's adviser on Arab affairs. Until now, only East Jerusalem residents received permission to visit Arab lands; they hold Jordanian citizenship.

West Germany's Interior Minister Hans-Dieter Genscher has proposed honoring those Germans who risked their lives by helping Jews during the Nazi period. He said it was the German people's duty to express recognition of their deeds.

The Bulgarian Communist Party publishing house in Sofia has recently released Itzo Samouilov's biography of Emil Shekerdjiski, relating the life and struggle of the Bulgarian Jewish patriot. The 60th anniversary of the death of Shekerdjiski, one of the greatest resistance heroes killed during a partisan fight, was solemnly celebrated throughout the country.

SPECIAL JTA ANALYSISBEHIND BEN-AHARON'S RESIGNATION

By AMOS BEN-VERED

JTA Middle East Bureau Chief

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA)--In another country the resignation of the head of the largest trade union may not be a national event of primary importance. Not so in Israel where Histadrut has been described as "a state within a state" as long ago as during the British Mandate when the Jewish Agency supposedly was the supreme body representing Jewry here and abroad.

Histadrut, with its tightly organized machinery of bureaucrats and leaders, whose emblem of office is the open necked shirt, has been able virtually to dictate salary conditions for most of the country's economy. It is an axiom in Israel that an employee cannot be dismissed except for crimes or for activities bordering on the criminal. The all powerful workers committees (or shop committees) prevail against everyone--certainly their employer and often also the central Histadrut machinery.

After the establishment of the State, the Cabinet brought the Histadrut somewhat under its control. This was done by appointing loyal and somewhat docile Secretary Generals such as Mordechai Namir and later Aharon Becker. However, the result was that the central institutions of Histadrut fell into disregard and each group of workers dictated their own terms. In these years wildcat strikes were the rule rather than the exception.

Itzhak Ben-Aharon tried to reverse this situation. An ambitious statesman and former Cabinet minister, his main strength is his unmitigated workers ideology--he is a member of the Achdut Haavoda wing of the Labor Party--which seems to have been unaffected by time or the fact that his party now runs the country. His ideology evokes nostalgic echoes and memories in the minds of many oldtime labor leaders. He is generally credited with having brought about the amalgamation of the previously separate labor parties into one large alignment.

Logical Step Under The Circumstances

The industrialists and businessmen in Israel are not considered by most observers to be a real political force. At least half the enterprises are owned by Histadrut or the State. Private undertakings have to rely on government credits, subsidies and incentives to survive at all. They are, therefore, not likely to cross daggers with the government. The latter, on the other hand, being one of the largest employers in the country, has a vital stake in everything that goes on. This is why Histadrut even in this labor-run country should in the opinion of the Cabinet play second fiddle to the government.

Once before a Histadrut Secretary General tried to challenge the power of the government. This was Pinhas Lavon, a dozen years ago. The so-called "Lavon affair," which utterly destroyed his political career, is seen by some observers as having been uncovered in the course of the ensuing power struggle between him and David Ben-Gurion.

Ben-Aharon, too, tried to again give the Histadrut the stature he sought. He did so by joining the workers in their claims whenever he could not win them over. Conditions at Ashdod port, for example, are quiet now as a result of Histadrut having adopted the workers demands.

However, the dispute in the food canning industry, which seemed to Ben-Aharon to be a legitimate cause, became a testing case for the government and for the industrialists who work under its tacit protection. First one minister and then an entire

battery of ministers headed by Premier Golda Meir tried to mediate--despite a clearcut decision by the Histadrut Central Committee that the workers' case is a just one and their strike action will be supported.

This was too much for Ben-Aharon. He realized that if the government won in the steps taken against the Histadrut--as it did--the latter would revert to being just another organ or branch of the Cabinet. If the government lost, it would try again what had been attempted a dozen years before--destroy the power of Histadrut. His decision to resign may not have solved the problem. But it was a logical step for a leader who sees no way out of an impasse into which he has been driven by circumstances.

PILOT OF HIJACKED PLANE SAYS  
TERRORISTS OPENED FIRE FIRST

BRUSSELS, May 15 (JTA)--A State prosecutor said today that airline security regulations were violated and a judicial investigation will be launched into last week's hijacking of a Sabena jet by four Palestinian terrorists. Capt. Reginald Levy, pilot of the jet, testified at a hearing today that it was the terrorists who opened fire first when 18 Israeli paratroopers disguised as maintenance men, stormed the plane to liberate the 100 hostages at Lydda Airport last Wednesday.

Premier Gaston Eyskens said at the weekly Council of Ministers meeting yesterday that the Belgian government was at no time a party to Israeli actions that liberated the jet. "The Belgian government put its confidence in the Israeli authorities and at no time was it aware of the intentions of the Israeli government or military," he said.

Eyskens expressed "astonishment" and "indignation" that "certain persons accuse the Belgian government" of collusion with the Israeli authorities. He referred to accusations broadcast by the Cairo-based El Fatah radio. The Belgian Premier said that foreign affairs and communications personnel were sent to Tel Aviv only to help the passengers held hostage aboard the jet. He said the Belgian government remained neutral in the Middle East conflict and endeavored to maintain good relations with both sides.

It was learned today that Sabena has been urged by numerous persons to institute more stringent security measures. Many have suggested that it follow the example of the Israeli and Ethiopian airlines and have armed guards on all civilian flights.

43,000 STUDENTS STRIKE VS. TUITION HIKES

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA)--About 43,000 students from all of Israel's institutions of higher learning, went on strike today to protest a raise in tuition fees from \$250 to \$600 recommended by the Ministry of Education. Most campuses were shut down. Libraries were closed and seminars were banned as student leaders took to microphones to exhort their fellow students. Leaders of the National Students Union met with representatives of the Education Ministry at noon.

HEBREW LESSONS IN GAZA STRIP SCHOOLS

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan paid one of his periodic visits to Gaza Strip towns today and got an unusual request from the mayor of one of them. Mayor Saleiman el Azeiza of Der El Balah said he wanted Hebrew lessons introduced in the local schools and asked that local teachers be trained in the subject. Mayor el Azeiza and the mayor of Khan Yunis also asked for financial assistance to carry out municipal development projects.

## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY STRESSES NIXON ROLE FOR SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)--Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, and Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, declared today that "on the eve of President Nixon's historic trip to Moscow, we wish to emphatically stress that we expect the President to raise the issue of Soviet Jewry on the highest level. We know that at this time nothing short of the President's personal intervention will be acceptable to Soviet Jews. This is the message that many of them have conveyed to us and to the White House."

This statement was issued following the morning session of an emergency National Leadership Assembly for Soviet Jews which drew top Jewish leaders from across the nation. The Assembly was sponsored by the NCSJ and the Conference of Presidents. All sessions of the Assembly were closed to the public. Delegates discussed tactics in response to recent reports of a deteriorating situation with respect to Soviet Jews, including new trials of Jewish activists. The expectations and implications of Nixon's upcoming trip were of prime concern to the delegates.

Deputy Secretary of State for European Affairs, Richard T. Davies, representing the administration, assured the Assembly that Nixon is being kept informed about the most recent wave of anti-Jewish activity in the Soviet Union. Davies, in response to specific questions about what Nixon would do, indicated that "your concern would be represented in the appropriate way in Moscow" especially in light of recent harassment of scores of Jewish activists prior to the US-USSR summit meeting.

### White Book Revealed

"A White Book of Exodus" written by Soviet Jews and recently smuggled out of the Soviet Union was given to Davies by Maass, to be delivered to Secretary of State William P. Rogers. The book documents the harassments and oppression of Soviet Jews during 1971-72. Jerry Goodman, NCSJ executive director, stated that this "White Book" contains "new information never before disclosed and is the best collection of samizdat (underground literature) to have come out of the Soviet Union from the Jewish activist movement." The names of the compilers of the book were withheld for security purposes.

In remarks prepared for delivery to the Assembly, Vitaly Svechinsky, a founder of the Jewish activist movement in the Soviet Union and chairman of a newly created committee of former Soviet activists in Israel, stressed the importance of Nixon's trip to Moscow as seen by Soviet Jews. Svechinsky, who is in regular contact with former colleagues in the USSR, relayed an urgent appeal from Jews in Moscow who consider Nixon's trip the single most important opportunity for a redress of present Soviet policy towards its Jewish minority.

Rep. Jack F. Kemp (R.-C. N.Y.), announced that a petition formulated by the NCSJ, addressed to Nixon, and urging the President to place Soviet Jewry on the agenda for his Moscow talks, was signed by 143 members of Congress from almost every state in the Union. A similar petition signed by all participants in the Assembly, and representing close to 1.4 million signatures, was presented to Davies.

### RABBIS OPPOSED TO NIXON

BOSTON, May 15 (JTA)--The Massachusetts

Board of Rabbis, calling President Nixon's latest Vietnam offensive unconstitutional and immoral, will stage a nonviolent demonstration Wednesday at the John F. Kennedy Federal Building. Scoring Nixon's mining of Haiphong harbor and air strikes against North Vietnam, the board said it "condemns the escalation," which it called a "unilateral act of aggression" and "virtually a declaration of war." Nixon's "blockade," the board charged, constitutes a "usurpation of power" and "irresponsible and bellicose brinkmanship." The board, representing all three branches of Judaism, is largely Conservative and Reform.

Meanwhile, in New York Nixon won strong support today for what two Orthodox Jewish organizations termed his efforts to end the Vietnam war. The National Council of Young Israel in a telegram stated: "We fully support your position in Vietnam. Your stand is in the interest of all free people walking the face of this earth." In another telegram, the Rabbinical Alliance of America said its members "pray that you may succeed in this determination to bring about a just peace ending aggression against nations and peoples."

### ADMIRAL STRAUSS NAMED HONORARY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)--Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, former chairman of the US Atomic Energy Commission, has been named honorary national chairman of the American Friends of Tel Aviv University. The designation of Admiral Strauss was announced by Victor M. Carter, president of the American Friends. Admiral Strauss, the father of the International Atomic Energy Agency, headed the Atomic Energy Commission from 1953 to 1958 and served as US Secretary of Commerce from 1958 to 1959. He has played a leading role in stimulating scientific and educational advances, and has been a supporter of higher education in the State of Israel.

In making the announcement, Carter expressed "profound gratification" at Admiral Strauss's acceptance of the post of honorary national chairman. Professor Yuval Ne'eman, president of Tel Aviv University, cited Admiral Strauss as a "key force in strengthening educational and scientific progress throughout the world."

In accepting his new position, Admiral Strauss underlined the unique role played by Tel Aviv University in the educational and cultural life of Israel. "I am happy," Admiral Strauss said "to identify myself with a university that deserves to grow and flourish, a university that is making an indispensable contribution to science, to education and to the State of Israel."

### JEWS IN UKRAINE HOLD KADDISH SERVICES

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)--Jews in six small towns of the Carpathian region of the Ukraine have organized memorial services and will say kaddish twice a day until May 20 in memory of those Jews killed by the Nazis during World War II, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today. The Conference also said it had just learned that two weeks ago, Raiza Palatnik had been placed in a punishment cell for a seven day period for refusing to work during "subbotnik"--a period when Soviet citizens are supposed to volunteer to work without pay.

The deportation hearing for Mrs. Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan was to have resumed today but was put off until Friday. Former prisoners are due to testify against her at the offices of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.





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husband in Israel." She was rebuffed each time, Mrs. Schenk said. "Meanwhile, the pressures have turned her into a militant Zionist who is now studying Hebrew."

#### Will Soon Go On Hunger Strike

Through correspondence and telephone communications Mrs. Eppelman has told her husband, who is presently in the United States under the auspices of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, that she will soon go on a hunger strike. Several days ago, Michael asked Mrs. Schenk for help. "Every effort is important," he told the Hadassah president. "It has a mounting impact on Soviet officials, more people become aware of the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union, and it encourages the Jews there to keep up their fight for freedom."

Mrs. Schenk responded by appealing to Dr. M. G. Candau, director-general of WHO in Geneva, and to Boris V. Petrovski, Soviet Minister of Health in Moscow. Additional cables urging Petrovski to intercede on humanitarian grounds were sent by Dr. George B. Koelle, vice-president of the International Union of Pharmacology, and Dr. Alfred Gillman, chairman, Department of Pharmacology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

#### TEL AVIV U WARNS IT MAY HAVE TO CLOSE FOR LACK OF FUNDS

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA)--The Tel Aviv University Senate has warned that the university could be forced to close for lack of funds if the government did not increase its contribution. The school's leaders have asked for meetings with Premier Golda Meir and Yigal Allon, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education and Culture. It was learned that unless funds are increased, the university could face a deficit of IL 35 million (\$8.3 million). "In such a state of financial difficulties we hardly see a possibility of continuing the studies," said Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, university president.

#### 5000 IN ISRAEL DAY PARADE

MONTREAL, May 15 (JTA)--More than 5000 persons participated yesterday in Israel Day festivities here sponsored by the Canadian Zionist Federation. Some 2500 marchers took part in the second annual Israel Day parade marking the 24th anniversary of Israel's independence. There were more than 20 floats and six bands and choirs. A rally addressed by the Israeli Ambassador, Theodore Meron, followed at the Sports Arena of Montreal University. Last night 4000 persons attended a Salute to Israel program at the Sports Arena. Similar events were held in Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton.

All Israeli Arabs will be allowed to visit Arab countries, it was announced in the Jerusalem Worker Council's bimonthly journal by Shmuel Toledano, the Premier's adviser on Arab affairs. Until now, only East Jerusalem residents received permission to visit Arab lands; they hold Jordanian citizenship.

West Germany's Interior Minister Hans-Dieter Genscher has proposed honoring those Germans who risked their lives by helping Jews during the Nazi period. He said it was the German people's duty to express recognition of their deeds.

The Bulgarian Communist Party publishing house in Sofia has recently released Itzo Samouilov's biography of Emil Shekerdjiski, relating the life and struggle of the Bulgarian Jewish patriot. The 60th anniversary of the death of Shekerdjiski, one of the greatest resistance heroes killed during a partisan fight, was solemnly celebrated throughout the country.

SPECIAL JTA ANALYSISBEHIND BEN-AHARON'S RESIGNATION

By AMOS BEN-VERED

JTA Middle East Bureau Chief

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA)--In another country the resignation of the head of the largest trade union may not be a national event of primary importance. Not so in Israel where Histadrut has been described as "a state within a state" as long ago as during the British Mandate when the Jewish Agency supposedly was the supreme body representing Jewry here and abroad.

Histadrut, with its tightly organized machinery of bureaucrats and leaders, whose emblem of office is the open necked shirt, has been able virtually to dictate salary conditions for most of the country's economy. It is an axiom in Israel that an employee cannot be dismissed except for crimes or for activities bordering on the criminal. The all powerful workers committees (or shop committees) prevail against everyone--certainly their employer and often also the central Histadrut machinery.

After the establishment of the State, the Cabinet brought the Histadrut somewhat under its control. This was done by appointing loyal and somewhat docile Secretary Generals such as Mordechai Namir and later Aharon Becker. However, the result was that the central institutions of Histadrut fell into disregard and each group of workers dictated their own terms. In these years wildcat strikes were the rule rather than the exception.

Itzhak Ben-Aharon tried to reverse this situation. An ambitious statesman and former Cabinet minister, his main strength is his unmitigated workers ideology--he is a member of the Achdut Haavoda wing of the Labor Party--which seems to have been unaffected by time or the fact that his party now runs the country. His ideology evokes nostalgic echoes and memories in the minds of many oldtime labor leaders. He is generally credited with having brought about the amalgamation of the previously separate labor parties into one large alignment.

Logical Step Under The Circumstances

The industrialists and businessmen in Israel are not considered by most observers to be a real political force. At least half the enterprises are owned by Histadrut or the State. Private undertakings have to rely on government credits, subsidies and incentives to survive at all. They are, therefore, not likely to cross daggers with the government. The latter, on the other hand, being one of the largest employers in the country, has a vital stake in everything that goes on. This is why Histadrut even in this labor-run country should in the opinion of the Cabinet play second fiddle to the government.

Once before a Histadrut Secretary General tried to challenge the power of the government. This was Pinhas Lavon, a dozen years ago. The so-called "Lavon affair," which utterly destroyed his political career, is seen by some observers as having been uncovered in the course of the ensuing power struggle between him and David Ben-Gurion.

Ben-Aharon, too, tried to again give the Histadrut the stature he sought. He did so by joining the workers in their claims whenever he could not win them over. Conditions at Ashdod port, for example, are quiet now as a result of Histadrut having adopted the workers demands.

However, the dispute in the food canning industry, which seemed to Ben-Aharon to be a legitimate cause, became a testing case for the government and for the industrialists who work under its tacit protection. First one minister and then an entire

battery of ministers headed by Premier Golda Meir tried to mediate--despite a clearcut decision by the Histadrut Central Committee that the workers' case is a just one and their strike action will be supported.

This was too much for Ben-Aharon. He realized that if the government won in the steps taken against the Histadrut--as it did--the latter would revert to being just another organ or branch of the Cabinet. If the government lost, it would try again what had been attempted a dozen years before--destroy the power of Histadrut. His decision to resign may not have solved the problem. But it was a logical step for a leader who sees no way out of an impasse into which he has been driven by circumstances.

PILOT OF HIJACKED PLANE SAYS  
TERRORISTS OPENED FIRE FIRST

BRUSSELS, May 15 (JTA)--A State prosecutor said today that airline security regulations were violated and a judicial investigation will be launched into last week's hijacking of a Sabena jet by four Palestinian terrorists. Capt. Reginald Levy, pilot of the jet, testified at a hearing today that it was the terrorists who opened fire first when 18 Israeli paratroopers disguised as maintenance men, stormed the plane to liberate the 100 hostages at Lydda Airport last Wednesday.

Premier Gaston Eyskens said at the weekly Council of Ministers meeting yesterday that the Belgian government was at no time a party to Israeli actions that liberated the jet. "The Belgian government put its confidence in the Israeli authorities and at no time was it aware of the intentions of the Israeli government or military," he said.

Eyskens expressed "astonishment" and "indignation" that "certain persons accuse the Belgian government" of collusion with the Israeli authorities. He referred to accusations broadcast by the Cairo-based El Fatah radio. The Belgian Premier said that foreign affairs and communications personnel were sent to Tel Aviv only to help the passengers held hostage aboard the jet. He said the Belgian government remained neutral in the Middle East conflict and endeavored to maintain good relations with both sides.

It was learned today that Sabena has been urged by numerous persons to institute more stringent security measures. Many have suggested that it follow the example of the Israeli and Ethiopian airlines and have armed guards on all civilian flights.

43,000 STUDENTS STRIKE VS. TUITION HIKES

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA)--About 43,000 students from all of Israel's institutions of higher learning, went on strike today to protest a raise in tuition fees from \$250 to \$600 recommended by the Ministry of Education. Most campuses were shut down. Libraries were closed and seminars were banned as student leaders took to microphones to exhort their fellow students. Leaders of the National Students Union met with representatives of the Education Ministry at noon.

HEBREW LESSONS IN GAZA STRIP SCHOOLS

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan paid one of his periodic visits to Gaza Strip towns today and got an unusual request from the mayor of one of them. Mayor Saleiman el Azeiza of Der El Balah said he wanted Hebrew lessons introduced in the local schools and asked that local teachers be trained in the subject. Mayor el Azeiza and the mayor of Khan Yunis also asked for financial assistance to carry out municipal development projects.

## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY STRESSES NIXON ROLE FOR SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)--Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, and Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, declared today that "on the eve of President Nixon's historic trip to Moscow, we wish to emphatically stress that we expect the President to raise the issue of Soviet Jewry on the highest level. We know that at this time nothing short of the President's personal intervention will be acceptable to Soviet Jews. This is the message that many of them have conveyed to us and to the White House."

This statement was issued following the morning session of an emergency National Leadership Assembly for Soviet Jews which drew top Jewish leaders from across the nation. The Assembly was sponsored by the NCSJ and the Conference of Presidents. All sessions of the Assembly were closed to the public. Delegates discussed tactics in response to recent reports of a deteriorating situation with respect to Soviet Jews, including new trials of Jewish activists. The expectations and implications of Nixon's upcoming trip were of prime concern to the delegates.

Deputy Secretary of State for European Affairs, Richard T. Davies, representing the administration, assured the Assembly that Nixon is being kept informed about the most recent wave of anti-Jewish activity in the Soviet Union. Davies, in response to specific questions about what Nixon would do, indicated that "your concern would be represented in the appropriate way in Moscow" especially in light of recent harassment of scores of Jewish activists prior to the US-USSR summit meeting.

### White Book Revealed

"A White Book of Exodus" written by Soviet Jews and recently smuggled out of the Soviet Union was given to Davies by Maass, to be delivered to Secretary of State William P. Rogers. The book documents the harassments and oppression of Soviet Jews during 1971-72. Jerry Goodman, NCSJ executive director, stated that this "White Book" contains "new information never before disclosed and is the best collection of samizdat (underground literature) to have come out of the Soviet Union from the Jewish activist movement." The names of the compilers of the book were withheld for security purposes.

In remarks prepared for delivery to the Assembly, Vitaly Svechinsky, a founder of the Jewish activist movement in the Soviet Union and chairman of a newly created committee of former Soviet activists in Israel, stressed the importance of Nixon's trip to Moscow as seen by Soviet Jews. Svechinsky, who is in regular contact with former colleagues in the USSR, relayed an urgent appeal from Jews in Moscow who consider Nixon's trip the single most important opportunity for a redress of present Soviet policy towards its Jewish minority.

Rep. Jack F. Kemp (R.-C. N.Y.), announced that a petition formulated by the NCSJ, addressed to Nixon, and urging the President to place Soviet Jewry on the agenda for his Moscow talks, was signed by 143 members of Congress from almost every state in the Union. A similar petition signed by all participants in the Assembly, and representing close to 1.4 million signatures, was presented to Davies.

### RABBIS OPPOSED TO NIXON

BOSTON, May 15 (JTA)--The Massachusetts

Board of Rabbis, calling President Nixon's latest Vietnam offensive unconstitutional and immoral, will stage a nonviolent demonstration Wednesday at the John F. Kennedy Federal Building. Scoring Nixon's mining of Haiphong harbor and air strikes against North Vietnam, the board said it "condemns the escalation," which it called a "unilateral act of aggression" and "virtually a declaration of war." Nixon's "blockade," the board charged, constitutes a "usurpation of power" and "irresponsible and bellicose brinkmanship." The board, representing all three branches of Judaism, is largely Conservative and Reform.

Meanwhile, in New York Nixon won strong support today for what two Orthodox Jewish organizations termed his efforts to end the Vietnam war. The National Council of Young Israel in a telegram stated: "We fully support your position in Vietnam. Your stand is in the interest of all free people walking the face of this earth." In another telegram, the Rabbinical Alliance of America said its members "pray that you may succeed in this determination to bring about a just peace ending aggression against nations and peoples."

### ADMIRAL STRAUSS NAMED HONORARY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)--Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, former chairman of the US Atomic Energy Commission, has been named honorary national chairman of the American Friends of Tel Aviv University. The designation of Admiral Strauss was announced by Victor M. Carter, president of the American Friends. Admiral Strauss, the father of the International Atomic Energy Agency, headed the Atomic Energy Commission from 1953 to 1958 and served as US Secretary of Commerce from 1958 to 1959. He has played a leading role in stimulating scientific and educational advances, and has been a supporter of higher education in the State of Israel.

In making the announcement, Carter expressed "profound gratification" at Admiral Strauss's acceptance of the post of honorary national chairman. Professor Yuval Ne'eman, president of Tel Aviv University, cited Admiral Strauss as a "key force in strengthening educational and scientific progress throughout the world."

In accepting his new position, Admiral Strauss underlined the unique role played by Tel Aviv University in the educational and cultural life of Israel. "I am happy," Admiral Strauss said "to identify myself with a university that deserves to grow and flourish, a university that is making an indispensable contribution to science, to education and to the State of Israel."

### JEWS IN UKRAINE HOLD KADDISH SERVICES

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)--Jews in six small towns of the Carpathian region of the Ukraine have organized memorial services and will say kaddish twice a day until May 20 in memory of those Jews killed by the Nazis during World War II, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today. The Conference also said it had just learned that two weeks ago, Raiza Palatnik had been placed in a punishment cell for a seven day period for refusing to work during "subbotnik"--a period when Soviet citizens are supposed to volunteer to work without pay.

The deportation hearing for Mrs. Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan was to have resumed today but was put off until Friday. Former prisoners are due to testify against her at the offices of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.