



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXXIX - Fifty-Fifth Year

Wednesday, May 17, 1972

No. 96

REPORT SEVERAL SYRIAN JEWS

RELEASED; ELIAS NOT AMONG THEM

PARIS, May 16 (JTA)--Several Syrian Jews were released from prison by the Syrian authorities yesterday according to unconfirmed reports reaching Paris. Some of these reports said all the detained Jews with the exception of former Beirut Jewish community leader Albert Elias were suddenly set free and allowed to return to their homes.

Elias was kidnapped in broad daylight last autumn in downtown Beirut while on his way from his home to the local community building. Though the Syrians have denied holding him or even knowing where he was detained, persistent reports said that Elias was being held in a Syrian military prison on the outskirts of Damascus.

Jewish organizations in Paris, which refuse to be named, confirmed these reports today. According to the reports, nine Syrian Jews, including three women, were set free by the Syrians. Some of them had spent over a year in jail. The organizations explain that the Syrians did not release Elias because of their former claims that they do not hold him. Among those set free are two former teachers at the Alliance Israelite Universelle School in Damascus, Jacques Ariel and Jacques Attar. The Alliance confirmed this report here today. It is not known yet whether the released men will be allowed to leave the country.

A number of non-Jewish personalities including French Senate President Alain Pöher have repeatedly intervened in the past to secure the release of the Jewish detainees in Syrian prisons. Should the reports be confirmed, it would appear that their release was partially due to these interventions. The Syrian Embassy in Paris was not prepared to confirm or comment on the report when it was queried here today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

TWO UNIVERSITIES FACE SEVERE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES; TEL AVIV U. MAY CLOSE

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA)--Two major Israeli institutions of higher learning face severe financial difficulties and one of them may not re-open when the fall term begins next Sept. Tel Aviv University, which has an \$8.33 million deficit that the government refuses to cover, will follow its regular schedule to the end of the current academic year, but will be able to pay only part of the salaries of its faculty and administrative staff, the university's executive board decided today. The university's board of trustees has been called to discuss the possibility of not re-opening next fall.

Meanwhile, Alexander Goldberg, president of the Haifa Technion, said today that serious financial difficulties have developed because of cuts in government grants. Addressing a meeting of Technion graduates in Haifa, Goldberg said, however, that the Technion does not believe in closing-down threats. The situation at Tel Aviv University developed when Education Minister Yigal Allon told its president, Prof. Yuval Ne'eman and Prof. Shlomo Simonson, the rector, that the government could not possibly cover its deficit.

Tel Aviv University operates on a budget of about \$30 million of which \$3 million comes from its own resources and \$15 million is supplied through government grants. "As a result of the fis-

cal troubles, the executive board decided to discontinue the payment of debts guaranteed by government or local councils and to discontinue payments to governmental and municipal bodies.

Vietnam Shadow In Mideast

USSR SEEN COUNTERING NIXON'S VIETNAM MOVES WITH NEW DISPLAY OF FORCE

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--The visit to Egypt of the Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Andrei Grechko, reports of a new infusion of modern Soviet weapons to that country, and the latest overflight of Russian MIG-23 supersonic jets over Sinai this morning has aroused speculation here that the Soviet Union may be countering President Nixon's latest moves in Vietnam with a new display of force in the Middle East.

Some observers said that Moscow is responding to the mining of North Vietnamese harbors by increasing tension in the Middle East where it does not run the risk of a direct confrontation with the US. Grechko's visit was described today by the semi-official Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram, as a follow-up of President Anwar Sadat's visit last month to Moscow. The Egyptian news agency referred in a dispatch today to new weapons allegedly having been supplied to Egypt but did not make clear what type they were.

Soviet MIGs Overfly Canal

At 9 a.m. local time, two Soviet MIG-23s took off from the vicinity of Port Said and flew south along the Suez Canal and the Israel-held east bank of the Gulf of Suez as far as the Sharm el-Sheikh area before turning westward back to Egyptian territory. An Israeli announcement said Israeli jets were sent up to intercept them but there was no indication that contact was made. The MIG-23 is rated by experts as the fastest, highest-flying combat aircraft in the world without counterpart in the Western arsenal.

On three previous occasions in the past year they have overflown Israel-occupied Sinai, apparently on photo reconnaissance missions, and once they flew parallel to Israel's coastline near Ashkelon, coming within the radius of the Lydda Airport control tower. A small number of MIG-23s have been stationed in Egypt for some time but more were reported to have reached Egypt recently and, according to reports, are now flown by Egyptians as well as by Russian pilots.

Exercise By Advanced Aircraft

The Egyptian news agency reported today that Marshal Grechko and the Soviet Air Force commander accompanied Sadat yesterday to an Egyptian air base where they witnessed an exercise by advanced aircraft. The aircraft were not identified but the news agency dispatch attributed to them the same performance capabilities known to be possessed by the MIG-23.

The news agency story said that long-range fighter bombers also participated in the exercises. It was unclear whether the report referred to the Tupolev-16 type which has been in the area for six years or to the much more advanced Tupolev-22. According to informed sources, Egypt has been asking the Soviet Union for the Tupolev-22 but up to now has been refused. Speaking last week in Beirut, Grechko told his Arab audience that the regaining of their territories could be "by other means."

BEN-AHARON RETURNS TO JOB

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, the secretary general of Histadrut, announced today that he has withdrawn his resignation, submitted Sunday in protest against government intervention to avert a strike by Israeli cannery workers. Ben-Aharon, announcing his decision at an improvised press conference here, said that he had decided "to accept the summons of the (Labor) Party." He added that what persuaded him to rescind his resignation was the wave of support he received from Israeli workers in his dispute with the government.

Ben-Aharon told reporters that during discussions he held with the Labor Party leadership a mutual understanding was reached. But he said he still believed the government should not have intervened in the cannery strike. "I have not been given any promise about the relations between Histadrut and the government in the future but I hope for a better understanding," he said.

PLAN 24-HOUR VIGIL FOR SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--In an expression of "support and solidarity for those Jews in the Soviet Union who are presently being harassed," the National Conference on Soviet Jewry will have 68 persons--two from each of its 34 constituent organizations--stage a 24-hour vigil outside the Soviet Embassy in Washington, beginning tomorrow morning.

At the same time, a 36-hour hunger strike will be launched by Katya Palatnik, sister of Russian Jewish political prisoner Raiza Palatnik, and Prof. Michael Eppelman, whose wife and child are being denied permission to leave the USSR. The vigil and strike will be co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. Tonight in the capital, NCSJ leaders will confer with Leonard Garment, special Presidential liaison to the Jewish community.

**Very Weak, Suffers Lapse Of Memory
TREPPER'S SON HOSPITALIZED
AFTER 171 HOURS OF FASTING**

COPENHAGEN, May 16 (JTA)--Michael Brojde, the son of World War II master spy, Leopold Trepper, was taken to a hospital this morning after fasting for 171 hours to protest the Polish government's refusal to give his parents exit visas so that they can go to Israel. Doctors said he was very weak and he was reported to have suffered a lapse of memory.

Trepper, who headed the Soviet espionage network in Western Europe during World War II, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a telephone conversation from Warsaw that he wanted his son to end his hunger strike. He said he had received indications that he would soon be permitted to go to Israel. When informed of his father's wishes, Brojde said he would end his fast only on orders from a doctor or from Denmark's Chief Rabbi. He was taken to a hospital in an ambulance on doctor's orders.

During his six-day hunger strike the young man generated considerable support for his cause. Five persons, including a 14-year-old Jewish boy, Kim Guttermann, joined him in his fast yesterday. About 150 Jews and Danes demonstrated outside the Polish Embassy here demanding that Leopold Trepper be permitted to emigrate. Danish political figures, including former Foreign Minister Paul Hartling, have written to the Polish authorities on Trepper's behalf.

HOUSING FOR SINGLES TO BE EXPANDED

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA)--Israeli officials are attempting to reduce the large percentage of returnees among single immigrants. Hillel Ashkenazi,

director general of the Absorption Ministry, announced today that 30 percent of the new houses built for immigrants would be ear-marked for single people.

According to Ashkenazi, the principal reason why more single immigrants leave in larger numbers than other immigrants is the fact that they are not entitled to government-assisted housing which is available for immigrant families. He said this policy was being changed and about 30 percent of the flats earmarked for immigrants will be converted into one-and-a-half and two-room apartments for single immigrants.

Ashkenazi announced that a larger terminal will be built for immigrants at Lydda Airport. Some 30,000 immigrants passed through the terminal last year and 50,000 are expected this year. The newcomers spend between 3-4 hours at the terminal for processing. Ashkenazi said that a detachment of Absorption Ministry officials would be stationed in Vienna to arrange for housing before the immigrants arrive in Israel and are subjected to pressure from their relatives as to where to live.

**PETITION WITH 60,000 SIGNATURES URGES
NIXON TO DISCUSS SOVIET JEWRY AT SUMMIT**

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA)--A delegation from the Zionist Organization of America today presented a petition with more than 60,000 signatures to Leonard Garment, special consultant to President Nixon, urging that the President take up the "repatriation" of Soviet Jews to Israel during his scheduled meeting next week with Russian leaders. Garment told the ZOA delegation that he would make sure the petition receives "prompt and full consideration."

The petition asks Nixon to "advocate the cause" of those Soviet Jews who have been imprisoned because of their wish to settle in Israel and "their devotion to Jewish culture, traditions and history"; calls on Nixon to "bring before the United Nations" the problems of Soviet Jews "who desire to emigrate to Israel" and "who are prosecuted and imprisoned when they request such permission"; and states that "this basic right" is refused to the "overwhelming majority" of Soviet Jews, contrary to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights of which the Soviet Union is signatory.

STUDENTS SUPPORT NIXON

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--Claiming that most Israelis shared their views, a group of 20 students at the Hebrew University sent a letter to President Nixon praising his "brave decision" to mine the harbors of North Vietnam. The students delivered the letter to the US Consulate General in Jerusalem yesterday with a request that it be sent to the White House. They were told by an official that the White House would appreciate their expression of support and would send a reply for them.

Israeli public opinion as expressed in the news media has been generally non-committal on Nixon's latest moves in Vietnam. Some protests have been raised by left-wing groups and a group of American students recently sent a letter to the US Consulate here protesting the Vietnam escalation.

Dr. Sol Stein, president of the Israel Histadrut Foundation, announced in Los Angeles that the 25th anniversary of the State of Israel will be ushered in by his organization with an accumulative total of over \$25 million in long-term commitments for the various Histadrut programs.

SADAT MAY RESUME LIMITED MILITARY ACTION ALONG CANAL AFTER SUMMIT, STEIN WARNS

CHICAGO, May 16 (JTA)--Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, warned today that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt might seek to resume limited military action along the Suez Canal following the US-Soviet summit meeting in Moscow. Stein addressed a luncheon meeting here attended by more than 100 local members of Presidents Conference constituent organizations. Rabbi David Polish of Chicago, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis--a constituent of the Presidents Conference--chaired the meeting, which was the first of its kind since the Presidents Conference was founded in 1955.

In his address, Stein said he did not anticipate any "deals" on the Middle East during the Moscow visit. "President Nixon is not likely to put forward any proposals in view of the wide gap that exists between the Moscow and Washington interpretations of Security Council Resolution 242," he declared, adding: "In the likely absence of any action in Moscow, Sadat will find himself under increasing pressure to move toward war or peace. The increased unrest in Egypt threatens the political stability of Sadat and I believe he will soon take a course of action designed to unite the country, strengthening his political position."

Stein predicted that following Nixon's visit to Moscow, "irrespective of any action taken by Cairo, there will be increased pressure on Egypt and Israel to enter talks aimed at reopening the Suez Canal. However," Stein added, "it is very unlikely that our government will withhold military supplies or economic assistance to Israel to pressure her into changing her negotiating position."

NYANA CHARTS PROGRESS COURSE OF SOVIET JEWS WHO IMMIGRATED TO U.S.

Successful Adjustments Made, Says Soskis

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--The majority of the 130 Russian-Jewish families--nearly 400 persons--who immigrated to the United States during the last five years have made "successful adjustments" to life in this country, according to Philip Soskis, executive director of the New York Association for New Americans, an agency funded by the United Jewish Appeal which assists Jewish immigrants arriving from abroad.

Soskis, speaking tonight at the 23rd annual meeting of the NYANA, disclosed the results of the first preliminary survey of its kind made by the NYANA to determine the motivations and expectations of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and to chart the progress of their adjustment. The survey, limited to the 130 families who have settled in the Greater New York area, indicated that nearly all needed financial and other aid on arrival but fewer than 25 percent required help for longer than six months.

The survey found that the "primary reason" for resettlement here was "reunion with relatives." Other reasons cited by the immigrants for coming to the US included the desire "to settle in a country where democracy and freedom are granted to all human beings," a "desire for religious and cultural Jewish identification" and greater opportunities for children's schooling and economic advancement.

Referring to the "quality" of the newcomers' adjustment, Soskis said, "Their joy over the feeling of being free people, of earning a living without being subject to special surveillance, the hopes for the future for themselves and even more for their children were obvious in what they said, in

word, tone and in expression." Ten Russian-born young people were guests at the NYANA meeting. Mrs. Sophie S. Udall was re-elected president of the Association for a second year.

S. AFRICAN JEWS INVOLVED CONSTRUCTIVELY IN NATION'S COMPLEX SOCIAL PROBLEMS

JOHANNESBURG, May 16 (JTA)--There are no specific "Jewish issues" in South Africa's politics, the outgoing Executive Council of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies reported to the 27th biennial national Congress of the Board. The country's 120,000-strong Jewish community shares with all other sectors of the population the same complex challenges to the Republic, the Council said.

Recognizing the "race policies in South Africa are crucial to the future of this country," the Council welcomed the "far more open debate than has been the case for many years" that has "lately been evident." The report pointed out that South African Jews have participated in the debate on the national, provincial and municipal levels, but as individual citizens.

"Jewish opinion upon politics and racial issues reflects the same diversity of views as non-Jewish opinion, and there are Jews among the supporters of each political party," it said, adding: "In an overall perspective, it can be claimed that Jewish citizens, by and large, make their influence felt in a constructive way towards helping to solve the political and racial problems of the country--in public affairs, business, philanthropy and in many other spheres."

Jews Act As Individuals

The Council noted that since the Board of Deputies' establishment in 1903, "(it) has been governed by the principle that it does not enter the political arena, except in matters which specifically affect the Jewish community as such, in contrast to all other interests which Jews share with their fellow South Africans." As a result, the Board "has taken no explicit stand for or against the general race policies advocated by the different political parties," but "has taken what it believes to be the only practical position based on both principle and on experience, and that is that Jews as a group should not be involved in politics, but that individuals should play their part in terms of their personal political outlook."

The Council stressed that "this policy, advocated both by the Board of Deputies and by the Zionist Federation, and indeed by virtually the whole organized Jewish community, does not imply the neutrality of the individual Jew in the political sphere." In fact, the report said, "the duty of the individual to play his rightful part has always been emphasized."

AUSCHWITZ EXHIBITION HELD IN JAPAN

OSAKA, May 16 (JTA)--An exhibition recalling the concentration camps of the Nazis, especially Auschwitz, was recently held in the Matsuzakaya Department Store. The exhibition, the first of its kind in Japan, was opened to appeal for peace in the world. Among the items exhibited were pieces of the wall of Auschwitz prison contained in an urn which is scheduled to be enshrined at Hiroshima. The exhibition was jointly sponsored by the National Auschwitz Museum, International Auschwitz Committee, Hiroshima and Auschwitz Committee and Japan and Poland Cultural Society.

Foreign Minister and Mrs. Abba Eban have accepted an official invitation from the Danish government to visit Denmark next month.

RABBI BERKOWITZ URGES JEWS TO BE MILITANT BUT NON-VIOLENT Self-Determination For All Minority Groups But Not At Expense Of Jews

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--A "grass roots emergency conference" of the New York Jewish community, called by Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, drew some 1200 participants last night. It also drew sharp criticism from the head of another rabbinical group and was enlivened by the walk-out of about two dozen persons protesting the refusal of the panel to allow questions from the floor.

The conference was attended by representatives of local communal groups, synagogues and Jewish civil service groups concerned by developments in New York City which seem to pose serious threats to the Jewish community. These included alleged discrimination against Jewish faculty and students in the city's public schools and City University; erosion of the civil service merit system; the plight of the Jewish poor and the deterioration of Jewish neighborhood communities.

Rabbi Berkowitz, who presided, set the tone of the meeting when he declared that "a militant, but non-violent" stance was an alternative to "submissiveness and silence" and "hoping for the best" when Jewish interests were threatened. He further declared: "I believe in the granting of liberation and self-determination for all minority groups, but not at the expense of Jews."

He said the conference was not intended to polarize the New York community but to assure New York Jews that their rights will be defended vigorously. He claimed that he was under "great pressure" to cancel the conference and had been subjected to personal attack as a "bigot" and "racist" for calling it.

Conclave Dubbed 'Rabble Rousing'

The conference was sharply criticized shortly before it opened in a statement issued by Rabbi Robert J. Marx, director of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues. "It is not a conference at all but a mass meeting, and a mass meeting is not the way to deal with the problems that confront us today," Rabbi Marx said.

Others attending the conference objected to the absence of features associated with mass meetings -- general discussion on the floor and a question-and-answer period. About two dozen persons walked out shortly after the conference opened when Rabbi Berkowitz told a questioner that the panel alone would conduct the discussions and questions from the floor would not be permitted.

Rabbi I. Usher Kirschblum of the Kew Gardens Hills Jewish Center, a member of the New York Board of Rabbis and a former president of the Rabbinical Assembly of Queens, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency afterwards that his walk-out was to protest the "rabble-rousing" attitude in which the conference was called and the lack of democracy in the meeting format.

The great majority of the participants remained and agreed vigorously with panelist Murray Rackowitz, chairman of the Board of Examiners of the New York City Board of Education, who said the "civil service system was on its death bed." Dr. Rackowitz charged that the federal government was among those responsible for moving from an "equal opportunity" system to a "proportional representation" system in civil service jobs which meant, in effect, "a quota system." Under a quota system, "Jews are the main sufferers," he said.

Short End Of The Stick

William Kaufman, a realtor and builder and

president of the advisory board of the NY Board of Rabbis said, "We are seeking an alternative to violence in correcting a situation where we keep getting the short end of the stick all the time." He promised that the Board of Rabbis "will fight back hard" to change policies established in New York, Albany and Washington by people "ill-informed and ill-advised" about the problems of Jews.

Rabbi Marx said in his statement that while it was legitimate for Jewish organizations to be concerned about Jewish jobs, economic opportunities and educational standards, it would be "a terrible mistake" for Jews to allow the struggles of minority groups for a greater share of economic advantage "to be translated into a Black-Jewish or Puerto Rican-Jewish confrontation."

Rabbi Marx recommended the appointment of task forces to meet with representatives of all minority groups to discuss mutual complaints, concerns and aspirations; challenging "Jewish agencies which have been organized to help the poor for more than 100 years to do their job"; and "face the growing polarization between Blacks and whites, rich and poor and develop ways in which we can minimize this polarization to the advantage of all."

MRS. HOLTZBERG'S CONDITION WORSE

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA)--The condition of Mrs. Miriam Holtzberg took a turn for the worse today. Doctors at Tel Hashomer Hospital reported that the 22-year-old woman, seriously wounded in the gun battle aboard a hijacked Sabena jet at Lydda Airport last week, was suffering from irregular breathing and was given oxygen. The official hospital bulletin said Mrs. Holtzberg remains on the critical list.

ISRAELI STUDENTS CONTINUE STRIKE

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--Some 40,000 Israeli students remained out of their classes today in the second day of a national students strike to protest a proposal by the Ministry of Education to raise tuition fees from \$250 to \$600. Negotiations continued between student representatives and Ministry officials in an effort to reach a compromise.

The students demand that fees not be raised for at least a year. They have also accused the government of reneging on a promise to lend needy students \$25 each. The students said the definition of needy was mutually agreed upon between themselves and the Education Ministry. They said 17,000 applications have been approved by the Students Union but the government has made no payments so far.

STUDENTS PROTEST EX-NAZI PROFESSOR

BONN, May 16 (JTA)--German students have been protesting against the reinstatement of a former SS leader, Hans Fleischhacker, as biology professor at the University of Frankfurt. Brought to trial four years ago on charges of having aided in the mass murder of 115 Jews, he was suspended from the university. In March 1971 he received a surprise acquittal. It was not denied, however, that he had gone to Auschwitz in June 1942 to select skulls of 150 Jewish inmates. Within five days he had chosen 79 Jewish men, 30 Jewish women and six non-Jews, all of whom were subsequently killed in the gas chambers. Their skulls were conserved. Fleischhacker began lecturing at the university April 20.

Leonard Bernstein in Tel Aviv said he is completing a work specially dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Israel. It is based on the "Dybbuk."



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXXIX - Fifty-Fifth Year

Wednesday, May 17, 1972

No. 96

REPORT SEVERAL SYRIAN JEWS

RELEASED; ELIAS NOT AMONG THEM

PARIS, May 16 (JTA)--Several Syrian Jews were released from prison by the Syrian authorities yesterday according to unconfirmed reports reaching Paris. Some of these reports said all the detained Jews with the exception of former Beirut Jewish community leader Albert Elias were suddenly set free and allowed to return to their homes.

Elias was kidnapped in broad daylight last autumn in downtown Beirut while on his way from his home to the local community building. Though the Syrians have denied holding him or even knowing where he was detained, persistent reports said that Elias was being held in a Syrian military prison on the outskirts of Damascus.

Jewish organizations in Paris, which refuse to be named, confirmed these reports today. According to the reports, nine Syrian Jews, including three women, were set free by the Syrians. Some of them had spent over a year in jail. The organizations explain that the Syrians did not release Elias because of their former claims that they do not hold him. Among those set free are two former teachers at the Alliance Israelite Universelle School in Damascus, Jacques Ariel and Jacques Attar. The Alliance confirmed this report here today. It is not known yet whether the released men will be allowed to leave the country.

A number of non-Jewish personalities including French Senate President Alain Pöher have repeatedly intervened in the past to secure the release of the Jewish detainees in Syrian prisons. Should the reports be confirmed, it would appear that their release was partially due to these interventions. The Syrian Embassy in Paris was not prepared to confirm or comment on the report when it was queried here today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

TWO UNIVERSITIES FACE SEVERE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES; TEL AVIV U. MAY CLOSE

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA)--Two major Israeli institutions of higher learning face severe financial difficulties and one of them may not re-open when the fall term begins next Sept. Tel Aviv University, which has an \$8.33 million deficit that the government refuses to cover, will follow its regular schedule to the end of the current academic year, but will be able to pay only part of the salaries of its faculty and administrative staff, the university's executive board decided today. The university's board of trustees has been called to discuss the possibility of not re-opening next fall.

Meanwhile, Alexander Goldberg, president of the Haifa Technion, said today that serious financial difficulties have developed because of cuts in government grants. Addressing a meeting of Technion graduates in Haifa, Goldberg said, however, that the Technion does not believe in closing-down threats. The situation at Tel Aviv University developed when Education Minister Yigal Allon told its president, Prof. Yuval Ne'eman and Prof. Shlomo Simonson, the rector, that the government could not possibly cover its deficit.

Tel Aviv University operates on a budget of about \$30 million of which \$3 million comes from its own resources and \$15 million is supplied through government grants. "As a result of the fis-

cal troubles, the executive board decided to discontinue the payment of debts guaranteed by government or local councils and to discontinue payments to governmental and municipal bodies.

Vietnam Shadow In Mideast

USSR SEEN COUNTERING NIXON'S VIETNAM MOVES WITH NEW DISPLAY OF FORCE

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--The visit to Egypt of the Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Andrei Grechko, reports of a new infusion of modern Soviet weapons to that country, and the latest overflight of Russian MIG-23 supersonic jets over Sinai this morning has aroused speculation here that the Soviet Union may be countering President Nixon's latest moves in Vietnam with a new display of force in the Middle East.

Some observers said that Moscow is responding to the mining of North Vietnamese harbors by increasing tension in the Middle East where it does not run the risk of a direct confrontation with the US. Grechko's visit was described today by the semi-official Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram, as a follow-up of President Anwar Sadat's visit last month to Moscow. The Egyptian news agency referred in a dispatch today to new weapons allegedly having been supplied to Egypt but did not make clear what type they were.

Soviet MIGs Overfly Canal

At 9 a.m. local time, two Soviet MIG-23s took off from the vicinity of Port Said and flew south along the Suez Canal and the Israel-held east bank of the Gulf of Suez as far as the Sharm el-Sheikh area before turning westward back to Egyptian territory. An Israeli announcement said Israeli jets were sent up to intercept them but there was no indication that contact was made. The MIG-23 is rated by experts as the fastest, highest-flying combat aircraft in the world without counterpart in the Western arsenal.

On three previous occasions in the past year they have overflown Israel-occupied Sinai, apparently on photo reconnaissance missions, and once they flew parallel to Israel's coastline near Ashkelon, coming within the radius of the Lydda Airport control tower. A small number of MIG-23s have been stationed in Egypt for some time but more were reported to have reached Egypt recently and, according to reports, are now flown by Egyptians as well as by Russian pilots.

Exercise By Advanced Aircraft

The Egyptian news agency reported today that Marshal Grechko and the Soviet Air Force commander accompanied Sadat yesterday to an Egyptian air base where they witnessed an exercise by advanced aircraft. The aircraft were not identified but the news agency dispatch attributed to them the same performance capabilities known to be possessed by the MIG-23.

The news agency story said that long-range fighter bombers also participated in the exercises. It was unclear whether the report referred to the Tupolev-16 type which has been in the area for six years or to the much more advanced Tupolev-22. According to informed sources, Egypt has been asking the Soviet Union for the Tupolev-22 but up to now has been refused. Speaking last week in Beirut, Grechko told his Arab audience that the regaining of their territories could be "by other means."

BEN-AHARON RETURNS TO JOB

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, the secretary general of Histadrut, announced today that he has withdrawn his resignation, submitted Sunday in protest against government intervention to avert a strike by Israeli cannery workers. Ben-Aharon, announcing his decision at an improvised press conference here, said that he had decided "to accept the summons of the (Labor) Party." He added that what persuaded him to rescind his resignation was the wave of support he received from Israeli workers in his dispute with the government.

Ben-Aharon told reporters that during discussions he held with the Labor Party leadership a mutual understanding was reached. But he said he still believed the government should not have intervened in the cannery strike. "I have not been given any promise about the relations between Histadrut and the government in the future but I hope for a better understanding," he said.

PLAN 24-HOUR VIGIL FOR SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--In an expression of "support and solidarity for those Jews in the Soviet Union who are presently being harassed," the National Conference on Soviet Jewry will have 68 persons--two from each of its 34 constituent organizations--stage a 24-hour vigil outside the Soviet Embassy in Washington, beginning tomorrow morning.

At the same time, a 36-hour hunger strike will be launched by Katya Palatnik, sister of Russian Jewish political prisoner Raiza Palatnik, and Prof. Michael Eppelman, whose wife and child are being denied permission to leave the USSR. The vigil and strike will be co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. Tonight in the capital, NCSJ leaders will confer with Leonard Garment, special Presidential liaison to the Jewish community.

Very Weak, Suffers Lapse Of MemoryTREPPER'S SON HOSPITALIZED AFTER 171 HOURS OF FASTING

COPENHAGEN, May 16 (JTA)--Michael Brojde, the son of World War II master spy, Leopold Trepper, was taken to a hospital this morning after fasting for 171 hours to protest the Polish government's refusal to give his parents exit visas so that they can go to Israel. Doctors said he was very weak and he was reported to have suffered a lapse of memory.

Trepper, who headed the Soviet espionage network in Western Europe during World War II, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a telephone conversation from Warsaw that he wanted his son to end his hunger strike. He said he had received indications that he would soon be permitted to go to Israel. When informed of his father's wishes, Brojde said he would end his fast only on orders from a doctor or from Denmark's Chief Rabbi. He was taken to a hospital in an ambulance on doctor's orders.

During his six-day hunger strike the young man generated considerable support for his cause. Five persons, including a 14-year-old Jewish boy, Kim Guttermann, joined him in his fast yesterday. About 150 Jews and Danes demonstrated outside the Polish Embassy here demanding that Leopold Trepper be permitted to emigrate. Danish political figures, including former Foreign Minister Paul Hartling, have written to the Polish authorities on Trepper's behalf.

HOUSING FOR SINGLES TO BE EXPANDED

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA)--Israeli officials are attempting to reduce the large percentage of returnees among single immigrants. Hillel Ashkenazi,

director general of the Absorption Ministry, announced today that 30 percent of the new houses built for immigrants would be ear-marked for single people.

According to Ashkenazi, the principal reason why more single immigrants leave in larger numbers than other immigrants is the fact that they are not entitled to government-assisted housing which is available for immigrant families. He said this policy was being changed and about 30 percent of the flats earmarked for immigrants will be converted into one-and-a-half and two-room apartments for single immigrants.

Ashkenazi announced that a larger terminal will be built for immigrants at Lydda Airport. Some 30,000 immigrants passed through the terminal last year and 50,000 are expected this year. The newcomers spend between 3-4 hours at the terminal for processing. Ashkenazi said that a detachment of Absorption Ministry officials would be stationed in Vienna to arrange for housing before the immigrants arrive in Israel and are subjected to pressure from their relatives as to where to live.

PETITION WITH 60,000 SIGNATURES URGESNIXON TO DISCUSS SOVIET JEWRY AT SUMMIT

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA)--A delegation from the Zionist Organization of America today presented a petition with more than 60,000 signatures to Leonard Garment, special consultant to President Nixon, urging that the President take up the "repatriation" of Soviet Jews to Israel during his scheduled meeting next week with Russian leaders. Garment told the ZOA delegation that he would make sure the petition receives "prompt and full consideration."

The petition asks Nixon to "advocate the cause" of those Soviet Jews who have been imprisoned because of their wish to settle in Israel and "their devotion to Jewish culture, traditions and history"; calls on Nixon to "bring before the United Nations" the problems of Soviet Jews "who desire to emigrate to Israel" and "who are prosecuted and imprisoned when they request such permission"; and states that "this basic right" is refused to the "overwhelming majority" of Soviet Jews, contrary to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights of which the Soviet Union is signatory.

STUDENTS SUPPORT NIXON

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--Claiming that most Israelis shared their views, a group of 20 students at the Hebrew University sent a letter to President Nixon praising his "brave decision" to mine the harbors of North Vietnam. The students delivered the letter to the US Consulate General in Jerusalem yesterday with a request that it be sent to the White House. They were told by an official that the White House would appreciate their expression of support and would send a reply for them.

Israeli public opinion as expressed in the news media has been generally non-committal on Nixon's latest moves in Vietnam. Some protests have been raised by left-wing groups and a group of American students recently sent a letter to the US Consulate here protesting the Vietnam escalation.

Dr. Sol Stein, president of the Israel Histadrut Foundation, announced in Los Angeles that the 25th anniversary of the State of Israel will be ushered in by his organization with an accumulative total of over \$25 million in long-term commitments for the various Histadrut programs.

SADAT MAY RESUME LIMITED MILITARY ACTION ALONG CANAL AFTER SUMMIT, STEIN WARNS

CHICAGO, May 16 (JTA)--Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, warned today that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt might seek to resume limited military action along the Suez Canal following the US-Soviet summit meeting in Moscow. Stein addressed a luncheon meeting here attended by more than 100 local members of Presidents Conference constituent organizations. Rabbi David Polish of Chicago, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis--a constituent of the Presidents Conference--chaired the meeting, which was the first of its kind since the Presidents Conference was founded in 1955.

In his address, Stein said he did not anticipate any "deals" on the Middle East during the Moscow visit. "President Nixon is not likely to put forward any proposals in view of the wide gap that exists between the Moscow and Washington interpretations of Security Council Resolution 242," he declared, adding: "In the likely absence of any action in Moscow, Sadat will find himself under increasing pressure to move toward war or peace. The increased unrest in Egypt threatens the political stability of Sadat and I believe he will soon take a course of action designed to unite the country, strengthening his political position."

Stein predicted that following Nixon's visit to Moscow, "irrespective of any action taken by Cairo, there will be increased pressure on Egypt and Israel to enter talks aimed at reopening the Suez Canal. However," Stein added, "it is very unlikely that our government will withhold military supplies or economic assistance to Israel to pressure her into changing her negotiating position."

NYANA CHARTS PROGRESS COURSE OF SOVIET JEWS WHO IMMIGRATED TO U.S. Successful Adjustments Made, Says Soskis

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--The majority of the 130 Russian-Jewish families--nearly 400 persons--who immigrated to the United States during the last five years have made "successful adjustments" to life in this country, according to Philip Soskis, executive director of the New York Association for New Americans, an agency funded by the United Jewish Appeal which assists Jewish immigrants arriving from abroad.

Soskis, speaking tonight at the 23rd annual meeting of the NYANA, disclosed the results of the first preliminary survey of its kind made by the NYANA to determine the motivations and expectations of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and to chart the progress of their adjustment. The survey, limited to the 130 families who have settled in the Greater New York area, indicated that nearly all needed financial and other aid on arrival but fewer than 25 percent required help for longer than six months.

The survey found that the "primary reason" for resettlement here was "reunion with relatives." Other reasons cited by the immigrants for coming to the US included the desire "to settle in a country where democracy and freedom are granted to all human beings," a "desire for religious and cultural Jewish identification" and greater opportunities for children's schooling and economic advancement.

Referring to the "quality" of the newcomers' adjustment, Soskis said, "Their joy over the feeling of being free people, of earning a living without being subject to special surveillance, the hopes for the future for themselves and even more for their children were obvious in what they said, in

word, tone and in expression." Ten Russian-born young people were guests at the NYANA meeting. Mrs. Sophie S. Udall was re-elected president of the Association for a second year.

S. AFRICAN JEWS INVOLVED CONSTRUCTIVELY IN NATION'S COMPLEX SOCIAL PROBLEMS

JOHANNESBURG, May 16 (JTA)--There are no specific "Jewish issues" in South Africa's politics, the outgoing Executive Council of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies reported to the 27th biennial national Congress of the Board. The country's 120,000-strong Jewish community shares with all other sectors of the population the same complex challenges to the Republic, the Council said.

Recognizing the "race policies in South Africa are crucial to the future of this country," the Council welcomed the "far more open debate than has been the case for many years" that has "lately been evident." The report pointed out that South African Jews have participated in the debate on the national, provincial and municipal levels, but as individual citizens.

"Jewish opinion upon politics and racial issues reflects the same diversity of views as non-Jewish opinion, and there are Jews among the supporters of each political party," it said, adding: "In an overall perspective, it can be claimed that Jewish citizens, by and large, make their influence felt in a constructive way towards helping to solve the political and racial problems of the country--in public affairs, business, philanthropy and in many other spheres."

Jews Act As Individuals

The Council noted that since the Board of Deputies' establishment in 1903, "(it) has been governed by the principle that it does not enter the political arena, except in matters which specifically affect the Jewish community as such, in contrast to all other interests which Jews share with their fellow South Africans." As a result, the Board "has taken no explicit stand for or against the general race policies advocated by the different political parties," but "has taken what it believes to be the only practical position based on both principle and on experience, and that is that Jews as a group should not be involved in politics, but that individuals should play their part in terms of their personal political outlook."

The Council stressed that "this policy, advocated both by the Board of Deputies and by the Zionist Federation, and indeed by virtually the whole organized Jewish community, does not imply the neutrality of the individual Jew in the political sphere." In fact, the report said, "the duty of the individual to play his rightful part has always been emphasized."

AUSCHWITZ EXHIBITION HELD IN JAPAN

OSAKA, May 16 (JTA)--An exhibition recalling the concentration camps of the Nazis, especially Auschwitz, was recently held in the Matsuzakaya Department Store. The exhibition, the first of its kind in Japan, was opened to appeal for peace in the world. Among the items exhibited were pieces of the wall of Auschwitz prison contained in an urn which is scheduled to be enshrined at Hiroshima. The exhibition was jointly sponsored by the National Auschwitz Museum, International Auschwitz Committee, Hiroshima and Auschwitz Committee and Japan and Poland Cultural Society.

Foreign Minister and Mrs. Abba Eban have accepted an official invitation from the Danish government to visit Denmark next month.

RABBI BERKOWITZ URGES JEWS TO BE MILITANT BUT NON-VIOLENT Self-Determination For All Minority Groups But Not At Expense Of Jews

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--A "grass roots emergency conference" of the New York Jewish community, called by Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, drew some 1200 participants last night. It also drew sharp criticism from the head of another rabbinical group and was enlivened by the walk-out of about two dozen persons protesting the refusal of the panel to allow questions from the floor.

The conference was attended by representatives of local communal groups, synagogues and Jewish civil service groups concerned by developments in New York City which seem to pose serious threats to the Jewish community. These included alleged discrimination against Jewish faculty and students in the city's public schools and City University; erosion of the civil service merit system; the plight of the Jewish poor and the deterioration of Jewish neighborhood communities.

Rabbi Berkowitz, who presided, set the tone of the meeting when he declared that "a militant, but non-violent" stance was an alternative to "submissiveness and silence" and "hoping for the best" when Jewish interests were threatened. He further declared: "I believe in the granting of liberation and self-determination for all minority groups, but not at the expense of Jews."

He said the conference was not intended to polarize the New York community but to assure New York Jews that their rights will be defended vigorously. He claimed that he was under "great pressure" to cancel the conference and had been subjected to personal attack as a "bigot" and "racist" for calling it.

Conclave Dubbed 'Rabble Rousing'

The conference was sharply criticized shortly before it opened in a statement issued by Rabbi Robert J. Marx, director of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues. "It is not a conference at all but a mass meeting, and a mass meeting is not the way to deal with the problems that confront us today," Rabbi Marx said.

Others attending the conference objected to the absence of features associated with mass meetings -- general discussion on the floor and a question-and-answer period. About two dozen persons walked out shortly after the conference opened when Rabbi Berkowitz told a questioner that the panel alone would conduct the discussions and questions from the floor would not be permitted.

Rabbi I. Usher Kirschblum of the Kew Gardens Hills Jewish Center, a member of the New York Board of Rabbis and a former president of the Rabbinical Assembly of Queens, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency afterwards that his walk-out was to protest the "rabble-rousing" attitude in which the conference was called and the lack of democracy in the meeting format.

The great majority of the participants remained and agreed vigorously with panelist Murray Rackowitz, chairman of the Board of Examiners of the New York City Board of Education, who said the "civil service system was on its death bed." Dr. Rackowitz charged that the federal government was among those responsible for moving from an "equal opportunity" system to a "proportional representation" system in civil service jobs which meant, in effect, "a quota system." Under a quota system, "Jews are the main sufferers," he said.

Short End Of The Stick

William Kaufman, a realtor and builder and

president of the advisory board of the NY Board of Rabbis said, "We are seeking an alternative to violence in correcting a situation where we keep getting the short end of the stick all the time." He promised that the Board of Rabbis "will fight back hard" to change policies established in New York, Albany and Washington by people "ill-informed and ill-advised" about the problems of Jews.

Rabbi Marx said in his statement that while it was legitimate for Jewish organizations to be concerned about Jewish jobs, economic opportunities and educational standards, it would be "a terrible mistake" for Jews to allow the struggles of minority groups for a greater share of economic advantage "to be translated into a Black-Jewish or Puerto Rican-Jewish confrontation."

Rabbi Marx recommended the appointment of task forces to meet with representatives of all minority groups to discuss mutual complaints, concerns and aspirations; challenging "Jewish agencies which have been organized to help the poor for more than 100 years to do their job"; and "face the growing polarization between Blacks and whites, rich and poor and develop ways in which we can minimize this polarization to the advantage of all."

MRS. HOLTZBERG'S CONDITION WORSE

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA)--The condition of Mrs. Miriam Holtzberg took a turn for the worse today. Doctors at Tel Hashomer Hospital reported that the 22-year-old woman, seriously wounded in the gun battle aboard a hijacked Sabena jet at Lydda Airport last week, was suffering from irregular breathing and was given oxygen. The official hospital bulletin said Mrs. Holtzberg remains on the critical list.

ISRAELI STUDENTS CONTINUE STRIKE

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--Some 40,000 Israeli students remained out of their classes today in the second day of a national students strike to protest a proposal by the Ministry of Education to raise tuition fees from \$250 to \$600. Negotiations continued between student representatives and Ministry officials in an effort to reach a compromise.

The students demand that fees not be raised for at least a year. They have also accused the government of reneging on a promise to lend needy students \$25 each. The students said the definition of needy was mutually agreed upon between themselves and the Education Ministry. They said 17,000 applications have been approved by the Students Union but the government has made no payments so far.

STUDENTS PROTEST EX-NAZI PROFESSOR

BONN, May 16 (JTA)--German students have been protesting against the reinstatement of a former SS leader, Hans Fleischhacker, as biology professor at the University of Frankfurt. Brought to trial four years ago on charges of having aided in the mass murder of 115 Jews, he was suspended from the university. In March 1971 he received a surprise acquittal. It was not denied, however, that he had gone to Auschwitz in June 1942 to select skulls of 150 Jewish inmates. Within five days he had chosen 79 Jewish men, 30 Jewish women and six non-Jews, all of whom were subsequently killed in the gas chambers. Their skulls were conserved. Fleischhacker began lecturing at the university April 20.

Leonard Bernstein in Tel Aviv said he is completing a work specially dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Israel. It is based on the "Dybbuk."