



daily news bulletin

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Monday, May 22, 1972

No. 99

SPECIAL TO JTA

KISSINGER: NIXON WILL BRING SOVIET JEWRY ISSUE TO ATTENTION OF SOVIET LEADERS

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF
JTA Washington Bureau Chief

SALZBURG, May 21 (JTA)--Dr. Henry Kissinger said today that President Nixon will look for an opportunity to present the Soviet Jewry issue at the summit conference with Soviet leaders in Moscow this week. Nixon's assistant for national security affairs was asked at a news conference whether he could indicate what the President will do at the conference with relation to the more than a million petitions on the plight of Soviet Jewry that have been sent to the White House.

The President, Dr. Kissinger responded, is very much aware of the petitions and will look for an opportunity to bring the subject to the attention of those with whom he is to meet. He did not go beyond those words, which in effect, reiterate recent top level statements in Washington that the President would state the matter in an appropriate way to the Soviet leadership but without indicating how, when or in what form. After the news conference, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency asked how the Middle East situation fits into the pattern of the summit discussions. Dr. Kissinger only would say that it probably will be discussed. He declined to amplify that position. (See P. 3 for additional story.)

Mum On Mideast Talks At Summit

Neither Dr. Kissinger nor Nixon last Friday in his summation to the press at the White House of the American views of the conference, discussed the Middle East. Secretary of State William P. Rogers, when asked about it in his meeting with the press last Friday, replied with a brief outline on the American position that a settlement there was a matter for Israel and the Arab countries to make. The continued reticence of the White House and State Department to discuss the topic in relation to the summit seemed to indicate that the President does not wish to make it a major element in the Moscow talks.

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Reiterating President Nixon's views that he seeks substance and not atmosphere in Moscow, Dr. Kissinger seemed to indicate that the American Chief Executive is moving to build confidence between the superpowers which would enable them to reach agreement in the future. The mutual confidence growing out of agreement on one issue would lead to agreement on another, he said. This seemed to indicate that such issues as the Middle East would have to wait on agreements on other matters between the two great powers. President and Mrs. Nixon leave tomorrow morning for Moscow.

JEWISH ACTIVIST LEADERS ARRESTED IN MOSCOW TO KEEP THEM OUT OF CIRCULATION DURING NIXON'S VISIT

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA)--At least six Jewish activist leaders were arrested yesterday in Moscow and sentenced to ten-day jail terms for "anti-social activities," the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today. The Conference said its sources in Moscow linked the arrests to a petition to President Nixon which was signed by 300 Soviet Jews and presented Friday to the US Embassy in Moscow. All six were signers of the petition and one of them, Roman Rutman, claimed that he was one of the organizers of the petition campaign.

The arrests of Rutman, Victor Polsky and Boris Orlov were not confirmed, but two other activists, Vladimir Slepak and Vladimir Lebov, are known definitely to have been jailed, according to Jerry Goodman, executive director of the NCSJ. The name of the sixth Jew arrested was not known. There may have been more arrests, Goodman said.

The 300 signatories of the petition were from Moscow, Kiev, Riga, Kovno, and eight other Russian cities. They appealed to the President to intervene with Soviet leaders on behalf of Jewish emigration to Israel during the Moscow summit talks that begin tomorrow. Sources in the Soviet Union say the arrests were made to keep Jewish activist leaders "out of circulation" during Nixon's visit.

The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry sent a cable this afternoon to Nixon in care of the US Embassy in Moscow urging him to help release the Moscow six and to help gain exit visas to Israel for the ten Jewish activists still in hiding "as the prerequisite for substantive discussions with Soviet leaders."

BOMB SCARE DISRUPTS 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORWARD; 1500 EVACUATED Police Comb Building, No Bomb Found

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA)--A bomb scare emptied Philharmonic Hall at Lincoln Center this afternoon, 15 minutes before the Jewish Daily Forward's 75th anniversary concert was to have begun. About 1500 persons in the hall at the time were evacuated by police who combed the building from basement to roof. The bomb scare was phoned by a male caller to the NY Daily News which alerted police. The caller said a bomb was set to explode at 3 p.m. Police ordered the hall cleared at 1:45 p.m. No explosives were found. The audience returned at 3:15.

About 2200 persons attended the affair which was highlighted by the presentation of the Forward Association Award to George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, for his contributions to American labor and the labor movement throughout the world. The presentation was made by Louis Stulberg, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, AFL-CIO. Speakers at the anniversary celebration included Jacob T. Zuckerman, president of the Jewish Labor Committee and Simon Weber, editor of the Forward, the world's largest Yiddish newspaper and the last remaining Yiddish daily in the US.

Not End Cf Era But Holiday Of Renewal

Weber had sharp words for "those who want to

destruction and bury Yiddish in order to be able to shed crocodile tears afterwards. We say to them, 'remember, today is not the end of an era but a holiday of renewal,'" Weber said. He noted that according to Jewish tradition, when the reading of the Torah is completed in the synagogue, "we immediately return and start again from the beginning." He said "when we return to our desks and typewriters and linotype machines tomorrow, we are going to continue this holiday, bringing you the Forward every day."

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FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR MRS. HOLTZBERG

TEL AVIV, May 21 (JTA)--Funeral services were held today for Mrs. Miriam Holtzberg who died last Thursday of wounds sustained during a gun battle May 10 aboard a hijacked Sabena airliner at Lydda Airport. The 22-year-old Israeli woman was buried at Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot in Western Galilee where she was born. Representatives of Sabena Airlines, El Al, Lydda Airport and the Israeli Armed Forces attended the funeral and laid wreaths on the grave.

Mrs. Holtzberg, the only passenger to die as a result of the shootout, was hit when she reportedly stood up suddenly in the plane as Israeli paratroopers stormed the aircraft to liberate its 90 passengers and ten crew members who were being held hostage by Palestinian terrorists.

SOVIET GEORGIAN JEW, DENIED RE-ENTRY TO USSR, RETURNS TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, May 21 (JTA)--A Jewish immigrant from Soviet Georgia who left Israel last week hoping to return to the USSR, was back again today. He told newsmen that he had spent the last five days in Vienna trying unsuccessfully to be re-admitted to the Soviet Union.

Kasmani Shwilli, who is single, said the Russian Consul in Vienna told him "if you wait in Vienna 100 years you will not get permission to return to Russia." He said he made up his mind then to go back to Israel despite "the difficulties it had for me." He said there were five other Georgian Jews in Vienna in the same predicament but were ashamed to return to Israel.

Three plane-loads of Jewish emigres from Eastern Europe, mainly from Russia, landed today at Lydda Airport. Extra Absorption Ministry personnel were on hand to process them. Some of the new arrivals were sent to hotels pending the availability of flats. One of today's immigrants was Zalman Ginsberg, of Leningrad, a relative of President Zalman Shazar.

CONCENTRATION CAMP SURVIVOR IDENTIFIES MRS. RYAN AS WOMAN WHO 'KILLED' PRISONER

NEW YORK, May 22 (JTA)--A concentration camp survivor charged three times on Friday that Mrs. Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan "killed" a woman prisoner while serving as a guard at Majdanek in 1943. But at another point the witness, Mrs. Mary (Husyt) Finkelstein of Brooklyn, said Mrs. Ryan "clobbered" the prisoner with a stick, and by the end of the day's testimony the point was still unclear. The government is attempting to deport Mrs. Ryan to her native Austria. The hearing resumes June 9 at the local offices of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Mrs. Finkelstein, a doughty gray-haired woman

of 51, was repeatedly ordered by the special inquiry officer, Francis J. Lyons, to limit her testimony to direct answers to attorneys' questions. Near the end of the day she began to adhere to that order, but by and large she sought to use her appearance to relate stories of Nazi brutality. Asked if it was her habit to hound ex-Nazis, she replied: "No, but I would be glad to see them in a concentration camp."

Mrs. Finkelstein testified that Mrs. Ryan was one of the Majdanek guards who used sticks, whips and dogs to herd and supervise prisoners. "If we heard Hermine (was coming), we knew there wouldn't be anything good coming," she said. She testified that Mrs. Ryan's "clobberings" of prisoners were accompanied by such exclamations as "You swine. You goddamned Jew. Stay up straight."

Describes Gassing Of Victims

The witness described the hanging of a Jewish prisoner that she said took place at Majdanek in Mrs. Ryan's presence. Mrs. Ryan had earlier testified that she never saw a gallows at the camp. Mrs. Finkelstein, who lost her family in the Nazis' genocide effort, told how she was taken from her native Warsaw in May 1943 when her bunker was discovered. She and others were undressed, searched and put in a cattle car that took them to Majdanek, she said. During the ride, she said, the car was gassed, and some of the 100 prisoners jammed into it died.

When a baby in the car started crying, the witness went on, its mother choked it as the baby asked "Mommy, do you love me?" It was not clear from the testimony whether the mother actually killed the baby. Mrs. Finkelstein said the mother subsequently "went insane." The witness' sister was one of those in the car. Mrs. Finkelstein never saw her after that.

Mrs. Finkelstein, who described an alleged photograph of Mrs. Ryan as "the one who killed the woman," said she recognized the Queens housewife from her "tight lips." As far as photographs of other guards were concerned, "They look all the same to me. The same rats," she admitted that she has always had poor eyesight.

Defense attorney John J. Barry sought to discredit the witness, who often responded "I don't know" or "I can't remember." When he zeroed in on her inability to recall a train station at Majdanek, she reminded him that the cattle car had been gassed. Barry's attempt to destroy the witness' credibility extended to his asking her to describe the design and material of the guards' uniforms. She gave uncertain replies to these questions, and said she did not remember spotlights on the camp towers.

Barry told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency afterward that he questioned Mrs. Finkelstein's "credibility" and had "serious doubts" that she was ever in Majdanek. Vincent A. Schiano, representing the government, told the JTA he was satisfied with her testimony and had 25 more witnesses ready.

President Salvador Allende of Chile has accepted an invitation to visit Israel but has set no date for his visit, Foreign Ministry sources said today. The invitation was extended to President Allende by Ambassador Gideon Rafael who is heading the Israeli delegation to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Santiago.

Mayor Rashid Al Shawa of Gaza said in Hebron yesterday that the future of the Gaza Strip should be linked to that of the West Bank.

SOVIET PROPAGANDIZES NEWSMEN ABOUT STATUS OF JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION

SALZBURG, May 21 (JTA)--Soviet official propaganda aimed at offsetting charges that Jews in the Soviet Union are oppressed was made available today to American news media representatives accompanying President Nixon on his trip to Moscow. Copies of the current issue of the English-language "Soviet Life," a monthly distributed regularly in the US, was aboard the Pan American plane which is ferrying about half the media contingent to Moscow. Reporters traveling on TWA, however, said they did not see any copies on their plane. Pan Am has two flights weekly to Moscow.

The May edition of "Soviet Life" carries two illustrated articles, both bylined with Jewish names. The authors claim Jews are contributing handsomely to Soviet development and are honored for their services. They leave the impression that complaints that Jews are victims of discrimination are untrue. They do not mention official barriers to emigration and cultural practices.

One of the articles is headlined "Thirty-Eighth Anniversary of Jewish Autonomous Region." It is attributed to Lev Shapiro, First Secretary, Birobidzhan Regional Committee of the Communist Party. Shapiro implies that the population and culture of the province is essentially Jewish. Critics long ago have described Birobidzhan as neither Jewish nor autonomous.

Sholom Aleichem - Soviet Hero

Another article consists of four pages on "Places Sholom Aleichem Loved." Written by Solomon Rabinovich, the article portrays the beloved Jewish author in terms of Soviet ideology. He described how in Sholom Aleichem's old haunts in the Ukraine "hundreds of thousands" of Jews live happily and hold prestigious jobs.

Rabinovich introduced his article by quoting the "Freiheit" (the pro-Moscow Yiddish newspaper published in New York), as reporting that "hundreds of thousands" in New York saw Sholom Aleichem in the street in the Bronx where he lived" and no New York street bears his name. In contrast, Kiev has a Sholom Aleichem Street and plaque on a house in Kiev where he lived, Rabinovich said.

Pan American manager of groups and charter flights, Charles Mittler, who was aboard the press plane, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Pan American regularly carries "Soviet Life" for passengers on its Moscow runs. They are received at the Pan American office in Washington where they are printed, he said. Asked whether Soviet aircraft to the US carry "America Illustrated," Mittler smilingly replied they do not.

ALLON SAYS HE WILL NOT ALLOW UNIVERSITIES TO SHUT DOWN

TEL AVIV, May 21 (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigal Allon pledged yesterday that he would not permit any Israeli institutions of higher learning to shut down because of financial difficulties. Speaking over the Army broadcasting services, Allon said he would bring the matter before a Cabinet session. His remarks seemed aimed primarily at Tel Aviv University which has said it may not reopen next fall because of an \$8 million deficit. Faculty and administrative employees at Tel Aviv U. were reportedly planning to strike if the university is unable to raise enough money to pay their full salaries this month.

WARHAFTIG, PIMEN CONFER ON SOVIET ISSUES

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA)--Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, the Minister for Religious Affairs, and Patriarch Pimen, leader of the Russian Orthodox Church,

conferred today and each had a petition for the other. Dr. Warhaftig asked the Russian cleric to persuade Soviet authorities to allow Russian Jews to emigrate to Israel. The Patriarch asked the Israeli Minister to support the Russian Orthodox community in Israel in its dispute with the White Russian patriarchate which involves property claims.

Dr. Warhaftig urged the visitor from Moscow to explain to his government that Soviet Jews have the right to fulfill their religious commandments in the land of their tradition. He also expressed sorrow that Russian Jews have neither a chief rabbi nor yeshivot to train rabbis. In reply to Pimen's request, he assured the Patriarch that his Church could rely on Israeli justice. Should the judges find that the Soviet Orthodox Church is right in its dispute with the White Russian Church, there is no cause to worry, he said.

Eight Jewish Defense League members were arrested today when they tried to force their way into the Intercontinental Hotel where Patriarch Pimen, Dr. Warhaftig and Justice Minister Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro were guests at a luncheon tendered by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch in honor of the visiting Patriarch from Moscow.

LABOR MP SUGGESTS ISRAELI MILITARY INTERVENTION TO RESCUE SYRIAN JEWS

LONDON, May 21 (JTA)--A Labor MP suggested today that "the Israelis could easily rescue the Syrian Jews in a military operation lasting no more than a couple of days." Raymond Fletcher, a non-Jew, made that remark at a special session of the monthly meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews which was devoted to the plight of Jews in Syria.

He said that "In the face of the appalling treatment meted out to Syrian Jews who are themselves completely defenseless, one sometimes wonders at the restraint of the Israelis in not seeking a military solution to this problem."

(In Paris, Jewish organizations confirmed last week that 12 of 16 jailed Syrian Jews have been released by Damascus authorities, apparently under a presidential amnesty declared on May 11. The amnesty applied only to Syrian citizens and did not include Albert Elias, former president of the Jewish community in Beirut, Lebanon, who was kidnapped from that city by Syrian agents last fall.)

Want To Stand Up And Be Counted

Fletcher accused the Syrian regime of "committing crimes against humanity in the name of Socialism" just as the Nazis did. He said the treatment of Jews in Syria "is not only inhuman, it is bestial." He said the time has come for "a national protest here and a worldwide outcry against this tragedy enacted before our very eyes." Claiming that both the British government and the opposition have failed to protest, and that the British people, "once made aware of the facts will rise up in protest," Fletcher declared: "I and many other non-Jews want to stand up and be counted on this issue. We shall go on protesting, together with the Jews, until this tragedy comes to an end."

Alderman Michael Fidler, president of the Board, said that before Syria can claim to be a civilized nation "she must stop the medieval torture and humiliation of Syrian Jews." Lord Janner observed that Syria was the last of the Arab countries where "inhumanities are perpetrated against defenseless Jewish groups." The Board urged the government to take steps to ameliorate the plight of Syrian Jews and permit them to leave.

EIGHT JEWISH LEADERS CHARGE VIGILANTE TONE PREVAILED AT EMERGENCY CONCLAVE

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA)--Eight Jewish leaders, including Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis, issued a joint statement charging that "the vigilante tone that prevailed" at a "grass roots emergency conference" convened last Monday night by Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, "was a distortion of Jewish values." The conference drew some 1200 participants and evoked sharp criticism from the head of another rabbinical group and a walkout of about two dozen participants who protested the refusal by Rabbi Berkowitz to permit questions from the floor.

The meeting was called to consider such problems as 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 neighborhoods in the city. The statement by the eight critics emphasized that it was issued in their individual capacities and not in the name of the institutions with which they are associated.

The signers were Eli Wiesel, the author; Charles Silberman, an expert on ethnic groups; Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel of the Jewish Theological Seminary; Rabbi Emanuel Rackman of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue; Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive vice-president of the Synagogue Council of America; Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly; and Rabbi Walter Wurtzbarger, professor of philosophy at Yeshiva University.

Distortion of Reality

The statement asserted that "in responding to real problems and concerns, too many of our fellow Jews, including some Jewish leaders, seem to have lost all sense of where or who they are." Declaring they were referring specifically to the "so-called Emergency Conference," they charged that "the substance of that meeting was a distortion of reality" and that "the vigilante tone that prevailed was a distortion of Jewish values."

"Jewish interests can only be harmed by hysteria of this sort," the statement declared. "The United States in 1972, for all of its problems and agonies, is not Weimar Germany. To speak as though it were is a grave disservice to American Jewry and a defamation of this country." The statement stressed that the eight critics "know full well that these are anxious times for many Jews and we recognize that Jewish leadership has not always responded to their problems and fears with sufficient promptness or empathy."

Nevertheless, the eight Jews declared, "where the interests of Jews appear to be in conflict with those of other racial and ethnic groups, we must cling to reason and find solutions that are fair and just to all. We pledge our full energies to such a search."

RESOLUTIONS ON SOVIET JEWRY GIVEN TO U.S. DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING NIXON TO USSR

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA)--Legislative resolutions and governors' proclamations from 30 states, urging President Nixon to intercede for Soviet Jews during his talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow were transmitted by a B'nai B'rith delegation to Assistant Secretary of State Martin J. Hillenbrand, a senior member of the United States delegation accompanying the President to the Soviet Union.

The official documents were presented prior to the departure of the US delegation by David M. Blum-

berg, B'nai B'rith president, during a meeting between B'nai B'rith officials and Hillenbrand, ranking State Department executive for European affairs, and his deputy, Richard T. Davies. Blumberg said Hillenbrand assured the B'nai B'rith group that the actions of the 30 states "will be brought to the attention of my superiors."

The documents included resolutions enacted by legislatures in 20 states and proclamations from 11 governors. In Louisiana, both the governor and the legislature took official action on the issue. Blumberg said B'nai B'rith had initiated the effort in state capitals "because we believe it strengthens the President's hand if Soviet officials know that the rights of Soviet Jews are of concern to all Americans--to middle America as well as the big cities."

Blumberg said he was "confident" that the President would raise the issue, "perhaps formally" with the Soviet leaders, adding, "our specific interest is for the President to urge the USSR to revise its policies by releasing some 40 Jews who have been jailed for agitating for their human rights, by allowing emigration without discrimination or harassment, and by restoring cultural and religious institutions to the Soviet Jewish community."

ZIONISTS URGE GREATER SUPPORT OF UJA

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA)--Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, announced the launching of a unique fund-raising effort on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal on the part of the total Zionist movement "designed to reach every enrolled Zionist member in the United States." The heads of the 12 national Zionist organizations affiliated with the AZF have joined together for the first time in a joint appeal to Zionists throughout the land "to contribute generously" to the UJA so as to "keep the promise" as Zionists "who know the needs of the hour."

The Zionist effort comes at a time of growing awareness of the tremendous financial burdens involved in the migration and absorption of tens of thousands of Soviet immigrants currently arriving in Israel, said Rabbi Miller. He added that "while we are deeply appreciative of the moves in Congress to grant governmental financial aid for these purposes, even if those efforts are successful, the sum realized will hardly be sufficient to cover all the needs involved."

He said that Zionists have always supported the UJA, but this is the first time that the combined Movement is reaching out as one to Zionists everywhere. "We are hoping," he said, "that many Zionists who have already given, will be stimulated to make another contribution." The decision of the AZF to launch the new initiative comes in the wake of recent talks between American Zionist leaders and Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon; General Uzi Narkiss, director-general of the Immigration and Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency, and Rabbi Shlomo Goren, Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv, Rabbi Miller stated.

Israel's first ground satellite station has been completed and will begin operations on July 26, relaying and receiving communications via commercial satellites. The establishment of satellite communications will enable Israel to receive direct television transmissions from overseas. The satellite station will also carry telex, telephone, radio and press messages and photographs which are also carried by the undersea cable linking Israel with France.

There will be no News Bulletin on Monday, May 28th, due to the Memorial Day holiday.



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CONCENTRATION CAMP SURVIVOR IDENTIFIES MRS. RYAN AS WOMAN WHO ‘KILLED’ PRISONER

NEW YORK, May 22 (JTA)--A concentration camp survivor charged three times on Friday that Mrs. Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan “killed” a woman prisoner while serving as a guard at Majdanek in 1943. But at another point the witness, Mrs. Mary (Husyt) Finkelstein of Brooklyn, said Mrs. Ryan “clobbered” the prisoner with a stick, and by the end of the day's testimony the point was still unclear. The government is attempting to deport Mrs. Ryan to her native Austria. The hearing resumes June 9 at the local offices of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Mrs. Finkelstein, a doughty gray-haired woman

of 51, was repeatedly ordered by the special inquiry officer, Francis J. Lyons, to limit her testimony to direct answers to attorneys' questions. Near the end of the day she began to adhere to that order, but by and large she sought to use her appearance to relate stories of Nazi brutality. Asked if it was her habit to hound ex-Nazis, she replied: “No, but I would be glad to see them in a concentration camp.”

Mrs. Finkelstein testified that Mrs. Ryan was one of the Majdanek guards who used sticks, whips and dogs to herd and supervise prisoners. “If we heard Hermine (was coming), we knew there wouldn't be anything good coming,” she said. She testified that Mrs. Ryan's “clobberings” of prisoners were accompanied by such exclamations as “You swine. You goddamned Jew. Stay up straight.”

Describes Gassing Of Victims

The witness described the hanging of a Jewish prisoner that she said took place at Majdanek in Mrs. Ryan's presence. Mrs. Ryan had earlier testified that she never saw a gallows at the camp. Mrs. Finkelstein, who lost her family in the Nazis' genocide effort, told how she was taken from her native Warsaw in May 1943 when her bunker was discovered. She and others were undressed, searched and put in a cattle car that took them to Majdanek, she said. During the ride, she said, the car was gassed, and some of the 100 prisoners jammed into it died.

When a baby in the car started crying, the witness went on, its mother choked it as the baby asked “Mommy, do you love me?” It was not clear from the testimony whether the mother actually killed the baby. Mrs. Finkelstein said the mother subsequently “went insane.” The witness' sister was one of those in the car. Mrs. Finkelstein never saw her after that.

Mrs. Finkelstein, who described an alleged photograph of Mrs. Ryan as “the one who killed the woman,” said she recognized the Queens housewife from her “tight lips.” As far as photographs of other guards were concerned, “They look all the same to me. The same rats,” she admitted that she has always had poor eyesight.

Defense attorney John J. Barry sought to discredit the witness, who often responded “I don't know” or “I can't remember.” When he zeroed in on her inability to recall a train station at Majdanek, she reminded him that the cattle car had been gassed. Barry's attempt to destroy the witness' credibility extended to his asking her to describe the design and material of the guards' uniforms. She gave uncertain replies to these questions, and said she did not remember spotlights on the camp towers.

Barry told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency afterward that he questioned Mrs. Finkelstein's “credibility” and had “serious doubts” that she was ever in Majdanek. Vincent A. Schiano, representing the government, told the JTA he was satisfied with her testimony and had 25 more witnesses ready.

President Salvador Allende of Chile has accepted an invitation to visit Israel but has set no date for his visit, Foreign Ministry sources said today. The invitation was extended to President Allende by Ambassador Gideon Rafael who is heading the Israeli delegation to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Santiago.

Mayor Rashid Al Shawa of Gaza said in Hebron yesterday that the future of the Gaza Strip should be linked to that of the West Bank.

SOVIET PROPAGANDIZES NEWSMEN ABOUT STATUS OF JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION

SALZBURG, May 21 (JTA)--Soviet official propaganda aimed at offsetting charges that Jews in the Soviet Union are oppressed was made available today to American news media representatives accompanying President Nixon on his trip to Moscow. Copies of the current issue of the English-language "Soviet Life," a monthly distributed regularly in the US, was aboard the Pan American plane which is ferrying about half the media contingent to Moscow. Reporters traveling on TWA, however, said they did not see any copies on their plane. Pan Am has two flights weekly to Moscow.

The May edition of "Soviet Life" carries two illustrated articles, both bylined with Jewish names. The authors claim Jews are contributing handsomely to Soviet development and are honored for their services. They leave the impression that complaints that Jews are victims of discrimination are untrue. They do not mention official barriers to emigration and cultural practices.

One of the articles is headlined "Thirty-Eighth Anniversary of Jewish Autonomous Region." It is attributed to Lev Shapiro, First Secretary, Birobidzhan Regional Committee of the Communist Party. Shapiro implies that the population and culture of the province is essentially Jewish. Critics long ago have described Birobidzhan as neither Jewish nor autonomous.

Sholom Aleichem - Soviet Hero

Another article consists of four pages on "Places Sholom Aleichem Loved." Written by Solomon Rabinovich, the article portrays the beloved Jewish author in terms of Soviet ideology. He described how in Sholom Aleichem's old haunts in the Ukraine "hundreds of thousands" of Jews live happily and hold prestigious jobs.

Rabinovich introduced his article by quoting the "Freiheit" (the pro-Moscow Yiddish newspaper published in New York), as reporting that "hundreds of thousands" in New York saw Sholom Aleichem in the street in the Bronx where he lived" and no New York street bears his name. In contrast, Kiev has a Sholom Aleichem Street and plaque on a house in Kiev where he lived, Rabinovich said.

Pan American manager of groups and charter flights, Charles Mittler, who was aboard the press plane, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Pan American regularly carries "Soviet Life" for passengers on its Moscow runs. They are received at the Pan American office in Washington where they are printed, he said. Asked whether Soviet aircraft to the US carry "America Illustrated," Mittler smilingly replied they do not.

ALLON SAYS HE WILL NOT ALLOW UNIVERSITIES TO SHUT DOWN

TEL AVIV, May 21 (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigal Allon pledged yesterday that he would not permit any Israeli institutions of higher learning to shut down because of financial difficulties. Speaking over the Army broadcasting services, Allon said he would bring the matter before a Cabinet session. His remarks seemed aimed primarily at Tel Aviv University which has said it may not reopen next fall because of an \$8 million deficit. Faculty and administrative employees at Tel Aviv U. were reportedly planning to strike if the university is unable to raise enough money to pay their full salaries this month.

WARHAFTIG, PIMEN CONFER ON SOVIET ISSUES

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA)--Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, the Minister for Religious Affairs, and Patriarch Pimen, leader of the Russian Orthodox Church,

conferred today and each had a petition for the other. Dr. Warhaftig asked the Russian cleric to persuade Soviet authorities to allow Russian Jews to emigrate to Israel. The Patriarch asked the Israeli Minister to support the Russian Orthodox community in Israel in its dispute with the White Russian patriarchate which involves property claims.

Dr. Warhaftig urged the visitor from Moscow to explain to his government that Soviet Jews have the right to fulfill their religious commandments in the land of their tradition. He also expressed sorrow that Russian Jews have neither a chief rabbi nor yeshivot to train rabbis. In reply to Pimen's request, he assured the Patriarch that his Church could rely on Israeli justice. Should the judges find that the Soviet Orthodox Church is right in its dispute with the White Russian Church, there is no cause to worry, he said.

Eight Jewish Defense League members were arrested today when they tried to force their way into the Intercontinental Hotel where Patriarch Pimen, Dr. Warhaftig and Justice Minister Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro were guests at a luncheon tendered by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch in honor of the visiting Patriarch from Moscow.

LABOR MP SUGGESTS ISRAELI MILITARY INTERVENTION TO RESCUE SYRIAN JEWS

LONDON, May 21 (JTA)--A Labor MP suggested today that "the Israelis could easily rescue the Syrian Jews in a military operation lasting no more than a couple of days." Raymond Fletcher, a non-Jew, made that remark at a special session of the monthly meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews which was devoted to the plight of Jews in Syria.

He said that "In the face of the appalling treatment meted out to Syrian Jews who are themselves completely defenseless, one sometimes wonders at the restraint of the Israelis in not seeking a military solution to this problem."

(In Paris, Jewish organizations confirmed last week that 12 of 16 jailed Syrian Jews have been released by Damascus authorities, apparently under a presidential amnesty declared on May 11. The amnesty applied only to Syrian citizens and did not include Albert Elias, former president of the Jewish community in Beirut, Lebanon, who was kidnapped from that city by Syrian agents last fall.)

Want To Stand Up And Be Counted

Fletcher accused the Syrian regime of "committing crimes against humanity in the name of Socialism" just as the Nazis did. He said the treatment of Jews in Syria "is not only inhuman, it is bestial." He said the time has come for "a national protest here and a worldwide outcry against this tragedy enacted before our very eyes." Claiming that both the British government and the opposition have failed to protest, and that the British people, "once made aware of the facts will rise up in protest," Fletcher declared: "I and many other non-Jews want to stand up and be counted on this issue. We shall go on protesting, together with the Jews, until this tragedy comes to an end."

Alderman Michael Fidler, president of the Board, said that before Syria can claim to be a civilized nation "she must stop the medieval torture and humiliation of Syrian Jews." Lord Janner observed that Syria was the last of the Arab countries where "inhumanities are perpetrated against defenseless Jewish groups." The Board urged the government to take steps to ameliorate the plight of Syrian Jews and permit them to leave.

EIGHT JEWISH LEADERS CHARGE VIGILANTE TONE PREVAILED AT EMERGENCY CONCLAVE

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA)--Eight Jewish leaders, including Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis, issued a joint statement charging that "the vigilante tone that prevailed" at a "grass roots emergency conference" convened last Monday night by Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, "was a distortion of Jewish values." The conference drew some 1200 participants and evoked sharp criticism from the head of another rabbinical group and a walkout of about two dozen participants who protested the refusal by Rabbi Berkowitz to permit questions from the floor.

The meeting was called to consider such problems as 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 neighborhoods in the city. The statement by the eight critics emphasized that it was issued in their individual capacities and not in the name of the institutions with which they are associated.

The signers were Eli Wiesel, the author; Charles Silberman, an expert on ethnic groups; Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel of the Jewish Theological Seminary; Rabbi Emanuel Rackman of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue; Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive vice-president of the Synagogue Council of America; Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly; and Rabbi Walter Wurtzbarger, professor of philosophy at Yeshiva University.

Distortion of Reality

The statement asserted that "in responding to real problems and concerns, too many of our fellow Jews, including some Jewish leaders, seem to have lost all sense of where or who they are." Declaring they were referring specifically to the "so-called Emergency Conference," they charged that "the substance of that meeting was a distortion of reality" and that "the vigilante tone that prevailed was a distortion of Jewish values."

"Jewish interests can only be harmed by hysteria of this sort," the statement declared. "The United States in 1972, for all of its problems and agonies, is not Weimar Germany. To speak as though it were is a grave disservice to American Jewry and a defamation of this country." The statement stressed that the eight critics "know full well that these are anxious times for many Jews and we recognize that Jewish leadership has not always responded to their problems and fears with sufficient promptness or empathy."

Nevertheless, the eight Jews declared, "where the interests of Jews appear to be in conflict with those of other racial and ethnic groups, we must cling to reason and find solutions that are fair and just to all. We pledge our full energies to such a search."

RESOLUTIONS ON SOVIET JEWRY GIVEN TO U.S. DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING NIXON TO USSR

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA)--Legislative resolutions and governors' proclamations from 30 states, urging President Nixon to intercede for Soviet Jews during his talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow were transmitted by a B'nai B'rith delegation to Assistant Secretary of State Martin J. Hillenbrand, a senior member of the United States delegation accompanying the President to the Soviet Union.

The official documents were presented prior to the departure of the US delegation by David M. Blum-

berg, B'nai B'rith president, during a meeting between B'nai B'rith officials and Hillenbrand, ranking State Department executive for European affairs, and his deputy, Richard T. Davies. Blumberg said Hillenbrand assured the B'nai B'rith group that the actions of the 30 states "will be brought to the attention of my superiors."

The documents included resolutions enacted by legislatures in 20 states and proclamations from 11 governors. In Louisiana, both the governor and the legislature took official action on the issue. Blumberg said B'nai B'rith had initiated the effort in state capitals "because we believe it strengthens the President's hand if Soviet officials know that the rights of Soviet Jews are of concern to all Americans--to middle America as well as the big cities."

Blumberg said he was "confident" that the President would raise the issue, "perhaps formally" with the Soviet leaders, adding, "our specific interest is for the President to urge the USSR to revise its policies by releasing some 40 Jews who have been jailed for agitating for their human rights, by allowing emigration without discrimination or harassment, and by restoring cultural and religious institutions to the Soviet Jewish community."

ZIONISTS URGE GREATER SUPPORT OF UJA

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA)--Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, announced the launching of a unique fund-raising effort on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal on the part of the total Zionist movement "designed to reach every enrolled Zionist member in the United States." The heads of the 12 national Zionist organizations affiliated with the AZF have joined together for the first time in a joint appeal to Zionists throughout the land "to contribute generously" to the UJA so as to "keep the promise" as Zionists "who know the needs of the hour."

The Zionist effort comes at a time of growing awareness of the tremendous financial burdens involved in the migration and absorption of tens of thousands of Soviet immigrants currently arriving in Israel, said Rabbi Miller. He added that "while we are deeply appreciative of the moves in Congress to grant governmental financial aid for these purposes, even if those efforts are successful, the sum realized will hardly be sufficient to cover all the needs involved."

He said that Zionists have always supported the UJA, but this is the first time that the combined Movement is reaching out as one to Zionists everywhere. "We are hoping," he said, "that many Zionists who have already given, will be stimulated to make another contribution." The decision of the AZF to launch the new initiative comes in the wake of recent talks between American Zionist leaders and Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon; General Uzi Narkiss, director-general of the Immigration and Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency, and Rabbi Shlomo Goren, Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv, Rabbi Miller stated.

Israel's first ground satellite station has been completed and will begin operations on July 26, relaying and receiving communications via commercial satellites. The establishment of satellite communications will enable Israel to receive direct television transmissions from overseas. The satellite station will also carry telex, telephone, radio and press messages and photographs which are also carried by the undersea cable linking Israel with France.

There will be no News Bulletin on Monday, May 28th, due to the Memorial Day holiday.