



daily news bulletin

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No. 105

SUMMIT CONFERENCE ENDS WITH LITTLE PUBLICITY ON MIDEAST, SOVIET JEWRY

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF

JTA Washington Bureau Chief

KIEV, May 30 (JTA)--White House spokesmen had little to report publicly today on two issues of major interest to the American Jewish community and to Israel--the Middle East and Soviet Jewry. President Nixon and the Presidential party left this morning for Teheran after eight days in the Soviet Union. On the Mideast, the summit conference in Moscow yielded only the declaration that the two sides "favor progress." They support, according to the joint communique, the Jarring mission's goal of an agreement between the Arabs and the Israelis under Security Council Resolution 242. The last word on the Soviet Jewry issue was that "it was mentioned."

In the absence of details on the conversations between Nixon and Communist Party leader Leonid I. Brezhnev, it is too early to assess the actual results. Certainly the vagueness of the Mideast and Soviet Jewry has also been characteristic of other subjects, notably Vietnam.

It appeared from the communique that the two sides maintained their pre-summit positions. But that does not necessarily mean the positions are frozen; it may mean that at present neither government is prepared to announce or even indicate any shift. Anything beyond a bare acknowledgment that the Soviet Jewry issue was discussed would be inappropriate diplomatically or out of simple courtesy. Spokesmen said the President could not go much beyond letting the Soviet leaders know the attitude of the American government on the plight of Soviet Jews.

'No Surprises' At Summit

Dr. Henry Kissinger, Nixon's national security advisor, said late last night at his second press briefing in 10 hours that regarding the Mideast, "Anything that keeps the situation from being inflamed is negative progress." He said the question was "fully discussed" and that the exchange of views at the summit helped this "negative progress." It was understood here that neither side altered its stated position regarding the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Dr. Kissinger said, not referring to any particular matter, that "no surprises" came from either side during the week-long conference. Nixon discussed the Mideast with Soviet leaders while Secretary of State William P. Rogers did so in separate sessions with Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko.

The President, on the eve of his departure from Washington to Salzburg, said he would not "let down" the Jewish community. Late last night here in Kiev, Dr. Kissinger said the President had "mentioned the problem" at the conference. Asked if he had mentioned it to Brezhnev, he declared: "I won't go any further. The Soviet leaders are aware of our attitude toward this problem."

Both Sides Consistently Vague

Details of the conversation are unlikely to emerge immediately, probably not until after the President's return to Washington Thursday night and possibly not for some time. Both sides have been

consistently vague on issues other than bilateral agreements. Soviet spokesmen have made their side of the Jewish issue obvious to foreign newsmen here, indicating their desire to keep it in their own hands. It is unlikely, therefore, that Nixon will take the initiative in releasing any information, an act his Soviet hosts might consider presumptuous.

At a press briefing on the summit communique, Dr. Kissinger was asked: "How extensive were the discussions on the Middle East and were there any proposals made by either side?" He replied: "There were discussions between the General Secretary (Brezhnev) and the President concerning the Middle East. They were, as the communique says, frank and thorough. Of course, this is a subject in which a great deal depends on the parties concerned, and in which the possibility of outside countries is limited. But of course, both sides favor progress toward a peaceful settlement." He gave no details on the timing or extent of the discussions or on the Soviet leaders' reactions.

However, in Nixon's televised speech in Moscow Sunday night, implications for both the Mideast and Vietnam appeared in two passages. The President seemed to be saying the US has not altered its Mideast position whereby it maintains that a settlement depends on the parties. This is in contrast to the established Soviet position that the major powers should impose a solution on Israel and its Arab neighbors.

The President seemed to be cautioning the Soviet Union not to allow Egypt or North Vietnam to cause conflict between the superpowers when he said: "History tells us that great nations have often been dragged into war without intending it, by conflicts between smaller nations. As great powers, we can and should use our influence to prevent this from happening."

WALDHEIM SATISFIED WITH SUMMIT'S REAFFIRMATION OF RESOLUTION 242

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Pointing out that the United States has announced its intention of reporting on the summit results to the Middle East parties, Eban said he would see American Ambassador Walworth Barbour before visiting Scandinavia. Contacts will also be made in Washington, he added. Until then, he said, he would limit his comments to public statements and the Moscow joint communique, which he said reflected deep differences of interpretation. Its main implication, he said, is that summit meetings cannot be decisive unless they involve the Mideast parties.

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The reports, two weeks ago, said Ambassador Jarring was active in his 20s in the National Unity Party, which opposed Jewish immigration to Sweden and later became Nazi-linked. A UN spokesman explained that the party was respectable when Dr. Jarring joined it, but he could not say whether the diplomat-to-be left it before or after it went far right. Regarding the deadlocked Jarring mission, Eban said he did not believe it could succeed as long as Egypt insisted on Israeli withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, lines.

SOVIET JEW DETAINED IN MENTAL HOSPITAL

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DR. BRANOVER CHARGES SOVIET HARASSING HIS BROTHER

NEW YORK, May 30 (JTA)--A Soviet Jewish emigrant now living in Israel told an overflow audience at a rally for Soviet Jewry last night that his brother, a world renowned Soviet physicist, is being harassed by Soviet authorities because he, too, wants to emigrate to Israel. Dr. Ishai Branover, who went to Israel six months ago with his wife and 23-year-old daughter, said at the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center that his 40-year-old brother, Prof. Herman Branover, is currently hiding to avoid arrest on charges of hitting a four-year-old Russian girl with a car.

Dr. Branover, an economic scientist, said the charges against his brother are not valid but were brought against him because of his desire to leave the Soviet Union with his wife and 8-year-old daughter. The economist is in the United States to gather support in scientific circles for his brother. During last night's rally, numerous phone calls were placed to Soviet Jews in Moscow and Riga. But in each case, the operator informed the callers that "there is no answer." This has been the pattern since President Nixon arrived in Moscow. Before then, calls were put through. The rally was sponsored by the Oceanfront Council for Soviet Jewry.

BOURGUIBA SAYS LACK OF TERRORIST LEADERSHIP PREVENTS MIDEAST CHANGE

JERUSALEM, May 30 (JTA)--Tunisian president Habib Bourguiba has predicted that the situation along the Suez Canal will not change in ten years. He also sharply criticized the Arab terrorist movement for failing to establish a leadership. His remarks, quoted over Amman Radio, were reportedly made after a week-long visit to Algeria, where he conferred at length with that nation's president, Houari Boumedienne. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was recently hosted by each of the two presidents during visits to their respective countries.

Amman Radio quoted Bourguiba as asking how the Arabs could expect changes on the Middle East when they were not united and fighting. Referring to the lack of terrorist leadership, he complained that "There is nobody to talk to there." He also attacked the terrorists for singling out Jordan's King Hussein for criticism because he accepted the idea of a political settlement. Egypt, too, has accepted such a settlement, Bourguiba said, by holding to Security Council Resolution 242.

MAJOR STRIKES LOOMING

TEL AVIV, May 30 (JTA)--The Israeli economy is being faced with two major labor disputes, and one may have repercussions on international air traffic. Officials of the Civil Aviation Department are threatening to strike Friday if the Civil Aviation Authority does not enter into negotiations for equalizing their wages with other aviation companies. Civil aviation employees are demanding that their wages and social rights be equal to those paid by El Al and the Israel aircraft industry. The Civil Aviation Authority claims that it is bound by civil service regulations in all such matters.

In the other dispute, 2400 workers of the Ata textile firm have been permitted by the Haifa Labor Council to take measures, including a strike, if their demands for higher wages is not met. The workers are demanding a three percent increase in wages, while management will only agree to pay the cost of living allowances rise, as well as raise the initial wages. The latter plan had been agreed upon by the Histadrut and employees.

TWO PLANELOADS OF SOVIET JEWS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL; MORE EXPECTED IN NEXT FEW DAYS

TEL AVIV, May 30 (JTA)--Two plane loads of Soviet Jewish immigrants arrived in Israel last night via Vienna, and more are expected within the next several days. Through telephone conversations with Soviet Jews, it has been reported that many Jews are being called to ovr offices and are being given exit permits. One Soviet Jew reported that it is difficult to tell, as yet, the effect of President Nixon's visit. "We do hope Nixon raised the problem of Russian Jews in his Kremlin talks, but we know nothing for sure," he said.

According to the same sources, none of the Jews arrested prior to and during the Nixon visit have yet been released. There are rumors that another Jew was detained in Leningrad, but nothing could be confirmed since telephone lines between Moscow and other Soviet cities were reported "busy." Moscow Jews have been unable to keep up to date on the Jewish situation because of this telephone problem.

LABOR, MAPAM CABINET MINISTERS CRITICAL OF NEW SETTLEMENT

JERUSALEM, May 30 (JTA)--The Cabinet has confirmed plans to build 200 new apartments in Kiryat Arba, the new Jewish settlement overlooking Hebron in Israeli occupied Jordan. Two hundred and fifty new units have already been built in the settlement and occupied. Confirmation of the plans for the additional apartments was considered a mere formality since they had been previously announced in the Knesset. Nevertheless, confirmation of the project was opposed by Mapam Minister Nathan Peled and a majority of Labor Party ministers abstained during the vote on the matter.

Peled, who is Minister of Absorption, had charged that settling in Hebron closes options for peace. He also argued that money is more urgently needed for immigrant absorption. The Labor Party Cabinet members who abstained were Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, Housing Minister Zev Sharef and Minister of the Interior Yaacov Shapiro.

There was no clear indication as to why the four ministers abstained, but sources close to Sapir said that while he favors the project in principle, he feels that present priorities lie elsewhere. Prime Minister Golda Meir and Agriculture and Development Minister Haim Gvati voted for the additional housing.

COMMUNAL LEADER CHARGES LOCAL BUDGETING DOWNSTAGED BY FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

MONTREAL, May 30 (JTA)--William Avrunin, Detroit Jewish Welfare Fund vice-president, charged here that local budgeting and planning were being "downstaged" by fundraising operations. "Federation leadership, lay and professional, knows that it is being judged by the level of local services," Avrunin told delegates attending the 74th annual meeting of the National Conference of Jewish Communal Service.

"Jewish agencies," he continued, "are now confronted with a different United Way which listens to loud and aggressive demands from Black and racial groups, from unions, from those who have been excluded from the Establishment. We who have been a part of the Establishment have assumed that the United Way will take care of us."

Jewish community services must "express the same kind of deep conviction about the necessity for our services as other groups do," Avrunin said, adding: "There is a growing feeling among my colleagues in Federation that an imbalance has developed in organized Jewish community life which threatens not just the local agencies but the federa-

tions themselves. The survival of the Federation depends also on maintaining and strengthening local services."

JEWS DISPLAY PRIDE IN ETHNIC IDENTITY

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., May 30 (JTA)--Declaring that the passion for assimilation that characterized American thinking for so many years is now a thing of the past, Governor Marvin Mandel of Maryland today told the 43rd annual convention of the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs that "ethnic shame and anonymity is the great sin of the age."

The Maryland Governor said that the Blacks, Chicanos, Italians, Poles and Jews, as well as other ethnic minority groups, are now participating "in the great surge of this decade, the struggle for individual and collective identity." He said that it is "up to us to work as individuals and as a community to carve out a community identity as Americans, as Jews, as American Jews."

He said American Jewry had a three-fold task before it: the responsibility for the freedom of Soviet Jewry, the responsibility of insuring Israel's ability "to keep open the gates to our persecuted brothers," and the responsibility "not to give up the fight for that most noble cause, the cause of freedom for our fellow man."

Speaking at another session of the convention, Rabbi Joel S. Geffen, director of Community Education of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, said that the militancy of the Blacks, Spanish-speaking groups, and the American Indians has imbued Jews with a new pride as an ethnic group.

Rabbi Geffen noted that the "tensions in the New York City public school system, the Forest Hills scatter-site housing project and the rise of quotas in colleges and employment have caused Jews to adopt a more positive stand in regard to their own needs, rights and positions in the American community."

He noted, however, that this return to ethnic pride among Jews comes at a time when they "lack the knowledge of their own Jewish heritage and religious traditions." This lack, he claimed, "is the vital challenge which is facing the American Jewish community today."

BAN ON MIXED SWIMMING RAISES IRE, PROVOKES PROTESTS

TEL AVIV, May 30 (JTA)--The opposition Gahal faction reversed itself yesterday and demanded that the Tel Aviv City Council reconsider its recent decision to ban mixed swimming on most of the city's beaches in deference to Orthodox demands. Gahal originally voted for the ban but decided to raise the question again with a view to making more beach space available to mixed swimming.

The ban has generated considerable anger among Tel Avivians and demonstrations against it occur almost daily. Male and female bathers have entered the segregated areas in defiance of the order and engage in heated arguments with policemen stationed at the beaches to enforce the rule.

The ban was supported by Tel Aviv's Mayor Yehoshua Rabinowitz, siding with the Orthodox who claimed that males and females bathing together is sinful and immoral. As a result of the ban, most of Tel Aviv's beach front is partitioned with sections for each sex.

FLASH--An explosion rocked Lydda Airport terminal late this evening. There were apparently many victims. No immediate information was available as to the cause of the explosion.

SPECIAL JTA INTERVIEW**LORD JANNER: AN OPTIMIST FOR ALL SEASONS**

By GEORGE FRIEDMAN, JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK, May 30 (JTA)--Nostalgia for the Jewish National Fund, sympathy for the British view of Israeli, compassion for Syrian and Soviet Jewry, distaste for the Jewish Defense League and faith in Israel's determination were expressed by Lord Janner, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, in a two-hour interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "I have a very nostalgic connection with the JNF," said the Laborite member of Parliament, who is making a two-week, five-city tour of the United States to raise funds for the organization.

"The big event in the East End of London," he recalled, "was the annual bazaar of the JNF. It was a tremendous occasion. Every home that had a mezuza had that little box. If it weren't for the JNF it would have taken many more years for a (Jewish) state--not in our lifetime." The politician, who will be 70 on June 20, added that the clearing of the Palestinian wasteland was an early "experiment in anti-pollution."

The Foreign Office "Arabists" who led Britain 30 years ago, Lord Janner continued, "based their evaluation of the capacity of Palestine on what they considered to be a scientific basis--namely, the absorptive capacity of the land. They didn't realize that Jews would adjust themselves to the various needs of the land. I don't know anyone else but Jews who have done it. The Jew himself adapted himself to the needs of the country, and it's happening to this very day. The Israeli Jews' resilience to unusual conditions is something remarkable. It's unique in the world. They succeeded in converting that land."

In 1934 and 1935, he recalled, he took the first Parliamentary delegations to Palestine "to see Jews in the raw and bring home to the non-Jew--and indeed to the Jew himself--what he can really do." The result, he said, was that "they came back tremendously impressed." To a suggestion that nevertheless Britain today remains generally hostile toward Israel, Lord Janner demurred: "The people in England, in Britain, are not hostile. Some of the officials in the Foreign Office are not friendly, but they admire what's been done there. Britain wants to hold a kind of influence with the Arab world, but it does recognize and knows what Israel has done."

Syrian Jews Beleaguered

Acknowledging that Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home has "wavered" in his recent statements on the Middle East, Lord Janner remarked: "The government knows in its heart the Israeli course is a civilized one and they can't go back to the original boundaries--there must be defensive possibilities--although they still think these shouldn't be very extensive." The "pro-Arab" faction in Parliament, he noted, is "certainly not as strong as the pro-Israel group," which also includes his son, Greville Janner.

The situation of Algerian Jewry, which he was warning about 10 years ago, is today "nothing compared to the situation of Jews in Syria," though in Egypt and Iraq the situations are "very much eased," Lord Janner said.

Of Syria, he elaborated: "The big difference there is that the Jewish population are under such intimidation that they can't really speak directly to strangers. The poor devils are beleaguered. The Syrian situation, in my view, is extremely serious. It reminds me of the position in the early days of the

Nazi regime, when Jews were compelled to make statements that everything was all right." But as for a Syrian genocide campaign, "I don't think that anything of that nature could possibly happen."

JDL Tactics Denounced

As far as Soviet Jews are concerned, the president of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain went on, the "only way" to help them is to "continuously publicize what's happening" to them. In this connection, he denounced the tactics of the JDL: "We do not agree to any violent methods. It's counter-productive, it's silly, it's foolish. If you start attacking in a violent way people who represent the (Soviet) state, I think it has an adverse reaction on them. I've heard that from responsible people who left the USSR."

As for the JDL's claim that it put the Soviet Jewry issue on the front pages, Lord Janner asserted: "That is nonsense." He also criticized Rabbi Meir Kahane's call for mass aliyah by American Jews, explaining: "He brings Jews into prominence here on a wrong premise. He's just an extremist. If he believes what he says he's entirely misguided, he's wrong."

On the Mideast, the Briton contended that "Israel, I think, is doing the right thing." He conceded that "I'm not going to say the possibility of war is excluded," but noted: "The Russians don't want war. I'm quite satisfied they will avoid war if they can, if they can help it." War will not come, he stated, "as long as the situation can be held at bay and as long as Israel is properly armed." Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's public willingness to sacrifice a million countrymen to regain lost territory is "terrible agitating," in Lord Janner's view, and may eventually backfire as "some elements are bound to be frightened."

But overall, said the genial MP, "I'm still of the opinion that sooner or later the two sides will have to get together." And he added: "I'm an optimist. I think the Jewish people will not let Israel down."

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH POPULATION WANES

JOHANNESBURG, May 30 (JTA)--Although the South African Jewish community has increased slightly in numbers over the past two decades, the Jewish percentage of the white population has steadily declined as a result of a lower birth rate than the general white population and a lack of increase through immigration, a Jewish scholar said here.

Mervyn Cohen, a lecturer in statistics at Witwatersrand University, told the Congress of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies that there was a higher percentage of aged among South African Jews than among the white non-Jewish population. He noted that there were 117,000 Jews in South Africa according to the 1970 census.

The 1960 census listed 114,501 Jews and the 1951 figure was 108,497. But these figures represent a decline of the Jewish percentage in the white population from 4.1 percent in 1951 to 3.7 percent in 1960 and 3.2 percent in 1970, Cohen said.

Brig. Haim Tavori, commander of the Jerusalem Police, reported that there has been no increase in crimes of violence and armed robbery in this city during the past year although such crimes have increased in other parts of Israel.



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NEW YORK, May 30 (JTA)--A Soviet Jewish emigrant now living in Israel told an overflow audience at a rally for Soviet Jewry last night that his brother, a world renowned Soviet physicist, is being harassed by Soviet authorities because he, too, wants to emigrate to Israel. Dr. Ishai Branover, who went to Israel six months ago with his wife and 23-year-old daughter, said at the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center that his 40-year-old brother, Prof. Herman Branover, is currently hiding to avoid arrest on charges of hitting a four-year-old Russian girl with a car.

Dr. Branover, an economic scientist, said the charges against his brother are not valid but were brought against him because of his desire to leave the Soviet Union with his wife and 8-year-old daughter. The economist is in the United States to gather support in scientific circles for his brother. During last night's rally, numerous phone calls were placed to Soviet Jews in Moscow and Riga. But in each case, the operator informed the callers that "there is no answer." This has been the pattern since President Nixon arrived in Moscow. Before then, calls were put through. The rally was sponsored by the Oceanfront Council for Soviet Jewry.

BOURGUIBA SAYS LACK OF TERRORIST LEADERSHIP PREVENTS MIDEAST CHANGE

JERUSALEM, May 30 (JTA)--Tunisian president Habib Bourguiba has predicted that the situation along the Suez Canal will not change in ten years. He also sharply criticized the Arab terrorist movement for failing to establish a leadership. His remarks, quoted over Amman Radio, were reportedly made after a week-long visit to Algeria, where he conferred at length with that nation's president, Houari Boumedienne. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was recently hosted by each of the two presidents during visits to their respective countries.

Amman Radio quoted Bourguiba as asking how the Arabs could expect changes on the Middle East when they were not united and fighting. Referring to the lack of terrorist leadership, he complained that "There is nobody to talk to there." He also attacked the terrorists for singling out Jordan's King Hussein for criticism because he accepted the idea of a political settlement. Egypt, too, has accepted such a settlement, Bourguiba said, by holding to Security Council Resolution 242.

MAJOR STRIKES LOOMING

TEL AVIV, May 30 (JTA)--The Israeli economy is being faced with two major labor disputes, and one may have repercussions on international air traffic. Officials of the Civil Aviation Department are threatening to strike Friday if the Civil Aviation Authority does not enter into negotiations for equalizing their wages with other aviation companies. Civil aviation employees are demanding that their wages and social rights be equal to those paid by El Al and the Israel aircraft industry. The Civil Aviation Authority claims that it is bound by civil service regulations in all such matters.

In the other dispute, 2400 workers of the Ata textile firm have been permitted by the Haifa Labor Council to take measures, including a strike, if their demands for higher wages is not met. The workers are demanding a three percent increase in wages, while management will only agree to pay the cost of living allowances rise, as well as raise the initial wages. The latter plan had been agreed upon by the Histadrut and employees.

TWO PLANELOADS OF SOVIET JEWS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL; MORE EXPECTED IN NEXT FEW DAYS

TEL AVIV, May 30 (JTA)--Two plane loads of Soviet Jewish immigrants arrived in Israel last night via Vienna, and more are expected within the next several days. Through telephone conversations with Soviet Jews, it has been reported that many Jews are being called to ovr offices and are being given exit permits. One Soviet Jew reported that it is difficult to tell, as yet, the effect of President Nixon's visit. "We do hope Nixon raised the problem of Russian Jews in his Kremlin talks, but we know nothing for sure," he said.

According to the same sources, none of the Jews arrested prior to and during the Nixon visit have yet been released. There are rumors that another Jew was detained in Leningrad, but nothing could be confirmed since telephone lines between Moscow and other Soviet cities were reported "busy." Moscow Jews have been unable to keep up to date on the Jewish situation because of this telephone problem.

LABOR, MAPAM CABINET MINISTERS CRITICAL OF NEW SETTLEMENT

JERUSALEM, May 30 (JTA)--The Cabinet has confirmed plans to build 200 new apartments in Kiryat Arba, the new Jewish settlement overlooking Hebron in Israeli occupied Jordan. Two hundred and fifty new units have already been built in the settlement and occupied. Confirmation of the plans for the additional apartments was considered a mere formality since they had been previously announced in the Knesset. Nevertheless, confirmation of the project was opposed by Mapam Minister Nathan Peled and a majority of Labor Party ministers abstained during the vote on the matter.

Peled, who is Minister of Absorption, had charged that settling in Hebron closes options for peace. He also argued that money is more urgently needed for immigrant absorption. The Labor Party Cabinet members who abstained were Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, Housing Minister Zev Sharef and Minister of the Interior Yaacov Shapiro.

There was no clear indication as to why the four ministers abstained, but sources close to Sapir said that while he favors the project in principle, he feels that present priorities lie elsewhere. Prime Minister Golda Meir and Agriculture and Development Minister Haim Gvati voted for the additional housing.

COMMUNAL LEADER CHARGES LOCAL BUDGETING DOWNSTAGED BY FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

MONTREAL, May 30 (JTA)--William Avrunin, Detroit Jewish Welfare Fund vice-president, charged here that local budgeting and planning were being "downstaged" by fundraising operations. "Federation leadership, lay and professional, knows that it is being judged by the level of local services," Avrunin told delegates attending the 74th annual meeting of the National Conference of Jewish Communal Service.

"Jewish agencies," he continued, "are now confronted with a different United Way which listens to loud and aggressive demands from Black and racial groups, from unions, from those who have been excluded from the Establishment. We who have been a part of the Establishment have assumed that the United Way will take care of us."

Jewish community services must "express the same kind of deep conviction about the necessity for our services as other groups do," Avrunin said, adding: "There is a growing feeling among my colleagues in Federation that an imbalance has developed in organized Jewish community life which threatens not just the local agencies but the federa-

tions themselves. The survival of the Federation depends also on maintaining and strengthening local services."

JEWS DISPLAY PRIDE IN ETHNIC IDENTITY

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., May 30 (JTA)--Declaring that the passion for assimilation that characterized American thinking for so many years is now a thing of the past, Governor Marvin Mandel of Maryland today told the 43rd annual convention of the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs that "ethnic shame and anonymity is the great sin of the age."

The Maryland Governor said that the Blacks, Chicanos, Italians, Poles and Jews, as well as other ethnic minority groups, are now participating "in the great surge of this decade, the struggle for individual and collective identity." He said that it is "up to us to work as individuals and as a community to carve out a community identity as Americans, as Jews, as American Jews."

He said American Jewry had a three-fold task before it: the responsibility for the freedom of Soviet Jewry, the responsibility of insuring Israel's ability "to keep open the gates to our persecuted brothers," and the responsibility "not to give up the fight for that most noble cause, the cause of freedom for our fellow man."

Speaking at another session of the convention, Rabbi Joel S. Geffen, director of Community Education of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, said that the militancy of the Blacks, Spanish-speaking groups, and the American Indians has imbued Jews with a new pride as an ethnic group.

Rabbi Geffen noted that the "tensions in the New York City public school system, the Forest Hills scatter-site housing project and the rise of quotas in colleges and employment have caused Jews to adopt a more positive stand in regard to their own needs, rights and positions in the American community."

He noted, however, that this return to ethnic pride among Jews comes at a time when they "lack the knowledge of their own Jewish heritage and religious traditions." This lack, he claimed, "is the vital challenge which is facing the American Jewish community today."

BAN ON MIXED SWIMMING RAISES IRE, PROVOKES PROTESTS

TEL AVIV, May 30 (JTA)--The opposition Gahal faction reversed itself yesterday and demanded that the Tel Aviv City Council reconsider its recent decision to ban mixed swimming on most of the city's beaches in deference to Orthodox demands. Gahal originally voted for the ban but decided to raise the question again with a view to making more beach space available to mixed swimming.

The ban has generated considerable anger among Tel Avivians and demonstrations against it occur almost daily. Male and female bathers have entered the segregated areas in defiance of the order and engage in heated arguments with policemen stationed at the beaches to enforce the rule.

The ban was supported by Tel Aviv's Mayor Yehoshua Rabinowitz, siding with the Orthodox who claimed that males and females bathing together is sinful and immoral. As a result of the ban, most of Tel Aviv's beach front is partitioned with sections for each sex.

FLASH--An explosion rocked Lydda Airport terminal late this evening. There were apparently many victims. No immediate information was available as to the cause of the explosion.

SPECIAL JTA INTERVIEW**LORD JANNER: AN OPTIMIST FOR ALL SEASONS**

By GEORGE FRIEDMAN, JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK, May 30 (JTA)--Nostalgia for the Jewish National Fund, sympathy for the British view of Israeli, compassion for Syrian and Soviet Jewry, distaste for the Jewish Defense League and faith in Israel's determination were expressed by Lord Janner, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, in a two-hour interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "I have a very nostalgic connection with the JNF," said the Laborite member of Parliament, who is making a two-week, five-city tour of the United States to raise funds for the organization.

"The big event in the East End of London," he recalled, "was the annual bazaar of the JNF. It was a tremendous occasion. Every home that had a mezuza had that little box. If it weren't for the JNF it would have taken many more years for a (Jewish) state--not in our lifetime." The politician, who will be 70 on June 20, added that the clearing of the Palestinian wasteland was an early "experiment in anti-pollution."

The Foreign Office "Arabists" who led Britain 30 years ago, Lord Janner continued, "based their evaluation of the capacity of Palestine on what they considered to be a scientific basis--namely, the absorptive capacity of the land. They didn't realize that Jews would adjust themselves to the various needs of the land. I don't know anyone else but Jews who have done it. The Jew himself adapted himself to the needs of the country, and it's happening to this very day. The Israeli Jews' resilience to unusual conditions is something remarkable. It's unique in the world. They succeeded in converting that land."

In 1934 and 1935, he recalled, he took the first Parliamentary delegations to Palestine "to see Jews in the raw and bring home to the non-Jew--and indeed to the Jew himself--what he can really do." The result, he said, was that "they came back tremendously impressed." To a suggestion that nevertheless Britain today remains generally hostile toward Israel, Lord Janner demurred: "The people in England, in Britain, are not hostile. Some of the officials in the Foreign Office are not friendly, but they admire what's been done there. Britain wants to hold a kind of influence with the Arab world, but it does recognize and knows what Israel has done."

Syrian Jews Beleaguered

Acknowledging that Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home has "wavered" in his recent statements on the Middle East, Lord Janner remarked: "The government knows in its heart the Israeli course is a civilized one and they can't go back to the original boundaries--there must be defensive possibilities--although they still think these shouldn't be very extensive." The "pro-Arab" faction in Parliament, he noted, is "certainly not as strong as the pro-Israel group," which also includes his son, Greville Janner.

The situation of Algerian Jewry, which he was warning about 10 years ago, is today "nothing compared to the situation of Jews in Syria," though in Egypt and Iraq the situations are "very much eased," Lord Janner said.

Of Syria, he elaborated: "The big difference there is that the Jewish population are under such intimidation that they can't really speak directly to strangers. The poor devils are beleaguered. The Syrian situation, in my view, is extremely serious. It reminds me of the position in the early days of the

Nazi regime, when Jews were compelled to make statements that everything was all right." But as for a Syrian genocide campaign, "I don't think that anything of that nature could possibly happen."

JDL Tactics Denounced

As far as Soviet Jews are concerned, the president of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain went on, the "only way" to help them is to "continuously publicize what's happening" to them. In this connection, he denounced the tactics of the JDL: "We do not agree to any violent methods. It's counter-productive, it's silly, it's foolish. If you start attacking in a violent way people who represent the (Soviet) state, I think it has an adverse reaction on them. I've heard that from responsible people who left the USSR."

As for the JDL's claim that it put the Soviet Jewry issue on the front pages, Lord Janner asserted: "That is nonsense." He also criticized Rabbi Meir Kahane's call for mass aliyah by American Jews, explaining: "He brings Jews into prominence here on a wrong premise. He's just an extremist. If he believes what he says he's entirely misguided, he's wrong."

On the Mideast, the Briton contended that "Israel, I think, is doing the right thing." He conceded that "I'm not going to say the possibility of war is excluded," but noted: "The Russians don't want war. I'm quite satisfied they will avoid war if they can, if they can help it." War will not come, he stated, "as long as the situation can be held at bay and as long as Israel is properly armed." Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's public willingness to sacrifice a million countrymen to regain lost territory is "terrible agitating," in Lord Janner's view, and may eventually backfire as "some elements are bound to be frightened."

But overall, said the genial MP, "I'm still of the opinion that sooner or later the two sides will have to get together." And he added: "I'm an optimist. I think the Jewish people will not let Israel down."

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH POPULATION WANES

JOHANNESBURG, May 30 (JTA)--Although the South African Jewish community has increased slightly in numbers over the past two decades, the Jewish percentage of the white population has steadily declined as a result of a lower birth rate than the general white population and a lack of increase through immigration, a Jewish scholar said here.

Mervyn Cohen, a lecturer in statistics at Witwatersrand University, told the Congress of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies that there was a higher percentage of aged among South African Jews than among the white non-Jewish population. He noted that there were 117,000 Jews in South Africa according to the 1970 census.

The 1960 census listed 114,501 Jews and the 1951 figure was 108,497. But these figures represent a decline of the Jewish percentage in the white population from 4.1 percent in 1951 to 3.7 percent in 1960 and 3.2 percent in 1970, Cohen said.

Brig. Haim Tavori, commander of the Jerusalem Police, reported that there has been no increase in crimes of violence and armed robbery in this city during the past year although such crimes have increased in other parts of Israel.