



daily news bulletin

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Friday, August 18, 1972

No. 161

An Israeli Expert's Guess SOVIET 'BRAIN DRAIN' FEARS SEEN ONE REASON FOR HUGE INCREASES IN EXIT COSTS ON JEWISH EXPERTS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17 (JTA)--An Israeli official active here for Soviet Jewry suggested today that one reason why the Soviets had set such high new exit charges for Jewish academicians was that Soviet officials had been surprised that so high a proportion of Jewish migrants were in that category and that the Soviet Union could not sustain a "brain drain" of such dimensions. He said the new exit charges were "higher than any conceivably justifiable sum" otherwise.

The official also predicted that world reaction to the latest Soviet "imposition" would be far more "strident and vociferous" than even the worldwide outcry over the Leningrad hijack trials. He offered his analysis as Absorption Minister Natan Peled announced that Israel was preparing a worldwide campaign against the exit cost increases of such a scope that it "may surprise Soviet authorities." He made the prediction during a radio interview but gave no details.

Meanwhile, Premier Golda Meir and Jewish Agency Executive chairman Louis Pincus denounced the Soviet action. Speaking at a rally marking the 90th anniversary of the Mazeret township, Mrs. Meir called the Soviet decree preparation of "a price list for those in a slave market," adding she thought slavery was "a thing of the past" which "existed only in such countries as Saudi Arabia." She asked "all righteous people" to protest "this decree." Addressing herself to Russian Jewry, she said: "Do not be discouraged. Your wish for freedom is your secret weapon."

Pincus, in a statement, made a similar appeal to "all men of conscience in the world" to protest the Soviet plan which he said was one to "impose ransom payments of thousands of rubles upon Jewish academicians wishing to emigrate to Israel." Pincus said the higher levies were "a continuation of the arbitrary measures that Soviet Russia has taken to frighten Jews in Russia who are fighting for the right to emigrate." He cited imprisonment of Jewish activists, refusals to grant exit visas and interference with Israeli radio broadcasts.

"The Jewish people the world over stands side by side with the Jews in Russia in this struggle," he declared. "The Jewish communities and organizations will not rest until these decrees are abolished and the Jews allowed to emigrate to Israel. On behalf of the Jewish Agency Executive, I commit myself once again that we shall do everything for their full absorption in Israel."

Prof. Yuval Neeman, president of Tel Aviv University and chairman of a newly-formed Israel Committee for Soviet Jewish Scientists, confirmed reports he would leave soon for the United States to bring American scientific groups into the worldwide protest. Prof. Neeman said in a radio interview that public opinion would work against the Russians because they "want to maintain contact with the scientific world" and that "they would be the first to suffer if that contact was broken off." He said he was confident that his fellow scientists would join the protest because they understood "the need" to preserve the right of scientists to work wherever they chose.

Dobrynin Offered Million Dollars CONGRESSMEN OFFER CASH FOR RELEASE OF SOVIET JEWS

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"We are prepared to do business," Rep. Podell said in front of the Soviet Embassy here. He and four other Congressmen had asked and had been refused permission to meet with Dobrynin. They wanted to present him with the cash offer and a letter criticizing Soviet treatment of its Jewish citizens. Rep. Podell added that "we will raise any additional funds that are necessary to bring out of the Soviet Union" the Jews wishing to emigrate. He said the funds had been raised in response to the Soviet action in boosting exit fees. The other Congressmen were Peter Peyser (R, N.Y.), Edward I. Koch (D, N.Y.), Jonathan Bingham (D, N.Y.) and John G. Dow (D, N.Y.).

The five Congressmen had gathered, with other demonstrators, across the street from the Soviet Embassy. They had a letter addressed to Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev, urging him to "take action to stop this harassment and allow these people and their families to leave the Soviet Union in peace." Such action, the letter said, would remove a "barrier to better relations between our two countries." The letter listed 15 cases of harassment of Soviet Jews, Podell said. Previously, Rep. Edwin B. Forsythe (R, N.J.) and Rep. Lawrence Coughlin (R, Pa.) had urged President Nixon to investigate the reports of the higher exit fees and to "express American concern about such practices of intimidation and oppression."

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1956, there were 450 synagogues in the USSR, fewer than 100 by 1963 and that at the present time there are about 60 synagogues "in addition to private prayer meetings." In his statement, he criticized the Voice of America, operated by the United States Information Agency, which he said was "active in bringing news to Jews in the USSR" but, he added, "the tone of present material and the time allocated is unsatisfactory."

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INTERFAITH GROUP PROTESTS AT SOVIET MISSION IN NEW YORK

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Members of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry set up what they described as a "slave trading block" across from the mission with placards reading "Free the New Slaves of the 20th Century," "Stop Academic Blackmail" and other similar signs. The SSSJ demonstrators, many dressed in academic caps and gowns, called on the Soviet authorities to rescind the exit tax.

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(The British Jewish Board of Deputies protested in London today the Soviet Union's decision to impose an "education refund" levy on academicians applying for visas and urged the Soviet government

to "reconsider this harsh imposition on man's freedom." The Board called the tax "a cheap and undignified method of suppression and harassment," adding that the measure "will only serve to increase the determination and fervor" of Soviet Jews.)

B'nai B'rith Assails 'Ransom'

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He added that "the ransom technique," coming at a time when the Soviet Union was moving toward more co-existence with the West, "calls for firm public and diplomatic protests" to remind Soviet leaders of "the harm this policy will do to its relations with the peoples of the world."

SEN. TOWER SAYS GOP PLANKS ON ISRAEL, SOVIET JEWS WILL BE FAVORABLE

MIAMI BEACH, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Sen. John Tower of Texas, chairman of the Republican national resolutions subcommittee assigned to shape the foreign policy elements in the party's platform, forecast today planks favorable to Israel and to Soviet Jewry.

Sen. Tower was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency if he would outline the Middle East plank in advance of publication of the party platform. He replied, "I can't give you specifics but you will like it." Asked if the same statement was applicable to the Soviet Jewry issue, he said, with a broad smile, "Just let me say you'll like it."

His subcommittee has received the statements and testimony of a wide variety of organizations which sought to express their views on all phases of US foreign policy during four days of hearings this week. The platform is expected to be drafted by the full resolutions committee tomorrow and made available to the press probably Saturday.

EXPERTS SAY BLAST ON EL AL PLANE WAS ACT OF INTENDED SABOTAGE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Officials here said today that the explosion yesterday evening in a Rome-to-Tel Aviv jet appeared to be an act of sabotage. The source of the explosion in the El Al Boeing 707 was found by officials to be a box marked "fragile," and two women passengers reported that two Iranians they had gotten to know in Italy had given them the box as a farewell souvenir, saying it contained a phonograph. There were only minor injuries from the blast.

The apparent sabotage attempt duplicated one of a year ago in which Arab terrorists handed over valises with explosives to two airline passengers--both women, one Dutch and one Peruvian--who innocently accepted them and took them aboard. Those valises did not explode.

In yesterday's incident the two women passengers were Welsh and carried British passports. Passengers returning here this morning from Rome in a special midnight El Al plane told reporters that the pair burst into tears on learning that their own luggage could have caused the deaths of themselves and 140 others. "We knew the two Iranians for a short time," they said. "They were

nice to us and gave us a present. Now we know it was a deadly present. Who would have thought that?" The Iranians have been detained by the Rome police for questioning. Piloting experts here hailed the capability and presence of mind of Capt. Yehuda Fux of Tel Aviv, who managed to make an emergency landing at the Rome airport. Fux, 35, has been a captain five years. His passengers thankfully joined in singing "Hevenu Shalom Aleichem."

MORE THAN BILLION POUNDS SPENT FOR MILITARY NEEDS IN OCCUPIED AREAS, SAYS DAYAN

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan disclosed today that Israel has spent 1.3 billion pounds during the past five years to build a military foundation in the occupied areas. He said that more than half of that sum had been spent in the Sinai Peninsula where a network of roads, airfields, and army installations have been built for quick deployment of Israeli forces should the need arise. He spoke at a graduation ceremony for the staff and command college.

Stressing the "enormous" expenditures modern warfare requires, Gen. Dayan cited figures on military electronic devices. In 1967, he said, outlays on such equipment for the army totaled 60 million pounds. In 1972, the total reached 350 million pounds.

In the future, he reported, stress on strengthening the armed forces will be on the armored units and the air force. The two branches, he said, will absorb 80 percent of the budget for expanding the armed forces. He said Israel's armored forces had been doubled since the Six-Day War while the Arabs were increasing their armor by 250 percent. He said the same ratio applied to the Israeli and Arab air forces.

He said he felt that while Israel was ready for an interim pact on the Suez Canal, the Arabs were not. Accordingly, he said, Israel must operate on the assumption that for the time being, Israel will not be able to achieve either "agreed and secure borders anchored in peace agreements" or even an interim agreement. He said "we shall have to continue the way we have the last five years--learn to live in an arrangementless arrangement. We will have to fortify our lines, improve our military installations, settle permanently in areas across the green line," a Dayan euphemism for the occupied areas, "and above all ensure a strong Israeli army."

BORDER POLICE RESTORE ORDER IN GAZA; SENT TO TEL AVIV TO HELP FIGHT CRIME THERE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Israeli border police units which, after 20 months of effort, restored order to the previously terror-stricken Gaza Strip, are being transferred to Tel Aviv to cope with a mounting wave of criminal activities, including bank robberies, assaults and rape, officials disclosed here today.

The units were assigned to the Gaza Strip in January, 1971 after a terrorist attack on the car of a Tel Aviv family in which two of the family's children were killed. In a campaign of virtually non-stop counter-guerrilla operations, the border police succeeded in rooting the terrorists out of the area which is now considered relatively tranquil. A statistical report issued last week indicated a drop of almost 90 percent in terrorist activities in the Strip, officials said. The billets the border police used will be converted into hotels and guest houses for visitors. Tel Aviv police officials said the addition of the border police to their personnel would be a great help in fighting

expanding local crime activities.

JEWISH GROUPS PLAN 'OPEN LETTER' IN N.Y. TIMES ON SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--A number of Jewish organizations are sponsoring an "open letter" to Soviet President Podgorny, in the form of an advertisement in the New York Times Sunday, which will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the slaughter of 24 Jewish intellectuals during the Stalin era, Emanuel Muravchik, executive director of the Jewish Labor Committee, said today.

He said the open letter will have signatures of more than 100 intellectuals, appealing for the rights of Soviet Jews and will also condemn the recent huge increases in exit fees for Jewish academicians seeking to emigrate from Russia. Other groups sponsoring the advertisement, he said, are the Workmen's Circle, the Labor Zionist Alliance and the Greater New York Committee on Soviet Jewry.

(More than 150 survivors of the Nazi Holocaust and their children in Minneapolis signed appeals for Soviet Jewry to Soviet officials in a ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of Stalin's slaughter of the 24 Jewish intellectuals, the Minnesota Action Committee for Soviet Jewry reported.)

(Under memorial candelabra holding six blue and white candles in memory of the six million murdered European Jews, the signers met at the Jewish Community Center for endorsement of petitions to President Nixon, United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and Soviet Premier Kosygin. The survivors wrote their names, addresses and the name of the concentration camps where they were held or their places of hiding.)

(The petitions urged the Soviet government to recognize the territorial and historical right of the Jewish people "to be repatriated to their homeland, Israel," and to "cease harassment, arrest, imprisonment and commitment to mental institutions of Jews who seek the right of emigration to Israel.")

ARAB KNESSET OFFICIAL SAYS WILL RAISE VILLAGER ISSUE IN HIS LABOR PARTY SOON

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17 (JTA)--An Arab Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, who is a member of the Labor Party, said today he planned to raise in the party the controversial issue of the government's refusal to allow former residents of two villages on the Lebanese border to resettle in the villages, Baram and Ikrit.

Elias Nakhleh made the announcement after he had met with Archbishop Joseph Raya. The Archbishop had been leading a vigorous campaign for a reversal of the decision. The villagers, all Christian Arabs, were evacuated from the villages in 1948 as a security measure. The villages, except for their churches, were leveled. Nakhleh reportedly has urged the Archbishop, who has been talking about carrying his appeal to Europe and the United States, to tone down his efforts.

A member of the Archbishop's Greek Catholic community, the deputy speaker apparently agrees with a number of Arab Christian leaders who feel that the Archbishop's "strident" tactics may make it more difficult for Premier Golda Meir's government to reverse its decision because this might give an impression of yielding to dramatic public pressures on a serious security issue. However, the Archbishop reportedly has not changed plans to lead a protest march through East Jerusalem next Wednesday. Some 1900 Christian Arabs consider themselves residents of Baram and 600 of Ikrit.

Israel's 25th Year Plans CANDELABRA LIGHTING AT JFK SYNAGOGUE TO MARK START OF ANNIVERSARY FETES IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The lighting of a 25-branch candelabra at the International Synagogue at Kennedy Airport Sept. 26 will mark the beginning of the year-long American observance of Israel's 25th anniversary, Jacob Stein, chairman of the American Committee for Israel's 25th Anniversary Celebration, announced here today.

The candelabra will be lighted by an independence torch, lit two days earlier in Jerusalem by President Zalman Shazar in a ceremony opening the Israeli celebration. Stein said that, following the New York ceremony, independence torches dispatched from Israel will be distributed to 100 communities in the United States and Canada. These torches will be used in opening local celebrations, Stein explained. The lighting of the candelabra will be part of an original ceremony depicting Israel's 25 year history. The ceremony is being sponsored by the Israel Tourist Bureau in conjunction with the anniversary committee.

Stein is leaving for Israel Sunday to discuss the anniversary year's celebrations in greater detail with government officials. The creation of Israel art shows and other exhibits that can be sent to the US for showing in museums, libraries and other public places is being considered, according to Stein. Stein is being assisted in the planning by Raphael Levy, on loan from the United Jewish Appeal, serving as coordinator of the committee, and Henry W. Levy, on loan from the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, as associate coordinator.

"The anniversary committee, itself," Stein said, "will sponsor a limited number of major projects on a national level. But equally important, our work will be to coordinate and service, as far as possible, the needs of the numerous national organizations and communities across the country anxious to mark Israel's quarter of a century of achievement."

The anniversary committee will shortly issue a program manual of basic materials that will be helpful in the staging of local celebrations, according to Stein. A special Anniversary Religious Service is being prepared by the Synagogue Council of America, he said.

Stein expressed the hope that more communities than ever before would sponsor Independence Day Parades on the order of the annual New York parade. The year-long program will reach its culmination on May 6-7, which is the actual date of the 25th anniversary.

Jewish Educators Differ Before Ways, Means Committee PEARL OPPOSES ANY FEDERAL TAX CREDITS FOR NON-PUBLIC TUITION

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The New York Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) reported that it testified before the House Ways and Means Committee in opposition today to federal tax credit proposals for nonpublic school parents. The House Ways and Means Committee has been hearing statements from various groups, including those of two national Orthodox spokesmen who pleaded for creation of a bill that would allow such tax credits.

PEARL, a coalition of 33 civic, religious and educational groups, told the committee that the proposals would unconstitutionally "force all taxpayers to contribute toward the refunding of tuition payments to parents of children attending nonpub-

lic schools, 95 percent of which are religiously affiliated and controlled."

Florence Flast, vice-chairman of PEARL told the committee that "religious liberty in America means not only the right to pursue one's own beliefs and the right to choose a religious education for one's children, but freedom from compulsory taxation to foster the religious beliefs of others....We do not deny any parent his right to choose private or religious education for his children, but no parent has the right to demand a share of public tax funds to subsidize a private choice just because he is not using available public services," she said.

Mrs. Flast further stated that "pluralism" and the goal of racial integration were not enhanced by funding private schools, which "have selective admissions and retention policies--by religion, academic achievement, national origin, behavior and socio-economic status--that make them more elitist than pluralistic."

The two Jewish groups which gave testimony before the committee were the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) and Agudath Israel of America. They called the present laws basically unfair because non-public school parents in essence relieve the state of the burden and expense of educating children, while at the same time the parents contribute to the general tax fund from which public education funds are drawn.

ADL Makes Charge AMERICAN PARTY AND SCHMITZ CALLED 'TOOLS' OF BIRCH SOCIETY

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith labeled today the American Party and its presidential candidate, Rep. John G. Schmitz (R, Calif.), "political tools" of the John Birch Society and charged all three with "approving and distributing anti-Semitism."

Arnold Forster, ADL general counsel, charged that the Birch Society "has succeeded in its takeover and is now embarked on using the American Party to step up Birch activities and shore up its dwindling membership." He said that both Schmitz and the vice presidential candidate, Thomas J. Anderson, are members of the Birch Society national council. Forster also claimed that "extremism or anti-Semitism were key themes of literature" distributed at the party convention in Louisville, Ky. Aug. 5.

According to Forster, it was "not at all surprising when the convention overwhelmingly passed a hard-line position against US support for Israel." The adopted plank on the Middle East called for a reversal of present US policy by the passage of a new "neutrality act" which would prohibit the sale of arms to Israel or private banking loans to the Jewish State. It would also prohibit the sale of Israeli bonds in the US, the ADL reported.

Lawrence Peirez, chairman of the ADL's Fact Finding Committee, reported that Schmitz was using a new Birch-distributed book, "None Dare Call It Conspiracy," as a base for his presidential campaign platform. According to Peirez, the book is "saturated with a revival of anti-Jewish themes promoted in the 1920's and 1930's by anti-Semites and home-grown Nazis and fascists."

Forster said that the ADL's Los Angeles office had asked Schmitz to withdraw his endorsement of "None Dare Call It Conspiracy" last June, before he became the candidate of the American Party.



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He added that "the ransom technique," coming at a time when the Soviet Union was moving toward more co-existence with the West, "calls for firm public and diplomatic protests" to remind Soviet leaders of "the harm this policy will do to its relations with the peoples of the world."

SEN. TOWER SAYS GOP PLANKS ON ISRAEL, SOVIET JEWS WILL BE FAVORABLE

MIAMI BEACH, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Sen. John Tower of Texas, chairman of the Republican national resolutions subcommittee assigned to shape the foreign policy elements in the party's platform, forecast today planks favorable to Israel and to Soviet Jewry.

Sen. Tower was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency if he would outline the Middle East plank in advance of publication of the party platform. He replied, "I can't give you specifics but you will like it." Asked if the same statement was applicable to the Soviet Jewry issue, he said, with a broad smile, "Just let me say you'll like it."

His subcommittee has received the statements and testimony of a wide variety of organizations which sought to express their views on all phases of US foreign policy during four days of hearings this week. The platform is expected to be drafted by the full resolutions committee tomorrow and made available to the press probably Saturday.

EXPERTS SAY BLAST ON EL AL PLANE WAS ACT OF INTENDED SABOTAGE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Officials here said today that the explosion yesterday evening in a Rome-to-Tel Aviv jet appeared to be an act of sabotage. The source of the explosion in the El Al Boeing 707 was found by officials to be a box marked "fragile," and two women passengers reported that two Iranians they had gotten to know in Italy had given them the box as a farewell souvenir, saying it contained a phonograph. There were only minor injuries from the blast.

The apparent sabotage attempt duplicated one of a year ago in which Arab terrorists handed over valises with explosives to two airline passengers--both women, one Dutch and one Peruvian--who innocently accepted them and took them aboard. Those valises did not explode.

In yesterday's incident the two women passengers were Welsh and carried British passports. Passengers returning here this morning from Rome in a special midnight El Al plane told reporters that the pair burst into tears on learning that their own luggage could have caused the deaths of themselves and 140 others. "We knew the two Iranians for a short time," they said. "They were

nice to us and gave us a present. Now we know it was a deadly present. Who would have thought that?" The Iranians have been detained by the Rome police for questioning. Piloting experts here hailed the capability and presence of mind of Capt. Yehuda Fux of Tel Aviv, who managed to make an emergency landing at the Rome airport. Fux, 35, has been a captain five years. His passengers thankfully joined in singing "Hevenu Shalom Aleichem."

MORE THAN BILLION POUNDS SPENT FOR MILITARY NEEDS IN OCCUPIED AREAS, SAYS DAYAN

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan disclosed today that Israel has spent 1.3 billion pounds during the past five years to build a military foundation in the occupied areas. He said that more than half of that sum had been spent in the Sinai Peninsula where a network of roads, airfields, and army installations have been built for quick deployment of Israeli forces should the need arise. He spoke at a graduation ceremony for the staff and command college.

Stressing the "enormous" expenditures modern warfare requires, Gen. Dayan cited figures on military electronic devices. In 1967, he said, outlays on such equipment for the army totaled 60 million pounds. In 1972, the total reached 350 million pounds.

In the future, he reported, stress on strengthening the armed forces will be on the armored units and the air force. The two branches, he said, will absorb 80 percent of the budget for expanding the armed forces. He said Israel's armored forces had been doubled since the Six-Day War while the Arabs were increasing their armor by 250 percent. He said the same ratio applied to the Israeli and Arab air forces.

He said he felt that while Israel was ready for an interim pact on the Suez Canal, the Arabs were not. Accordingly, he said, Israel must operate on the assumption that for the time being, Israel will not be able to achieve either "agreed and secure borders anchored in peace agreements" or even an interim agreement. He said "we shall have to continue the way we have the last five years--learn to live in an arrangementless arrangement. We will have to fortify our lines, improve our military installations, settle permanently in areas across the green line," a Dayan euphemism for the occupied areas, "and above all ensure a strong Israeli army."

BORDER POLICE RESTORE ORDER IN GAZA; SENT TO TEL AVIV TO HELP FIGHT CRIME THERE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Israeli border police units which, after 20 months of effort, restored order to the previously terror-stricken Gaza Strip, are being transferred to Tel Aviv to cope with a mounting wave of criminal activities, including bank robberies, assaults and rape, officials disclosed here today.

The units were assigned to the Gaza Strip in January, 1971 after a terrorist attack on the car of a Tel Aviv family in which two of the family's children were killed. In a campaign of virtually non-stop counter-guerrilla operations, the border police succeeded in rooting the terrorists out of the area which is now considered relatively tranquil. A statistical report issued last week indicated a drop of almost 90 percent in terrorist activities in the Strip, officials said. The billets the border police used will be converted into hotels and guest houses for visitors. Tel Aviv police officials said the addition of the border police to their personnel would be a great help in fighting

expanding local crime activities.

JEWISH GROUPS PLAN 'OPEN LETTER' IN N.Y. TIMES ON SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--A number of Jewish organizations are sponsoring an "open letter" to Soviet President Podgorny, in the form of an advertisement in the New York Times Sunday, which will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the slaughter of 24 Jewish intellectuals during the Stalin era, Emanuel Muravchik, executive director of the Jewish Labor Committee, said today.

He said the open letter will have signatures of more than 100 intellectuals, appealing for the rights of Soviet Jews and will also condemn the recent huge increases in exit fees for Jewish academicians seeking to emigrate from Russia. Other groups sponsoring the advertisement, he said, are the Workmen's Circle, the Labor Zionist Alliance and the Greater New York Committee on Soviet Jewry.

(More than 150 survivors of the Nazi Holocaust and their children in Minneapolis signed appeals for Soviet Jewry to Soviet officials in a ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of Stalin's slaughter of the 24 Jewish intellectuals, the Minnesota Action Committee for Soviet Jewry reported.)

(Under memorial candelabra holding six blue and white candles in memory of the six million murdered European Jews, the signers met at the Jewish Community Center for endorsement of petitions to President Nixon, United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and Soviet Premier Kosygin. The survivors wrote their names, addresses and the name of the concentration camps where they were held or their places of hiding.)

(The petitions urged the Soviet government to recognize the territorial and historical right of the Jewish people "to be repatriated to their homeland, Israel," and to "cease harassment, arrest, imprisonment and commitment to mental institutions of Jews who seek the right of emigration to Israel.")

ARAB KNESSET OFFICIAL SAYS WILL RAISE VILLAGER ISSUE IN HIS LABOR PARTY SOON

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17 (JTA)--An Arab Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, who is a member of the Labor Party, said today he planned to raise in the party the controversial issue of the government's refusal to allow former residents of two villages on the Lebanese border to resettle in the villages, Baram and Ikrit.

Elias Nakhlleh made the announcement after he had met with Archbishop Joseph Raya. The Archbishop had been leading a vigorous campaign for a reversal of the decision. The villagers, all Christian Arabs, were evacuated from the villages in 1948 as a security measure. The villages, except for their churches, were leveled. Nakhlleh reportedly has urged the Archbishop, who has been talking about carrying his appeal to Europe and the United States, to tone down his efforts.

A member of the Archbishop's Greek Catholic community, the deputy speaker apparently agrees with a number of Arab Christian leaders who feel that the Archbishop's "strident" tactics may make it more difficult for Premier Golda Meir's government to reverse its decision because this might give an impression of yielding to dramatic public pressures on a serious security issue. However, the Archbishop reportedly has not changed plans to lead a protest march through East Jerusalem next Wednesday. Some 1900 Christian Arabs consider themselves residents of Baram and 600 of Ikrit.

Israel's 25th Year Plans
CANDELABRA LIGHTING AT JFK
SYNAGOGUE TO MARK START OF
ANNIVERSARY FETES IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The lighting of a 25-branch candelabra at the International Synagogue at Kennedy Airport Sept. 26 will mark the beginning of the year-long American observance of Israel's 25th anniversary, Jacob Stein, chairman of the American Committee for Israel's 25th Anniversary Celebration, announced here today.

The candelabra will be lighted by an independence torch, lit two days earlier in Jerusalem by President Zalman Shazar in a ceremony opening the Israeli celebration. Stein said that, following the New York ceremony, independence torches dispatched from Israel will be distributed to 100 communities in the United States and Canada. These torches will be used in opening local celebrations, Stein explained. The lighting of the candelabra will be part of an original ceremony depicting Israel's 25 year history. The ceremony is being sponsored by the Israel Tourist Bureau in conjunction with the anniversary committee.

Stein is leaving for Israel Sunday to discuss the anniversary year's celebrations in greater detail with government officials. The creation of Israel art shows and other exhibits that can be sent to the US for showing in museums, libraries and other public places is being considered, according to Stein. Stein is being assisted in the planning by Raphael Levy, on loan from the United Jewish Appeal, serving as coordinator of the committee, and Henry W. Levy, on loan from the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, as associate coordinator.

"The anniversary committee, itself," Stein said, "will sponsor a limited number of major projects on a national level. But equally important, our work will be to coordinate and service, as far as possible, the needs of the numerous national organizations and communities across the country anxious to mark Israel's quarter of a century of achievement."

The anniversary committee will shortly issue a program manual of basic materials that will be helpful in the staging of local celebrations, according to Stein. A special Anniversary Religious Service is being prepared by the Synagogue Council of America, he said.

Stein expressed the hope that more communities than ever before would sponsor Independence Day Parades on the order of the annual New York parade. The year-long program will reach its culmination on May 6-7, which is the actual date of the 25th anniversary.

Jewish Educators Differ
Before Ways, Means Committee
PEARL OPPOSES ANY FEDERAL TAX
CREDITS FOR NON-PUBLIC TUITION

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The New York Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) reported that it testified before the House Ways and Means Committee in opposition today to federal tax credit proposals for nonpublic school parents. The House Ways and Means Committee has been hearing statements from various groups, including those of two national Orthodox spokesmen who pleaded for creation of a bill that would allow such tax credits.

PEARL, a coalition of 33 civic, religious and educational groups, told the committee that the proposals would unconstitutionally "force all taxpayers to contribute toward the refunding of tuition payments to parents of children attending nonpub-

lic schools, 95 percent of which are religiously affiliated and controlled."

Florence Flast, vice-chairman of PEARL told the committee that "religious liberty in America means not only the right to pursue one's own beliefs and the right to choose a religious education for one's children, but freedom from compulsory taxation to foster the religious beliefs of others....We do not deny any parent his right to choose private or religious education for his children, but no parent has the right to demand a share of public tax funds to subsidize a private choice just because he is not using available public services," she said.

Mrs. Flast further stated that "pluralism" and the goal of racial integration were not enhanced by funding private schools, which "have selective admissions and retention policies--by religion, academic achievement, national origin, behavior and socio-economic status--that make them more elitist than pluralistic."

The two Jewish groups which gave testimony before the committee were the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) and Agudath Israel of America. They called the present laws basically unfair because non-public school parents in essence relieve the state of the burden and expense of educating children, while at the same time the parents contribute to the general tax fund from which public education funds are drawn.

ADL Makes Charge
AMERICAN PARTY AND SCHMITZ
CALLED 'TOOLS' OF BIRCH SOCIETY

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith labeled today the American Party and its presidential candidate, Rep. John G. Schmitz (R, Calif.), "political tools" of the John Birch Society and charged all three with "approving and distributing anti-Semitism."

Arnold Forster, ADL general counsel, charged that the Birch Society "has succeeded in its takeover and is now embarked on using the American Party to step up Birch activities and shore up its dwindling membership." He said that both Schmitz and the vice presidential candidate, Thomas J. Anderson, are members of the Birch Society national council. Forster also claimed that "extremism or anti-Semitism were key themes of literature" distributed at the party convention in Louisville, Ky. Aug. 5.

According to Forster, it was "not at all surprising when the convention overwhelmingly passed a hard-line position against US support for Israel." The adopted plank on the Middle East called for a reversal of present US policy by the passage of a new "neutrality act" which would prohibit the sale of arms to Israel or private banking loans to the Jewish State. It would also prohibit the sale of Israeli bonds in the US, the ADL reported.

Lawrence Peirez, chairman of the ADL's Fact Finding Committee, reported that Schmitz was using a new Birch-distributed book, "None Dare Call It Conspiracy," as a base for his presidential campaign platform. According to Peirez, the book is "saturated with a revival of anti-Jewish themes promoted in the 1920's and 1930's by anti-Semites and home-grown Nazis and fascists."

Forster said that the ADL's Los Angeles office had asked Schmitz to withdraw his endorsement of "None Dare Call It Conspiracy" last June, before he became the candidate of the American Party.