



daily news bulletin

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Monday, August 21, 1972

No. 162

Domestic Issues Stands Reflect Jewish Differences

APPROVED GOP PLATFORM HAS STRONG PLANKS ON ISRAEL, SOVIET JEWS

MIAMI BEACH, Aug. 20 (JTA)--The Republican Party Platform Committee completed work today on a document with a Middle East plank which declares at the outset that "we support the right of Israel and its courageous people to survive and prosper in peace." The plank also pledges "help in any way possible to bring Israel and the Arab states to the conference table where they may negotiate a lasting peace" as well as "economic and special refugee assistance to Israel."

The planks on domestic issues contained stands on which there are sharp differences in the Jewish community. The Platform Committee said "it is irrevocably opposed to busing for racial balance" in American public schools and favored a system of income tax credits to aid "non-public as well as public schools." But the Platform Committee also endorsed the merit system of employment in the federal civil service. Observers here said that, by logical implication, this meant Republican opposition to the "quota" or "proportional representation" approaches to aiding Blacks and members of other disadvantaged minorities all of which there is almost universal opposition in the American Jewish community.

It was generally understood that the recommendations of the Republican Platform Committee reflect with little variance the views of President Nixon. The convention will open tomorrow with the platform slated for early consideration and action on Tuesday.

The Middle East plank also recommended that the United States continue to "prevent the development of a military imbalance" by providing Israel "with support essential for her security" and maintenance of "our tactical forces in Europe and the Mediterranean area at adequate strength." But the plank made no reference to proposals by witnesses that the US recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and transfer the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, as the Democratic Party convention did in June.

'Plight of Soviet Jews' Noted

Declaring that "all persons" have the "right" to emigrate from any country, the proposed platform declared "we are fully aware of and share the concern of many citizens for the plight of Soviet Jews with regard to their freedoms and emigration." The committee said that "this view, together with our commitment" to the "United Nations Declaration of Human Rights" was made known to Soviet leaders during President Nixon's discussions in Moscow.

Previously, Dr. Henry Kissinger, the President's advisor on national security affairs, had said only that the subject was "mentioned." Secretary of State William P. Rogers only last Monday confirmed that the subject "was discussed" at the Moscow summit meeting. The Middle East and Soviet Jewry elements, along with a pledge to help "multilateral organizations focus" on aircraft hijacking and international crime,

were contained in the platform's foreign policy section released by the Platform Committee on Aug. 18. The remainder in two sections, were made public later Friday and yesterday. Whether the Jerusalem transfer issue will be brought up for consideration Tuesday afternoon at the convention, for inclusion in the plank, was not known here last night.

Rep. John Rhodes of Arizona, Platform Committee chairman, held a news conference Friday at which he made public the foreign policy planks. He was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's correspondent, Joseph Polakoff, why the committee platform did not recommend transfer of the US Embassy to Jerusalem, a proposal made by the Republican House Minority leader, Rep. Gerald Ford of Michigan, by the Republican Assistant leader in the Senate, Robert Griffin of Michigan and also by the Federation of Young Republicans. Rep. Rhodes replied that the Platform Committee "did not document it" and that "the amendment was not offered on the floor and not acted on." The JTA reporter also asked Rep. Rhodes whether Sen. Griffin and Rep. Ford had approved the draft in the committee's platform and he replied that "not everybody approved it" and some party leaders "may not approve it."

Busing For Integration Opposed

On busing, the Platform Committee recommended committing the party "to guaranteeing equality of educational opportunity and to completing the process of ending de jure school segregation" but added that busing for racial balance "fails its stated objective--improved learning opportunities--while it achieves results no one wants--division within communities and hostility between classes and races. We favor the neighborhood school concept." Both the American Jewish Committee and the National Council of Jewish Women, in statements to the Platform Committee, had strongly favored busing as one tool to achieve racial integration in the nation's public schools. Spokesman for Agudath Israel of America and Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools had advocated support for non-public educational facilities, one proposal calling for tax credits for parents of children in non-public schools. The Platform Committee said "means which are consistent with the constitution can be devised for channeling public financial aid to support the education of all children in schools of their parents' choice, non-public as well as public." It called "the granting of income tax credits" one way to provide such aid.

A lengthy section on welfare reform criticized "discriminatory benefits" in the distribution of welfare but did not mention racial problems in such aid. The platform recommended that payments be made to "genuinely needed welfare recipients regardless of where they live."

An appeal from the Association of Jewish Anti-Poverty Workers to the Republican Party to adopt "a program designed to include the alienated masses of white poor" Americans, including many Jews, was considered by the party's resolutions committee in drafting its platform,

the JTA was told. The association did not testify at the hearings on resolutions but a statement was submitted by S. Elly Rosen, association executive director.

In his statement, Rosen said he had testified to a House subcommittee in June 1971 concerning "the existence of more than 800,000 poor Jews in the United States and to the discrimination they faced in dealing with existing Office of Economic Opportunity community action (poverty) programs." He said two government reports subsequently confirmed "the lack of participation by the Jewish poor in their programs." But one year later, he said in the statement, "nothing has been done to remedy this injustice."

In other issues of concern to Jewish communities, the Platform Committee also reaffirmed today the party's support for "voluntary prayer" in "public places" strongly opposed by many Jewish organizations. The committee also denounced "scatter-site" housing for the poor which has come under sharp Jewish-led criticism, notably in the Forest Hills section of Queens, New York.

The committee did not use the terms "quota" or "scatter-site housing." Apparently in regard to quotas, the committee declared that "we pledge further modernization of the federal service system, including emphasis on economic development. We rededicate ourselves to promotion on merit, equal opportunity and the setting of clear incentives for higher productivity."

The committee said, in apparent reference to "scatter-site housing," that "we strongly oppose the use of housing or community development programs to impose arbitrary housing patterns on unwilling communities. Neither do we favor dispersing large numbers of people away from their homes and neighborhoods against their will. We do believe in providing communities, with their full consent, guidance and cooperation, with the means and incentives to increase the quantity and quality of housing in conjunction with providing increased access to jobs for their low-income citizens."

McGOVERN ASSAILS 'ENDORSEMENT' BY ARAB PROPAGANDA GROUP IN NY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 (JTA)--Sen. George McGovern declared here today that "I repudiate and reject the alleged endorsement" of his candidacy for the Presidency issued by M. T. Mehdi of New York, secretary-general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations. Sen. McGovern said he did not seek the support of the Arab propagandist's organization "and refuse to accept it."

The Senator added that Mehdi "well knows that my views on the Middle East are diametrically opposed to his. I therefore regard his 'endorsement' as a cynical attempt -- by him or by someone whose bidding he does -- to embarrass me and discredit me with Americans of all creeds who believe as I do that the cornerstone of American policy in the Middle East must be the survival of an Israel that is militarily secure and economically sound."

The Senator added, in his statement, that "the votes I have cast and the statements I have made on Israel are a matter of public record. Mr. Mehdi cannot be ignorant of them. I can only conclude therefore that this 'endorsement' is a calculated attempt to drive voters concerned for Israel's security into the Republican camp--

an obvious device to win support for Richard Nixon." He added that "I do not believe that Israel's friends in this country will be fooled by so blatant an attempt to deceive them."

Hadassah Conclave Told \$20 Million Raised This Year RUSTIN SAYS FORMER COALITION OF MINORITIES WILL BE RENEWED

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA)--The 3,500 delegates attending the opening session today of Hadassah's 58th annual national convention here were told that in 60 years, membership had grown from 12 women to 325,000 and fund-raising from \$930 in 1912 to \$20 million for 1971-72. The figures for membership and fund-raising growth were presented by Mrs. Nathan D. Perlman, treasurer.

Mrs. Faye L. Schenk, Hadassah president, credited the philosophy and structure of the organization for its growth to 1400 chapters and groups throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. All Hadassah philanthropic work, she said, has an educational base. Second, she said, "we are a grass roots organization run by the members themselves and not by professionals."

Mrs. Perlman noted that the fund-raising record was achieved despite current economic problems, adding that while price control might be easing inflation, "it does not seem to have relieved the household budget. Nevertheless, our members are contributing most generously and are working that much harder to meet their project commitments."

Bayard Rustin, the Black civil rights leader, condemned Black nationalists and "fringe" thinkers, on the one hand, and Jews who are "more concerned with racial division than with reconciliation on the other." The executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute predicted that the traditional alliance -- the coalition of Blacks, Jews, labor, Puerto Ricans and Chicanos -- "will reassert itself to ensure a progressive social and economic environment." Shlomo Argov, Israel's ambassador to Mexico, described the progress in relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors since the cease-fire went into effect two years ago.

Rustin told the delegates that "Black anti-Semitism is one of the most exaggerated myths to surface in years. Every poll ever taken demonstrates that Blacks are less anti-Semitic than any other racial, ethnic or religious group, and that Jews are more receptive to racial integration than any other group." Referring to the one-time coalition, which he said had a majority in 1960 and 1964, he said that at the present time, "the coalition is in temporary disarray." He insisted Blacks "are not about to leave the coalition, despite what you may have heard or read about separatist political action, Black political parties or other extremist fantasies."

Argov said that Israel's Arab neighbors were "literally co-living with us, which is a step higher than co-existing with us." Across the "open bridges" of the Jordan River, he said, "are exchanged not rockets and shells but goods and people." He said hundreds of thousands of Arab neighbors will visit Israel this year "as tourists" and thousands of young Arab students "will come from all the universities of the Arab world to visit with their relatives." He declared that, for the first time in 25 years, Arabs and Israelis "are confronting each other in peaceful circumstances and have even joined each other in con-

structive social, economic and even intellectual exchange and composition."

Mrs. Schenk said at the opening of the plenary that there will be speeches, workshops and discussions on domestic and Israeli concerns throughout the convention but that all of the discussions would be of a non-partisan nature. She said that neither in the United States nor Israel does Hadassah align itself with political parties or candidates.

Mrs. Perlman detailed the comparative collections for Hadassah's major projects: the Jewish National Fund, Youth Aliyah, Hadassah Israel Educational Services and Hadassah Medical Organization. In 1927, she said, Hadassah contributed \$35,000 and \$928,000 in 1972. She said Hadassah, which adopted JNF as a project in 1926, is the largest single contributor in the US to the JNF.

Hadassah gave \$124,000 to Youth Aliyah in 1935 and \$2.5 million in 1972. Hadassah adopted Youth Aliyah as a project in 1934. It now cares for 11,000 wards annually in 267 youth villages, kibbutzim and day centers. She said Hadassah is the principal agency in the US supporting Youth Aliyah. In 1943, Hadassah contributed \$35,400 to Israel educational services and \$948,000 in 1972.

She said the most dramatic figure was for Hadassah's major department, its Medical Organization. She said this year, Hadassah collected more than \$8 million to support the Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center in Ein Karem, Jerusalem. The largest medical complex in the Middle East, it provides healing, teaching and research for students and patients from Asia, Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as for Israelis. She said that in the United States and Israel, Hadassah spends about one million dollars on youth activities, including sponsorship of Hashachar, the Zionist youth movement which includes Young, Intermediate and Senior Judaea for nine to 18-year-old students and Hamaghsimim for high school graduates to 25. In addition to year-round cultural programs and summer camps in this country, Hadassah sponsors summer and year-round courses for American students in Israel and exchange visits of Israeli Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to the United States. The work of Hadassah was lauded in messages from President Nixon and Premier Golda Meir.

ROGERS SUGGESTED SECOND MEETING WITH JEWISH LEADERS ON SOVIET JEWS, PRESIDENT CONFERENCE HEAD SAYS

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA)--Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said today that Secretary of State William P. Rogers, who met with Stein and two other Jewish leaders Friday in his office in Washington on the problems of Soviet Jewry, suggested it would be advisable there be another meeting soon between him and the three Jewish leaders soon on that issue. Rogers invited Stein, Max Fisher, the Detroit philanthropic leader, and Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, to meet with him on Friday.

Stein said that meeting lasted about 80 minutes and that it was a "serious, working discussion, not just something to mollify the Jewish community." The date for a second meeting, Stein indicated, was suggested as in about two weeks. It was indicated that, during the period between the two meetings,

the State Department would have the opportunity to analyze the significance of the new higher exit fees the Soviets put into effect Aug. 3 for Soviet Jewish academicians.

DAYAN PROPOSES 'DIVIDING LINE' IN SINAI FOR BETTER SECURITY

TEL AVIV, Aug. 20 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan has suggested that, pending permanent peace between Israel and Egypt, the two countries could live more securely with each other in geographical relation to a dividing line somewhere in the Sinai Peninsula. Asserting at a graduating ceremony of the army staff and command college that the key to security for Israel is in the Sinai desert, he thought it would be possible to draw -- by mutual agreement between the two countries -- a temporary or permanent dividing line which would give the populated areas of both countries "a margin of security."

Reiterating Israel's official position that the cease-fire lines could be exchanged only for secure, or recognized and agreed boundaries in a peace agreement, Gen. Dayan said Israel also was prepared for an interim agreement and for "peace in stages." He said also that Israel should strive to renew contacts, even indirect ones, with the Arab states, especially with Egypt which he said "holds the key to peace and war" to get a peace settlement.

KNESSET TO BE RECALLED FOR EXTRAORDINARY SESSION ON HUGE EXIT FEES FOR SOVIET JEWS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA)--The Knesset, now in recess, will be reconvened in extraordinary session Wednesday for a report by Premier Golda Meir on the huge new charges for exit visas for Jewish academicians the Soviet Union put into effect on Aug. 3. The session was decided on by the Cabinet at its regular meeting today after hearing reports from government and Jewish Agency leaders. The special session was approved, it was understood, as a move to dramatize Israel's anger over the new charges.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources today that Israel plans to approach friendly foreign nations with an appeal that they intercede with Krelim authorities in an effort to get the Soviet edict evoked. The last time a diplomatic campaign of this dimension was mounted for Soviet Jewry was around Hanuka in 1970 during the Leningrad hijack trials. At that time Mrs. Meir sent personal letters to a number of heads of government. The appeals in this situation will be relayed at the diplomatic level, it was reported.

A Cabinet statement issued after the weekly meeting charged the Soviets with initiating "a new campaign of cynical oppression of Jews wishing to immigrate to Israel by means of impermissible blackmail." The statement declared that "the State of Israel and the Jewish people will take all possible action in order to void this oppressive measure." Among the Jewish Agency leaders addressing the Cabinet were Louis Pincus, the agency's chairman, Moshe Rivlin, its director-general and Leon Dulzin, its treasurer. The Cabinet statement said the establishment of the exit fees "evokes the memory of the dark middle ages and violates elementary human rights." The campaign in Israel is part of a worldwide effort against the huge new exit charges.

**Frustration, Despair
Still Pervade Area
B'NAI B'RITH STARTS \$500,000
RELIEF EFFORT FOR FLOOD-HIT
EASTERN JEWISH COMMUNITIES**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith officials announced today the start of a \$500,000 disaster relief campaign to help rehabilitate food damaged Jewish institutions and "assist in other human needs" in Jewish communities devastated by hurricane Agnes in June. The emergency action, ratified by the B'nai B'rith board of governors, included sending a former government relief specialist to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, one of the hardest-hit areas, to "help cut through bureaucratic delay" for stricken residents, all considered unfamiliar with government procedures in applying for federal and state assistance.

Officials described the B'nai B'rith effort as a supplement to relief campaigns inaugurated by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and other national Jewish agencies. Solomon Rosenbaum of Fitchburg, Mass., who heads the B'nai B'rith drive, said the funds will be directed principally to the Wyoming Valley region in Pennsylvania—which takes in Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg—and Elmira, N.Y., areas whose Jewish communities were hit hardest by the hurricane. Rosenbaum said allocations would be "coordinated with the relief programs of federations and other Jewish groups."

B'nai B'rith named W. Bryan Shoemaker, former deputy director for disaster operations in the federal Small Business Administration, to help expedite individual applications for government assistance. Shoemaker, who will have headquarters in an office in Wilkes-Barre's damaged Jewish community center, starting on Monday, "has been assigned for at least six weeks and his door is open to non-Jews as well" as Jews, Rosenbaum added.

David M. Blumberg, B'nai B'rith president, urged the emergency campaign after an inspection tour of Wilkes-Barre and neighboring Kingston, a suburban community which had housed some 60 percent of the Wyoming Valley's 1600 Jewish families. He described the ruin caused by a rampaging Susquehanna River as "the worst I have ever seen, as saddening and shocking as any bombed out area I saw during World War II." Blumberg also said that "every single member" of B'nai B'rith in the area had suffered severe losses in the flood. He added that "the lucky ones had their homes flooded and much of their possessions ruined. The unlucky ones had their homes or businesses—sometimes both—completely demolished."

Urgent Appeal To Membership

Rosenbaum said the \$500,000 campaign would be conducted "as an urgent appeal to our own membership during a single intensive week in September." The appeal will be made through B'nai B'rith lodges and B'nai B'rith women's chapters, with the latter effort headed by Mrs. Arthur Rosenbluth, a former B'nai B'rith women's president. He said the B'nai B'rith opened the campaign with an \$10,000 allocation. Personal contributions by board members added almost \$10,000 more. The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization contributed \$1000, he said. Some 5000 BBYO teenagers,

many of them participating in a leadership training institute at Camp B'nai B'rith in Starlight, Pa., have been traveling to the Wyoming Valley area regularly to help remove mud and debris from scores of homes in the area.

Perry Shertz, a Wilkes-Barre attorney and former president of B'nai B'rith district three, said a mood of frustration and despair still pervades among many of the 1200 Jewish families in the Wyoming Valley whose homes were damaged or destroyed. He said only some 200 Jewish families have been able to return to their homes. He reported that 1000 other Jewish families were "still dislocated," living in trailers or motels, or with relatives or friends in surrounding communities and elsewhere."

He also reported that a number of despondent persons who had "lost almost everything" had attempted suicide and that 150 Jewish families "are dispirited to the point where they have decided to leave the area, although we are trying to persuade them to stay." He said the Kingston community felt the full fury of the storm. He said all but 20 of its 6600 homes were damaged. He said he feared for the future viability of the area without some forms of direct federal grants to flood victims.

Officials said Jewish institutions which suffered excessive damage included three synagogues, the Jewish community center and a day school in the Wilkes-Barre-Kingston area, and Jewish community centers in Harrisburg and Elmira. Total damages to the seven institutions have been estimated at \$2 million, officials said.

**SCA Group Visits Area,
Presents \$15,000 Check**

The Synagogue Council of America said in New York it had sent an official delegation to Wilkes-Barre last Thursday, to meet with rabbis and community leaders and to tour the stricken area to inspect damages to Jewish institutions. Rabbi Judah Nadich of New York, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, said he hoped the visit of the SCA delegation would help strengthen the determination of the Wilkes-Barre Jewish community to rebuild its communal life.

Rabbi Henry Siegman, SCA executive vice-president, presented the Wilkes-Barre religious leaders with a check for \$15,000, to be used "for the rebuilding of the community" and to supplement financial aid being sent by individual constituent organizations of the SCA to the synagogues and other institutions in the area. Other members of the delegation were Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of the (Orthodox) Rabbinical Council of America, and Rabbi Joseph Glaser, executive vice-president of the (Reform) Central Conference of American Rabbis.

**CATHOLIC COLLEGE EXCUSES
JEWS FROM YOM KIPPUR CLASSES**

BOSTON, Aug. 20 (JTA)--The Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston welcomed today the decision by Boston College, a Catholic institution, to excuse its Jewish students from attending classes on Yom Kippur, September 18, the date on which college classes begin. Boston College is also excusing from attendance faculty members who do not wish to attend class because of the holiday. Other colleges have taken similar positions on such attendance during the High Holy Days.



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structive social, economic and even intellectual exchange and composition."

Mrs. Schenk said at the opening of the plenary that there will be speeches, workshops and discussions on domestic and Israeli concerns throughout the convention but that all of the discussions would be of a non-partisan nature. She said that neither in the United States nor Israel does Hadassah align itself with political parties or candidates.

Mrs. Perlman detailed the comparative collections for Hadassah's major projects: the Jewish National Fund, Youth Aliyah, Hadassah Israel Educational Services and Hadassah Medical Organization. In 1927, she said, Hadassah contributed \$35,000 and \$928,000 in 1972. She said Hadassah, which adopted JNF as a project in 1926, is the largest single contributor in the US to the JNF.

Hadassah gave \$124,000 to Youth Aliyah in 1935 and \$2.5 million in 1972. Hadassah adopted Youth Aliyah as a project in 1934. It now cares for 11,000 wards annually in 267 youth villages, kibbutzim and day centers. She said Hadassah is the principal agency in the US supporting Youth Aliyah. In 1943, Hadassah contributed \$35,400 to Israel educational services and \$948,000 in 1972.

She said the most dramatic figure was for Hadassah's major department, its Medical Organization. She said this year, Hadassah collected more than \$8 million to support the Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center in Ein Karem, Jerusalem. The largest medical complex in the Middle East, it provides healing, teaching and research for students and patients from Asia, Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as for Israelis. She said that in the United States and Israel, Hadassah spends about one million dollars on youth activities, including sponsorship of Hashachar, the Zionist youth movement which includes Young, Intermediate and Senior Judaea for nine to 18-year-old students and Hamaghsimim for high school graduates to 25. In addition to year-round cultural programs and summer camps in this country, Hadassah sponsors summer and year-round courses for American students in Israel and exchange visits of Israeli Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to the United States. The work of Hadassah was lauded in messages from President Nixon and Premier Golda Meir.

ROGERS SUGGESTED SECOND MEETING WITH JEWISH LEADERS ON SOVIET JEWS, PRESIDENT CONFERENCE HEAD SAYS

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA)--Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said today that Secretary of State William P. Rogers, who met with Stein and two other Jewish leaders Friday in his office in Washington on the problems of Soviet Jewry, suggested it would be advisable there be another meeting soon between him and the three Jewish leaders soon on that issue. Rogers invited Stein, Max Fisher, the Detroit philanthropic leader, and Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, to meet with him on Friday.

Stein said that meeting lasted about 80 minutes and that it was a "serious, working discussion, not just something to mollify the Jewish community." The date for a second meeting, Stein indicated, was suggested as in about two weeks. It was indicated that, during the period between the two meetings,

the State Department would have the opportunity to analyze the significance of the new higher exit fees the Soviets put into effect Aug. 3 for Soviet Jewish academicians.

DAYAN PROPOSES 'DIVIDING LINE' IN SINAI FOR BETTER SECURITY

TEL AVIV, Aug. 20 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan has suggested that, pending permanent peace between Israel and Egypt, the two countries could live more securely with each other in geographical relation to a dividing line somewhere in the Sinai Peninsula. Asserting that a graduating ceremony of the army staff and command college that the key to security for Israel is in the Sinai desert, he thought it would be possible to draw -- by mutual agreement between the two countries -- a temporary or permanent dividing line which would give the populated areas of both countries "a margin of security."

Reiterating Israel's official position that the cease-fire lines could be exchanged only for secure, or recognized and agreed boundaries in a peace agreement, Gen. Dayan said Israel also was prepared for an interim agreement and for "peace in stages." He said also that Israel should strive to renew contacts, even indirect ones, with the Arab states, especially with Egypt which he said "holds the key to peace and war" to get a peace settlement.

KNESSET TO BE RECALLED FOR EXTRAORDINARY SESSION ON HUGE EXIT FEES FOR SOVIET JEWS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA)--The Knesset, now in recess, will be reconvened in extraordinary session Wednesday for a report by Premier Golda Meir on the huge new charges for exit visas for Jewish academicians the Soviet Union put into effect on Aug. 3. The session was decided on by the Cabinet at its regular meeting today after hearing reports from government and Jewish Agency leaders. The special session was approved, it was understood, as a move to dramatize Israel's anger over the new charges.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources today that Israel plans to approach friendly foreign nations with an appeal that they intercede with Krelim authorities in an effort to get the Soviet edict evoked. The last time a diplomatic campaign of this dimension was mounted for Soviet Jewry was around Hanuka in 1970 during the Leningrad hijack trials. At that time Mrs. Meir sent personal letters to a number of heads of government. The appeals in this situation will be relayed at the diplomatic level, it was reported.

A Cabinet statement issued after the weekly meeting charged the Soviets with initiating "a new campaign of cynical oppression of Jews wishing to immigrate to Israel by means of impermissible blackmail." The statement declared that "the State of Israel and the Jewish people will take all possible action in order to void this oppressive measure." Among the Jewish Agency leaders addressing the Cabinet were Louis Pincus, the agency's chairman, Moshe Rivlin, its director-general and Leon Dulzin, its treasurer. The Cabinet statement said the establishment of the exit fees "evokes the memory of the dark middle ages and violates elementary human rights." The campaign in Israel is part of a worldwide effort against the huge new exit charges.

**Frustration, Despair
Still Pervade Area
B'NAI B'RITH STARTS \$500,000
RELIEF EFFORT FOR FLOOD-HIT
EASTERN JEWISH COMMUNITIES**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith officials announced today the start of a \$500,000 disaster relief campaign to help rehabilitate food damaged Jewish institutions and "assist in other human needs" in Jewish communities devastated by hurricane Agnes in June. The emergency action, ratified by the B'nai B'rith board of governors, included sending a former government relief specialist to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, one of the hardest-hit areas, to "help cut through bureaucratic delay" for stricken residents, all considered unfamiliar with government procedures in applying for federal and state assistance.

Officials described the B'nai B'rith effort as a supplement to relief campaigns inaugurated by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and other national Jewish agencies. Solomon Rosenbaum of Fitchburg, Mass., who heads the B'nai B'rith drive, said the funds will be directed principally to the Wyoming Valley region in Pennsylvania—which takes in Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg—and Elmira, N.Y., areas whose Jewish communities were hit hardest by the hurricane. Rosenbaum said allocations would be "coordinated with the relief programs of federations and other Jewish groups."

B'nai B'rith named W. Bryan Shoemaker, former deputy director for disaster operations in the federal Small Business Administration, to help expedite individual applications for government assistance. Shoemaker, who will have headquarters in an office in Wilkes-Barre's damaged Jewish community center, starting on Monday, "has been assigned for at least six weeks and his door is open to non-Jews as well" as Jews, Rosenbaum added.

David M. Blumberg, B'nai B'rith president, urged the emergency campaign after an inspection tour of Wilkes-Barre and neighboring Kingston, a suburban community which had housed some 60 percent of the Wyoming Valley's 1600 Jewish families. He described the ruin caused by a rampaging Susquehanna River as "the worst I have ever seen, as saddening and shocking as any bombed out area I saw during World War II." Blumberg also said that "every single member" of B'nai B'rith in the area had suffered severe losses in the flood. He added that "the lucky ones had their homes flooded and much of their possessions ruined. The unlucky ones had their homes or businesses—sometimes both—completely demolished."

Urgent Appeal To Membership

Rosenbaum said the \$500,000 campaign would be conducted "as an urgent appeal to our own membership during a single intensive week in September." The appeal will be made through B'nai B'rith lodges and B'nai B'rith women's chapters, with the latter effort headed by Mrs. Arthur Rosenbluth, a former B'nai B'rith women's president. He said the B'nai B'rith opened the campaign with an \$10,000 allocation. Personal contributions by board members added almost \$10,000 more. The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization contributed \$1000, he said. Some 5000 BBYO teenagers,

many of them participating in a leadership training institute at Camp B'nai B'rith in Starlight, Pa., have been traveling to the Wyoming Valley area regularly to help remove mud and debris from scores of homes in the area.

Perry Shertz, a Wilkes-Barre attorney and former president of B'nai B'rith district three, said a mood of frustration and despair still pervades among many of the 1200 Jewish families in the Wyoming Valley whose homes were damaged or destroyed. He said only some 200 Jewish families have been able to return to their homes. He reported that 1000 other Jewish families were "still displaced," living in trailers or motels, or with relatives or friends in surrounding communities and elsewhere."

He also reported that a number of despondent persons who had "lost almost everything" had attempted suicide and that 150 Jewish families "are dispirited to the point where they have decided to leave the area, although we are trying to persuade them to stay." He said the Kingston community felt the full fury of the storm. He said all but 20 of its 6600 homes were damaged. He said he feared for the future viability of the area without some forms of direct federal grants to flood victims.

Officials said Jewish institutions which suffered excessive damage included three synagogues, the Jewish community center and a day school in the Wilkes-Barre-Kingston area, and Jewish community centers in Harrisburg and Elmira. Total damages to the seven institutions have been estimated at \$2 million, officials said.

**SCA Group Visits Area,
Presents \$15,000 Check**

The Synagogue Council of America said in New York it had sent an official delegation to Wilkes-Barre last Thursday, to meet with rabbis and community leaders and to tour the stricken area to inspect damages to Jewish institutions. Rabbi Judah Nadich of New York, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, said he hoped the visit of the SCA delegation would help strengthen the determination of the Wilkes-Barre Jewish community to rebuild its communal life.

Rabbi Henry Siegman, SCA executive vice-president, presented the Wilkes-Barre religious leaders with a check for \$15,000, to be used "for the rebuilding of the community" and to supplement financial aid being sent by individual constituent organizations of the SCA to the synagogues and other institutions in the area. Other members of the delegation were Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of the (Orthodox) Rabbinical Council of America, and Rabbi Joseph Glaser, executive vice-president of the (Reform) Central Conference of American Rabbis.

**CATHOLIC COLLEGE EXCUSES
JEWS FROM YOM KIPPUR CLASSES**

BOSTON, Aug. 20 (JTA)--The Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston welcomed today the decision by Boston College, a Catholic institution, to excuse its Jewish students from attending classes on Yom Kippur, September 18, the date on which college classes begin. Boston College is also excusing from attendance faculty members who do not wish to attend class because of the holiday. Other colleges have taken similar positions on such attendance during the High Holy Days.