



daily news bulletin

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Vol. XXXIX - Fifty-Fifth Year

Tuesday, August 29, 1972

No. 168

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Exert Pressure On Moscow

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The ambassador returned home for a brief vacation and consultations. He said the action taken by Israel against the high visa fees has won the approval of American public opinion. He said Israel would bring the problem before the General Assembly this fall. Foreign Minister Abba Eban announced that intention at a Cabinet meeting yesterday.

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem today, Max Fisher of Detroit expressed hope that the US government would exert its influence to persuade Moscow to abolish the high visa fees. Fisher addressed the opening session of a two-day meeting of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors of which he is chairman. He called on enlightened nations and governments to do their utmost to change Soviet policy towards their Jewish citizens. "We must not submit to blackmail and we must not show any sign of weakness or vacillation in this struggle but we have to coordinate all efforts and carefully decide on methods and tactics," Fisher said.

Louis Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, reported on the latest developments in the visa fee matter. He said that efforts to have the fees rescinded must be swift and efficient and warned that delays or wrong moves would damage the cause of Jewish emigration from Russia. Pincus said he was sure the Soviet government would listen to public opinion in the free world. He stressed that the Jewish Agency must make all necessary preparations for the absorption of immigrants from Russia. (See related stories P. 4)

MITTERAND CALLS ON USSR TO RESCIND 'RANSOM LEGISLATION'

PARIS, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Francois Mitterand, the French Socialist Party leader, called today on the Soviet Union to "suspend at the earliest" the "ransom legislation" which aims at preventing Russia's Jews from leaving that country. In a letter addressed to Soviet Ambassador Piotr Abramov, Mitterand said the French Socialist Party "view(s) this legislation as an additional discriminatory act against Soviet Jewry."

The letter said further that "the Socialist Party protests in the name of human dignity against this measure and announces its intention to directly approach the Soviet authorities to have this decision changed." Mitterand, who is First Secretary of the French Socialist Party, has been leader of the leftist opposition in parliament since last May's Socialist-Communist agreement. His letter implied the support of the French Communist Party.

STATUS OF ISRAEL'S ORIENTAL JEWS IMPROVES

LONDON, Aug. 28 (JTA)--The Minority Rights Group, a private organization that maintains a watch

on the condition of minorities all over the world, concluded in a report released today on "Israel's Oriental Immigrants and Druzes" that Israel will successfully bridge the social and economic gaps that separate segments of its population. The report found that "In the last 25 years the economic status and educational level of Oriental Jews has greatly improved" and observed that "this has not been accidental" but the result of hard work by various agencies of the Israeli government.

"But the gap remains wide and the Orientals are now more embittered than before," the report said. It covered in detail the distribution of income, housing, education and social and political conditions as well as the protest movement among Oriental Jews in Israel. The report concluded: "For all the lamentations, the basic brotherly attitude of the founders of Israel, the drive for humane and decent relations, the precepts of Micah to do justice and love mercy have by no means disappeared today from Israel. The problem of Israel's Oriental Jews is therefore likely to be solved."

The report attributed those problems to historical developments and said it was "a mistake to draw too many analogies and parallels between the situation in Israel and that in Britain with its Asian and West Indian immigrants or in the United States with its Black population."

The report found that Israel's Druze population has enjoyed an improvement of their material condition since 1948 in comparison with their brothers in Lebanon and Syria and "have no great economic complaints." The report acknowledged that "there remains the question of social and political discrimination," noting that "there is no Druze ambassador, no highly placed foreign service officer, no army general."

But, the report continued, "The question is whether this situation is the result of a deliberate discrimination or merely of the circumstances of the Druze minority. We believe that the situation owes less to a determined discrimination or settled policy than to the circumstances. The problem is far from acute today."

The Minority Rights Group is chaired by Jo Grimmond, a Liberal MP. Its sponsors include Irwin Canham, editor of the Christian Science Monitor, Milovan Djilas of Yugoslavia, Sean Macbride of Ireland, Lord Goodman and Joseph Needham of England and Jayaprakash Narayan of India.

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He had been tried previously on charges of participation in the mass murder of Polish Jews and was released after the court accepted his contention that he had known nothing of the executions at the time and found out about them only at the end of the war.

He was put on trial a second time after a

police search of his home during the course of investigating an unrelated case turned up the film. During the second trial, Franz T. switched his defense from no knowledge to amnesia. He was supported by a court psychiatrist who testified that this could have been the case.

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The Cabinet secretary told newsmen that Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir was not one of the ministers who voted against the parade although there was some opposition to it on financial grounds. The parade is likely to cost some \$4 million. Overall plans for Israel's 25th anniversary celebrations have been completed by a ministerial committee headed by Deputy Premier Yigal Allon. They will be announced at a press conference later this week.

SOVIET JEW DESCRIBES CRUELITIES OF SOVIET FORCED LABOR CAMP

LONDON, Aug. 28 (JTA)--The cruelties of a Soviet forced labor camp as described by a man who endured them for two years were reported today by Jewish sources in the Soviet Union. According to the sources, Lazar Trakhtenberg, a 27-year-old Jew from Kishinev, spent time in solitary confinement for offering his lower bunk to a sick Jewish fellow prisoner at the camp.

Trakhtenberg and Arkady Voloshin, 28, also of Kishinev, were released from the camp after completing their sentences. Both were arrested Aug. 15, 1970. Trakhtenberg was punished with solitary confinement because he argued with a camp foreman who insisted that he give the lower bunk to one of the former Nazis incarcerated in the camp instead of to 51-year-old Lev Kornblit.

According to Trakhtenberg, Kornblit, who survived Nazi concentration camps during World War II, was ill and couldn't sleep when he offered the bunk. In solitary, he said he was fed only on alternate days. He had no chair or table and his cot was removed from the cell at six a.m. and returned only at night so that he had to stand all day or sit on the wet cement floor. He was given no blanket despite the cold weather and the guards took away his jacket. Trakhtenberg said the air in his cell was foul and that he was given no exercise throughout his solitary confinement, the sources reported.

BEN-GURION CHANGES VIEWS ON TERRITORIES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 28 (JTA)--David Ben-Gurion, who has been considered to be a dove in the past, apparently has veered to a position close to that of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan

regarding the future of the territories captured during the Six-Day War. In the past, Ben-Gurion has advocated the return of all occupied territories, except Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, in the event of a lasting peace settlement.

However, in a recent story in Haaretz, close friends of Ben-Gurion revealed that the former Premier believed that a good deal more territory ought to be kept, and the settlement by Israelis should continue in the West Bank and Gaza Strip areas so long as there is no real peace in sight. He still believes, however, that desert areas could be traded for a lasting peace.

Ben-Gurion's friends said that this change of opinion came about slowly and in stages, as he became more and more convinced that the Arab states were not interested in a peace agreement. Now he is said to side with Dayan against those who advocate the return of most of the West Bank. These views are believed to be particularly important at this time since the Labor Party is preparing for a fundamental debate on its policy towards the occupied areas in advance of the November, 1973 elections.

The first signs of Ben-Gurion's new position came in the form of a letter from him to Herut Executive Chairman Ezer Weizman, in which Ben-Gurion congratulated Weizman on an article he wrote for Haaretz. In the article Weizman rejected the demographical dangers which others have seen in Israel's continued occupation of these areas. Haaretz published this letter after Weizman obtained the former Premier's permission.

TEACHERS THREATEN NATION-WIDE STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 28 (JTA)--A teachers' strike that would affect 600,000 primary and secondary school children all over Israel, loomed today, three days before the new school year is scheduled to begin. The teachers' union has presented 80 demands ranging from classroom conditions and the number of pupils per class to wages and hours of work. The union said the strike would affect only eight cities, including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and Beersheba. But high school teachers said the walk-out would be nation-wide if no settlement is reached.

VILNA JEW REPORTED KILLED

NEW YORK, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Jewish sources in the United States reported today that Ilia Moisevich Serebreny, a 50-year-old Vilna Jew, was murdered in his home last week, allegedly by Soviet militiamen disguised as hooligans. The sources said that Serebreny had already received his exit visa to Israel and the murder was apparently in connection with a robbery attempt. Serebreny had his money with him at home in preparation for his departure from the Soviet Union, the sources said. It was not as yet clear whether or not witnesses were present and no further documentation of the charges are available.

JEWISH AGENCY BUDGET AT \$465 MILLION

JERUSALEM, Aug. 28 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency's Budget and Finance Committee recommended a working budget of \$465 million for the current fiscal year at a meeting here yesterday. Last year's budget was \$387 million. The major items on the new budget are \$105 million for housing, \$72 million for higher education, \$57 million for absorption and \$34 million for health services.

A 33-year-old Druze soldier was promoted yesterday to the rank of Lt. Col. in the Israeli Army. The rank is the highest ever conferred on a non-Jewish officer.

NO RESPONSE FROM EGYPT TO RECENT 'CONCILIATORY' ISRAELI STATEMENTS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 28 (JTA)--There has been no "positive" response from Egypt to recent "conciliatory" statements and "signals" from the Israeli capital, authoritative sources here report. Israel, they say, had hoped that Egypt's ouster of Soviet personnel would be followed naturally by a greater Egyptian readiness to talk peace, but divisions within his administration and disappointment at the development of relations with the Soviets seem to have prevented any peace moves on the part of President Anwar Sadat.

Sources here point to three separate "signals" from Israel in recent weeks: Premier Golda Meir's Knesset speech July 26, Foreign Minister Abba Eban's press conference Aug. 7 and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's television interview Aug. 15. All three, the sources say, held out prospects for negotiations on either an interim or an overall settlement, Dayan in particular stressing that the time was ripe for a partial settlement reopening the Suez Canal.

The Israeli press, inspired by official encouragement, played up Dayan's statement as an important "signal" complementary to what it termed the conciliatory and respectful tone of Premier Meir's address. Egypt-watchers here detect two schools of thought in Cairo.

Two Schools Of Thought

The first is comprised of inveterate "Russians," with Al Ahran editor Mohamed Hassan-ein Heykal as their spokesman. They are well-pleased with the Soviet ouster and urge an even wider breach with the Russians. Heykal's revelation two weeks ago that five Soviet planes were shot down by Israel in one minute in 1970 is seen as obviously intended to embarrass and discredit the Soviets, suggesting they were ousted not only because they refused to provide enough weapons but because they were "no good." The second school, comprised of left-leaning elements, is less happy about the Soviet ouster and wary of the future, preferring Nasserist neutrality to open conflict with Moscow.

Sadat himself, it is believed in Jerusalem, had planned to drive out some of the Soviet advisors and then deal with Moscow from a position of strength, but was thrown out of gear by the Kremlin's refusal to play along. The letter Sadat received last week from Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid I. Brezhnev rejected his suggestion for a summit meeting between himself and the Soviet leaders. The Russians seem also to have pulled out more of their soldiers and airmen than Sadat had bargained for.

At this stage, it is still unclear what Egypt is planning for the UN General Assembly next month. Egypt could, of course, secure with ease another anti-Israel vote, but officials in Jerusalem say already that it would be as ineffective as the one last year blaming Israel for the breakdown of the Jarring mission. The General Assembly is not expected to reverse Security Council Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967, and as long as that resolution remains valid both sides can continue to claim that their positions are in accord with the UN's decision.

SEN. CHURCH SAYS ISRAEL NEUTRAL TOWARD U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

TEL AVIV, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho) said last night that he had concluded from his brief visit to Israel that the Israel government does not favor President Nixon or Sen.

George McGovern in the American presidential elections and has adopted a stance of strict neutrality between them.

Church said at a press conference prior to his departure that this point had been repeatedly emphasized to him by the Israeli government leaders he spoke to including Premier Golda Meir, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and other Cabinet ministers. The Senator observed that it would be foolish for Israel to take sides in the American elections because the outcome would not alter US policy toward Israel.

Church said that during his five-day visit he gained the impression that Israel was willing to make compromises in the interest of peace with its neighbors but stood firm on certain basic points such as direct negotiations and refusal to yield East Jerusalem to Jordan. He said the Holy City is, and should remain, Israel's capital "and we (the US) would be well advised to move our Embassy there."

THREE SOVIET JEWS FACE TRIAL; JEWISH ACTIVIST ON TRIAL NOW

NEW YORK, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Jacob Birnbaum, national director of Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, reported here today that ominous reports of a major conspiracy trial against Vladimir Slepak and Victor Polsky, two Russian Jewish activists, have reached him from the Soviet Union.

At the same time, Birnbaum reported that the trial of Isaac Skolnik, a Jewish activist from Novosibirsk, is currently being held in Novosibirsk. Skolnik, who is an engineer, is being accused of defaming the Soviet Union, under Article 187 of the penal code, according to Birnbaum. He reported that witnesses are still being brought in by the prosecution.

The conspiracy trial against Slepak and Polsky may be related to the upcoming trial in Moscow of Lazar Lubarsky of Rostov, according to Birnbaum. Lubarsky is being charged with spreading false information about the Soviet Union under Article 193 of the Soviet penal code. Birnbaum said that over 50 people have been called by the KGB for interrogation in connection with the Lubarsky trial.

According to Birnbaum, Slepak's name was mentioned in Pravda, the organ of the Soviet Communist Party, in connection with the trial of Ilya Glezer, who was convicted last week to three years in a forced labor camp. Earlier this year, Slepak had resisted a government appointed job at manual labor on the grounds that he was not physically fit. The government later found him a different job.

GRENADE HITS MILITARY CAMP

TEL AVIV, Aug. 28 (JTA)--A hand grenade was thrown at an Israeli military camp in the Jebeliya area near Gaza last night. There were no casualties. Israeli security forces are investigating the incident, the second since Friday when a grenade thrown at an Israeli civilian car fatally wounded an Arab boy and injured 25 Arab workers. The renewal of grenade throwing after a six-month interval of relative quiet in the Gaza area was attributed to the recent withdrawal of Israeli border police units which controlled the Gaza Strip.

The Bedouin tribes in the Negev produced a bumper crop of 40,000 tons of wheat this year following four consecutive years of drought, the Ministry of Agriculture announced. The crop represents 10 percent of Israel's yearly wheat consumption.

PURGES HITTING JEWISH COMMUNITY

LONDON, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Purges by the Czech Communist regime of personalities connected with the Dubcek "spring era" of four years ago are starting to reach members of the small Jewish community in Prague, it was reported here from the Czech capital.

Dr. Vilem Benda, director of the State Jewish Museum in Prague for more than ten years, has been ousted. Dr. Benda, who had been an outstanding member of the Communist Party had contributed greatly to making the Jewish collections of Prague a main attraction for tourists. Sources said he was ousted when he refused to redecorate exhibits to give them a "political flavor."

Erik Klima was named Benda's successor. His first job, it was reported, will be to remove Jewish staff members excluded from the Communist Party in the post-Dubcek purges. The museum includes six synagogues, the oldest dating from the 13th century, as well as the 16th century Town Hall and the old Jewish cemeteries from the first half of the 15th century.

The Pinkas synagogue has been transformed into a memorial to the 80,000 Czech Jews slaughtered by the Nazis but it is the Klaus synagogue, housing a permanent collection, which seems to be most annoying to the present Communist leaders. There has been an intensive anti-Zionist campaign with strong anti-Semitic undertones in Czechoslovakia recently, aimed mainly at Jewish backers of Dubcek, many of them now living in exile.

DAYAN RAPs JDL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan tonight called the Jewish Defense League foolish after Rabbi Meir Kahane and about 100 JDL members stormed into Hebron in an effort to demonstrate Jewish ownership of the West Bank city and hold a public trial of Hebron's Mayor Sheikh Mohammad Ali Jaabari. Dayan made the remark last night after a meeting with Jaabari, saying that if the JDL wanted to clarify something they should have appealed to the Israeli government.

The JDL militants succeeded in breaching the roadblocks set up by the military government to prevent their arrival. They gathered near the Tombs of the Patriarchs where they declared they would hold a public trial of Jaabari in view of his role during the 1929 massacre of Hebron Jews and the 1948 fighting. Brigadier General Raphael Vardi, Military Governor of the West Bank, asked them to leave and they obeyed quietly.

Jaabari told reporters that he would be happy to appear in a public trial to accuse his accusers. It was later in the evening that Dayan visited the mayor after which he made his comments on the JDL. A conference of Hebron notables decided this weekend not to stage a counter-demonstration against the JDL after Israeli authorities promised that law and order would be maintained.

JWV LEADER ASSAILS SOVIET RANSOM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28 (JTA)--The new national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the US assailed what he called the "exit ransoms" imposed by Soviet authorities on educated Jews wishing to leave the Soviet Union. Norman Tilles of Providence, R.I., said they were "reminiscent of the early days of the Nazi era." He added that "this new action rips away the mask of innocence from the Soviet leadership and reveals beneath it the same ugly anti-Semitic tendency that characterized the worst days of the Czar." A world-wide

condemnation not only of the "ransom tactics" but "the other obvious pressures applied to Jews by Soviet authorities," was urged by him.

REPORT SYRIAN JEWISH YOUTHS
BAR LEADER FROM TV INTERVIEW

TEL AVIV, Aug. 28 (JTA)--A European tourist who recently visited Syria reported here that a number of Syrian Jewish youths prevented the head of the Syrian Jewish community from appearing on a Syrian television interview to which he had been invited by Syrian officials. The tourist said that Salim Totah had been invited to appear before a group of foreign correspondents and television crews.

The tourist said that when the scheduled interview became known, a number of young Syrian Jews surrounded Totah's home and prevented him from leaving. They reportedly feared that he might make, under duress, statements which would not reflect the oppressive conditions imposed by government authorities on Jews. The Syrian Information Office was forced to cancel the press conference and the TV interview.

GOLDMANN: FUTURE OF ISRAEL, DIASPORA
JEWRY DEPENDS ON MUTUAL RESPECT

BASLE, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said here Saturday night that the future of Israel and of diaspora Jewry depended on the achievement of complete solidarity and mutual respect between those two branches of the Jewish people. Delivering the keynote address at a gathering sponsored by the Basle Zionist Society to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the World Zionist Movement in this city in 1897, Dr. Goldmann said that "what still needs to be done may take even longer than the 75 years of Zionist history."

The gathering was the last of a series of events held here during the year in connection with the 75th anniversary of the first World Zionist Congress. "The Jewish people and the Zionist movement have not yet passed the half-way mark and a harder road may still lie ahead," Dr. Goldmann warned. "If it should prove impossible to alter appreciably the ratio of Jews between Israel and the diaspora and to secure complete solidarity between the two parts of Jewry, both the future of Israel and of the diaspora would look precarious," he said.

He stressed that relations between Israel and diaspora Jews "must be based on their kinship, and developed in the spirit of mutual consultation. The diaspora has the right and duty to advise Israel. It must, however, leave all decisions to the Jewish State where her sovereignty and her security are concerned," Dr. Goldmann said. "At the same time," he continued, "Israel must recognize the autonomy of the Jewish communities of the world in determining their internal and external policies."

PROTEST EXIT VISA CHARGES

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 28 (JTA)--A protest against the huge new charges for exits for Russian Jewish intellectuals was sent by the Rio Jewish Federation to the Soviet ambassador in Brasilia. The protest, signed by Dr. Samuel Malamud, Federation president, said the Soviet decree was another violation of the "fundamental principles" of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

There will be no Bulletin on September 4, due to Labor Day.



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However, in a recent story in Haaretz, close friends of Ben-Gurion revealed that the former Premier believed that a good deal more territory ought to be kept, and the settlement by Israelis should continue in the West Bank and Gaza Strip areas so long as there is no real peace in sight. He still believes, however, that desert areas could be traded for a lasting peace.

Ben-Gurion's friends said that this change of opinion came about slowly and in stages, as he became more and more convinced that the Arab states were not interested in a peace agreement. Now he is said to side with Dayan against those who advocate the return of most of the West Bank. These views are believed to be particularly important at this time since the Labor Party is preparing for a fundamental debate on its policy towards the occupied areas in advance of the November, 1973 elections.

The first signs of Ben-Gurion's new position came in the form of a letter from him to Herut Executive Chairman Ezer Weizman, in which Ben-Gurion congratulated Weizman on an article he wrote for Haaretz. In the article Weizman rejected the demographical dangers which others have seen in Israel's continued occupation of these areas. Haaretz published this letter after Weizman obtained the former Premier's permission.

TEACHERS THREATEN NATION-WIDE STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 28 (JTA)--A teachers' strike that would affect 600,000 primary and secondary school children all over Israel, loomed today, three days before the new school year is scheduled to begin. The teachers' union has presented 80 demands ranging from classroom conditions and the number of pupils per class to wages and hours of work. The union said the strike would affect only eight cities, including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and Beersheba. But high school teachers said the walk-out would be nation-wide if no settlement is reached.

VILNA JEW REPORTED KILLED

NEW YORK, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Jewish sources in the United States reported today that Ilia Moisevich Serebreny, a 50-year-old Vilna Jew, was murdered in his home last week, allegedly by Soviet militiamen disguised as hooligans. The sources said that Serebreny had already received his exit visa to Israel and the murder was apparently in connection with a robbery attempt. Serebreny had his money with him at home in preparation for his departure from the Soviet Union, the sources said. It was not as yet clear whether or not witnesses were present and no further documentation of the charges are available.

JEWISH AGENCY BUDGET AT \$465 MILLION

JERUSALEM, Aug. 28 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency's Budget and Finance Committee recommended a working budget of \$465 million for the current fiscal year at a meeting here yesterday. Last year's budget was \$387 million. The major items on the new budget are \$105 million for housing, \$72 million for higher education, \$57 million for absorption and \$34 million for health services.

A 33-year-old Druze soldier was promoted yesterday to the rank of Lt. Col. in the Israeli Army. The rank is the highest ever conferred on a non-Jewish officer.

NO RESPONSE FROM EGYPT TO RECENT 'CONCILIATORY' ISRAELI STATEMENTS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 28 (JTA)--There has been no "positive" response from Egypt to recent "conciliatory" statements and "signals" from the Israeli capital, authoritative sources here report. Israel, they say, had hoped that Egypt's ouster of Soviet personnel would be followed naturally by a greater Egyptian readiness to talk peace, but divisions within his administration and disappointment at the development of relations with the Soviets seem to have prevented any peace moves on the part of President Anwar Sadat.

Sources here point to three separate "signals" from Israel in recent weeks: Premier Golda Meir's Knesset speech July 26, Foreign Minister Abba Eban's press conference Aug. 7 and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's television interview Aug. 15. All three, the sources say, held out prospects for negotiations on either an interim or an overall settlement, Dayan in particular stressing that the time was ripe for a partial settlement reopening the Suez Canal.

The Israeli press, inspired by official encouragement, played up Dayan's statement as an important "signal" complementary to what it termed the conciliatory and respectful tone of Premier Meir's address. Egypt-watchers here detect two schools of thought in Cairo.

Two Schools Of Thought

The first is comprised of inveterate "Russians," with Al Ahran editor Mohamed Hassan-ein Heykal as their spokesman. They are well-pleased with the Soviet ouster and urge an even wider breach with the Russians. Heykal's revelation two weeks ago that five Soviet planes were shot down by Israel in one minute in 1970 is seen as obviously intended to embarrass and discredit the Soviets, suggesting they were ousted not only because they refused to provide enough weapons but because they were "no good." The second school, comprised of left-leaning elements, is less happy about the Soviet ouster and wary of the future, preferring Nasserist neutrality to open conflict with Moscow.

Sadat himself, it is believed in Jerusalem, had planned to drive out some of the Soviet advisors and then deal with Moscow from a position of strength, but was thrown out of gear by the Kremlin's refusal to play along. The letter Sadat received last week from Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid I. Brezhnev rejected his suggestion for a summit meeting between himself and the Soviet leaders. The Russians seem also to have pulled out more of their soldiers and airmen than Sadat had bargained for.

At this stage, it is still unclear what Egypt is planning for the UN General Assembly next month. Egypt could, of course, secure with ease another anti-Israel vote, but officials in Jerusalem say already that it would be as ineffective as the one last year blaming Israel for the breakdown of the Jarring mission. The General Assembly is not expected to reverse Security Council Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967, and as long as that resolution remains valid both sides can continue to claim that their positions are in accord with the UN's decision.

SEN. CHURCH SAYS ISRAEL NEUTRAL TOWARD U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

TEL AVIV, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho) said last night that he had concluded from his brief visit to Israel that the Israel government does not favor President Nixon or Sen.

George McGovern in the American presidential elections and has adopted a stance of strict neutrality between them.

Church said at a press conference prior to his departure that this point had been repeatedly emphasized to him by the Israeli government leaders he spoke to including Premier Golda Meir, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and other Cabinet ministers. The Senator observed that it would be foolish for Israel to take sides in the American elections because the outcome would not alter US policy toward Israel.

Church said that during his five-day visit he gained the impression that Israel was willing to make compromises in the interest of peace with its neighbors but stood firm on certain basic points such as direct negotiations and refusal to yield East Jerusalem to Jordan. He said the Holy City is, and should remain, Israel's capital "and we (the US) would be well advised to move our Embassy there."

THREE SOVIET JEWS FACE TRIAL; JEWISH ACTIVIST ON TRIAL NOW

NEW YORK, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Jacob Birnbaum, national director of Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, reported here today that ominous reports of a major conspiracy trial against Vladimir Slepak and Victor Polsky, two Russian Jewish activists, have reached him from the Soviet Union.

At the same time, Birnbaum reported that the trial of Isaac Skolnik, a Jewish activist from Novosibirsk, is currently being held in Novosibirsk. Skolnik, who is an engineer, is being accused of defaming the Soviet Union, under Article 187 of the penal code, according to Birnbaum. He reported that witnesses are still being brought in by the prosecution.

The conspiracy trial against Slepak and Polsky may be related to the upcoming trial in Moscow of Lazar Lubarsky of Rostov, according to Birnbaum. Lubarsky is being charged with spreading false information about the Soviet Union under Article 193 of the Soviet penal code. Birnbaum said that over 50 people have been called by the KGB for interrogation in connection with the Lubarsky trial.

According to Birnbaum, Slepak's name was mentioned in Pravda, the organ of the Soviet Communist Party, in connection with the trial of Ilya Glezer, who was convicted last week to three years in a forced labor camp. Earlier this year, Slepak had resisted a government appointed job at manual labor on the grounds that he was not physically fit. The government later found him a different job.

GRENADE HITS MILITARY CAMP

TEL AVIV, Aug. 28 (JTA)--A hand grenade was thrown at an Israeli military camp in the Jebeliya area near Gaza last night. There were no casualties. Israeli security forces are investigating the incident, the second since Friday when a grenade thrown at an Israeli civilian car fatally wounded an Arab boy and injured 25 Arab workers. The renewal of grenade throwing after a six-month interval of relative quiet in the Gaza area was attributed to the recent withdrawal of Israeli border police units which controlled the Gaza Strip.

The Bedouin tribes in the Negev produced a bumper crop of 40,000 tons of wheat this year following four consecutive years of drought, the Ministry of Agriculture announced. The crop represents 10 percent of Israel's yearly wheat consumption.

PURGES HITTING JEWISH COMMUNITY

LONDON, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Purges by the Czech Communist regime of personalities connected with the Dubcek "spring era" of four years ago are starting to reach members of the small Jewish community in Prague, it was reported here from the Czech capital.

Dr. Vilem Benda, director of the State Jewish Museum in Prague for more than ten years, has been ousted. Dr. Benda, who had been an outstanding member of the Communist Party had contributed greatly to making the Jewish collections of Prague a main attraction for tourists. Sources said he was ousted when he refused to redecorate exhibits to give them a "political flavor."

Erik Klima was named Benda's successor. His first job, it was reported, will be to remove Jewish staff members excluded from the Communist Party in the post-Dubcek purges. The museum includes six synagogues, the oldest dating from the 13th century, as well as the 16th century Town Hall and the old Jewish cemeteries from the first half of the 15th century.

The Pinkas synagogue has been transformed into a memorial to the 80,000 Czech Jews slaughtered by the Nazis but it is the Klaus synagogue, housing a permanent collection, which seems to be most annoying to the present Communist leaders. There has been an intensive anti-Zionist campaign with strong anti-Semitic undertones in Czechoslovakia recently, aimed mainly at Jewish backers of Dubcek, many of them now living in exile.

DAYAN RAPs JDL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan tonight called the Jewish Defense League foolish after Rabbi Meir Kahane and about 100 JDL members stormed into Hebron in an effort to demonstrate Jewish ownership of the West Bank city and hold a public trial of Hebron's Mayor Sheikh Mohammad Ali Jaabari. Dayan made the remark last night after a meeting with Jaabari, saying that if the JDL wanted to clarify something they should have appealed to the Israeli government.

The JDL militants succeeded in breaching the roadblocks set up by the military government to prevent their arrival. They gathered near the Tombs of the Patriarchs where they declared they would hold a public trial of Jaabari in view of his role during the 1929 massacre of Hebron Jews and the 1948 fighting. Brigadier General Raphael Vardi, Military Governor of the West Bank, asked them to leave and they obeyed quietly.

Jaabari told reporters that he would be happy to appear in a public trial to accuse his accusers. It was later in the evening that Dayan visited the mayor after which he made his comments on the JDL. A conference of Hebron notables decided this weekend not to stage a counter-demonstration against the JDL after Israeli authorities promised that law and order would be maintained.

JWV LEADER ASSAILS SOVIET RANSOM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28 (JTA)--The new national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the US assailed what he called the "exit ransoms" imposed by Soviet authorities on educated Jews wishing to leave the Soviet Union. Norman Tilles of Providence, R.I., said they were "reminiscent of the early days of the Nazi era." He added that "this new action rips away the mask of innocence from the Soviet leadership and reveals beneath it the same ugly anti-Semitic tendency that characterized the worst days of the Czar." A world-wide

condemnation not only of the "ransom tactics" but "the other obvious pressures applied to Jews by Soviet authorities," was urged by him.

**REPORT SYRIAN JEWISH YOUTHS
BAR LEADER FROM TV INTERVIEW**

TEL AVIV, Aug. 28 (JTA)--A European tourist who recently visited Syria reported here that a number of Syrian Jewish youths prevented the head of the Syrian Jewish community from appearing on a Syrian television interview to which he had been invited by Syrian officials. The tourist said that Salim Totah had been invited to appear before a group of foreign correspondents and television crews.

The tourist said that when the scheduled interview became known, a number of young Syrian Jews surrounded Totah's home and prevented him from leaving. They reportedly feared that he might make, under duress, statements which would not reflect the oppressive conditions imposed by government authorities on Jews. The Syrian Information Office was forced to cancel the press conference and the TV interview.

**GOLDMANN: FUTURE OF ISRAEL, DIASPORA
JEWRY DEPENDS ON MUTUAL RESPECT**

BASLE, Aug. 28 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said here Saturday night that the future of Israel and of diaspora Jewry depended on the achievement of complete solidarity and mutual respect between those two branches of the Jewish people. Delivering the keynote address at a gathering sponsored by the Basle Zionist Society to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the World Zionist Movement in this city in 1897, Dr. Goldmann said that "what still needs to be done may take even longer than the 75 years of Zionist history."

The gathering was the last of a series of events held here during the year in connection with the 75th anniversary of the first World Zionist Congress. "The Jewish people and the Zionist movement have not yet passed the half-way mark and a harder road may still lie ahead," Dr. Goldmann warned. "If it should prove impossible to alter appreciably the ratio of Jews between Israel and the diaspora and to secure complete solidarity between the two parts of Jewry, both the future of Israel and of the diaspora would look precarious," he said.

He stressed that relations between Israel and diaspora Jews "must be based on their kinship, and developed in the spirit of mutual consultation. The diaspora has the right and duty to advise Israel. It must, however, leave all decisions to the Jewish State where her sovereignty and her security are concerned," Dr. Goldmann said. "At the same time," he continued, "Israel must recognize the autonomy of the Jewish communities of the world in determining their internal and external policies."

PROTEST EXIT VISA CHARGES

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 28 (JTA)--A protest against the huge new charges for exits for Russian Jewish intellectuals was sent by the Rio Jewish Federation to the Soviet ambassador in Brasilia. The protest, signed by Dr. Samuel Malamud, Federation president, said the Soviet decree was another violation of the "fundamental principles" of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

There will be no Bulletin on September 4, due to Labor Day.