IATA WARNS TERRORISTS MAY SOON LAUNCH NEW ATTACKS ON PLANEs, AIRPORTS

PARIS, Aug. 29 (JTA)--A warning to international airlines and air passengers that Arab terrorists may soon launch new attacks on civilian planes and airports in Western Europe was issued today by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) from its Geneva headquarters. The communiqué said IATA security services had discovered that the recent explosion of a bomb in the luggage compartment of an Al Al plane on a Rome-Lod flight "was not an isolated instance but part of a general plan."

IATA conformed all air travelled not to accept parcels or presents from strangers before boarding planes and to carefully check their own luggage for explosives concealed "by terrorist elements." Airport security services throughout Western Europe were asked by IATA to increase security checks on passengers and their luggage.

EXIT VISAS WOULD COST $330,000 FOR TEN PROMINENT SOVIErT JEWISH SCHOLARS

LONDON, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Ten prominent Soviet Jewish scientists, scholars and academicians seeking to emigrate to Israel will have to raise a combined total of over $330,000 to pay for exit visas for themselves and their families under the new scale of fees levied by Soviet authorities, Jewish sources in the Soviet Union said today. The total was tallied by Jewish circles in Russia on the basis of the fees demanded to compensate the State for the free higher education enjoyed by those who want to leave.

The sources observed that most educated Russian Jews who have gone to Israel, and almost all who have applied for visas have already made valuable contributions to Soviet science, scholarship, medicine, technology and the arts.

Thus they have already repaid the State many times for its investment in their education, the sources said. They added that while this argument may appeal to the bureaucratic imagination the real issue is the principle that no civilized society can demand ransom for its citizens who want to leave.

The Jewish circles estimated that Roman Rutman would have to pay about $31,850 for his exit visa and his wife another $19,600 for hers; Victor Polsky would have to lay out approximately $49,000 for himself, his wife and his father-in-law; Benjamin L eveich would have to pay over $100,000 for himself, his wife, his son Yevgeny, Yevgeny's wife and his son Alexander and his wife.

The exit visas of Boris Orlov, his wife and his father would cost $24,300 and Lev Litoubo would have to pay over $31,000 for his and his wife's visas, it was estimated. The visa sought by Viktor Yakhtov cost a $9800 price tag and Vladimir Frestein would have to pay $19,600 for himself and his wife to leave Russia. Vladimir Ragnsky and his wife would pay over $31,000.

AGENCY URGED TO NAME COMPANIES RECEIVING REQUESTS TO COOPERATE IN ARAB BOYCOTT AGAINST ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Representative Benjamin Rosenthal (D.N.Y.) in a letter to the Commerce Department has asked the Depart-
fessional fund-raisers from around the world will gather for a three-month course in fund-raising, and 25 national campaign chairmen from various countries will meet in London Nov. 27 to discuss for the first time the steps necessary to reach the Jewish Agency's fund-raising goals. Fischer was optimistic about the chances for success this year because of what he described as a "new sense of unity" at the Board of Governors meeting. He attributed the unity to the assembling of Zionists and non-Zionists into the reconstituted Jewish Agency now in its second year.

REGIONAL CONFLAB OF NGO GROUPS APPEAL TO USSR TO RESCIND VISA CHARGES

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 29 (JTA)--A resolution appealing to the Soviet Union to rescind its excessive visa charges for Jewish intellectuals seeking to emigrate was adopted unanimously at the closing session of the regional conference of non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations. The resolution stated that the Soviet policy, if continued, "would convert intellectuals, academicians and artists into new slaves of the 20th century."

The resolution charged that the Soviet visa fee policy "causes injury to the human personality and violates the accepted norms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." The resolution was introduced by Mrs. Runya Lasky, representing the Mexican Association for the United Nations, and Marc Turok, secretary of the Latin American Jewish Congress. Turok was in general terms without specifying the countries voting.

RABIN AND WIFE TO BE HONORED

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund of Greater Washington plans to honor Ambassador and Mrs. Yitzhak Rabin as the Ambassador's tour of duty nears its end this fall. Samuel S. Meer, executive director, said an appreciation dinner will be given for the Rabin family Sunday evening Oct. 8 at the Washington Hilton Hotel. He said that as a further tribute to the diplomat and his wife, the JNF will plant a forest in the names of Yitzhak and Leah Rabin near Baram on the Lebanon border.

The JNF said today that the Rabin's would fly home next week for the High Holidays. Rabin is said to want end his tour of duty in Nov. but the Israeli government reportedly wants him to remain in Washington until early 1973. The matter is expected to be clarified during his home visit.

BEACHES POLLUTED, SHAZAR SAYS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar revealed yesterday that he was a keen amateur fisherman but said he had a hard time finding a place to fish among the trash and man-made filth that litters Israel's beaches. Shazar displayed a rare spark of anger in criticizing the condition of the beaches, which he termed "quite disgraceful." He made his remarks during ceremonies at his residence here in which he presented awards to 29 hotels and tourist agencies that earned at least $1.25 million last year.

At ceremonies in the Knesset later, Tourism Minister Moshe Kol reported that some three million tourist visitors have visited Israel in the five years since the Six-Day War, more than in the previous 19 years. He said that income from tourism this year was expected to top $350 million, not including the passenger earnings of Israel's two overseas-carriers, El Al and Zim steamship line, Kol said 76,000 tourists will have visited Israel by the end of the year. Kol presented tourism promotion certificates to 96 hotels and firms that earned at least $850,000 last year.

ISRAEL WATCHING FOR FRENCH DIPLOMATIC MOVES IN MIDEAST

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Israel is watching diplomatic developments in Europe carefully following reports that Egypt is pressing France to embark on a new Mideast peace initiative. With their military options effectively closed for the foreseeable future by the Soviet exodus, the Egyptians are thought to be seeking progress on the diplomatic front. Last month they tried to revive the Jarring mission, and failed. They are now reportedly trying to interest France in an idea mooted vaguely some time ago by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim for an Egyptian-Israeli peace conference with the participation of the Four Powers.

A senior official in Jerusalem said today that to date Israel knows of no firm and precisely stated French plan along these lines but there have been reports of French interest in the idea. Israeli diplomats have reported a feeling in Western European capitals that some form of help ought to be extended to Egyptian President Sadat, the man who is about to visit Washington. With this in mind, the Germans are known to be considering offering economic aid to Cairo.

Israel for its part does not object to the extension of economic aid to the Arabs. There have also been reports of late that Egypt is seeking to buy weapons from Britain which has no embargo policy on arms for the Mideast, but treats each sale on its merits. This approach has always suited Israel in the past as she too buys various armaments in Britain. Government circles here are apparently not disturbed at the present time by reports that Egypt may seek arms from Britain.

Israel Envoy Sounding Out Governments

It is believed here that a possible diplomatic initiative inspired by France towards Egyptian-Israeli negotiations with the Big Four powers present will be supported by Britain which is anxious, out of EEC considerations not to cross the Quai Dorsay if it can be avoided.

Israel has instructed its ambassadors in Europe to hold talks with their accredited governments to find out what French intentions are and what other Europeans feel about the post-Soviet exodus prospects in the Mideast. A number of Israeli envoys are on home leave and they have been consulting with the Foreign Minister and his senior staff on latest developments in Europe. The ambassadors include Michael Comay from London and Ben-Natan from Paris and Emil Najar from Rome.

The general policy line laid down to them is that if a French initiative does materialize, Israel will seek to convince the other Europeans that only harm can come from letting Sadat fall under another delusion that salvation from the outside will regain him his lost territories without direct peace negotiations with Israel. Israel believes that with the Russians out of Egypt, the chances of a political settlement have increased but would be prejudiced by a French plan for Four Power pressure which in effect means an imposed settlement.

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R, Pa.) said today that he would support any effort by the US government to protest the Soviet Union's excessive visa fees. He referred to the matter in a letter to Secretary of State William P. Rogers in which he described the visa fees as "an absolute mockery" of the rights of a citizen of a country to emigrate.

JEWISH ATHLETES WINNERS IN OLYMPICS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)—Between 1896 and 1968, 131 Jews from 17 nations won 256 medals—70 gold, 68 silver and 67 bronze—in Olympic competition. Divided by sport, the first place went to fencing where Jews won 71 medals—31 by Jews from Hungary and 13 from the USSR. Thirty-three medals were won by Jews in track and field events, 15 of them by competitors from the US, and 25 in gymnastics, 14 of them from Hungary. Twenty-four medals were won by Jews in swimming and 20 in water polo. Only one Jew has ever won a medal in ice hockey, judo or rowing.

Taken by countries, Hungarian Jews lead with 76 medals followed by the US with 47 medals and the USSR with 36. Next is Austria with 20 and Belgium with 14. In the first modern Olympic Games at Athens in 1896, seven Jewish athletes won 13 medals. In basketball Jews have excelled as coaches. Julius Goldman, an American, coached Canada to an Olympic medal in 1936 and Alexander Gomelsky did the same for the Soviet Union in 1964 and 1968.

A Jew has also won Olympic medals in cycling—Felix Schmal of Austria who won a gold and two bronze medals today at the first Olympic Games. Two brothers, Alfred and Felix Flatow of Germany, won six medals—five gold—in the 1896 Games. At the first Olympic Games Jews were outstanding in swimming, winning all three events. Mark Spitz, who won four medals for the US in the 1968 games, set records in the butterfly stroke this week.

Israel Neve Won Olympic Medal

Israel has never won an Olympic medal but one of the most distinguished of Jewish medalists, Agnes Keleti of Hungary, who won no less than 11 medals, settled in Israel after the 1956 revolution in Hungary and became one of the country's main gymnastics trainers.

One of the great track and field athletes of the early 20th century was Myer Prinstein of the US who won medals at several Olympic Games. Britain's Harold Abrahams won the 100 meters race in 1924, was captain of the British Olympic team in 1936 and is chairman of the British Amateur Athletics Board. His brother, Sir Sidney Abrahams, who became Chief Justice of Uganda, ran for Great Britain in the 1908 and 1912 Olympics. Jews won 24 medals in the 1956 Olympics, 18 in 1964 and 19 in 1968.

CIC HAILS TRUDEAU'S MOVE TO AID ASIANS FACING EXPULSION FROM UGANDA

MONTREAL, Aug. 29 (JTA)—The Canadian Jewish Congress sent a congratulatory message yesterday to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau for his decision, announced last Friday, to aid Asians facing expulsion from Uganda by accepting 300-600 of them into Canada.

Trudeau stated that Ugandan President Idi Amin's order “would appear to be contrary to his country's obligation under the United Nations Charter and Declaration of Human Rights as well as against the principle of the Commonwealth Declaration of 1971, in which member States reiterated their belief in human dignity and non-racialism.”

The CIC called Trudeau's decision “courageous and timely action in the aid of victims of discrimination,” declaring that “this prompt humanitarian act designed to ameliorate the suffering of innocent people touches the heart of the Jewish community.”

Sydney Maiflin, president of the Canadian B'nai B'rith, sent a telegram to Trudeau support-

ing his position in accepting expelled Asians, whom he called “helpless and tragic victims of Idi Amin's economic and racial war.” Canada's policy, he said, is “ethically consistent” with the country's humanitarianism “and serves as an example to the world and to all the Commonwealth nations.”

ISRAELIS PROTEST AWARD TO POLISH COMMITTEE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 29 (JTA)—An Israeli group is protesting a 10,000 Mark award by the West German Publishers Association to the Korczak Committee in Poland, an organization established in memory of Janusz Korczak, a prominent Polish educator executed by the Nazis during World War II along with his Jewish pupils.

Yerahmiel Weingarten, a one-time associate of Korczak and a member of the Israeli Memorial Committee claimed that the Polish body has been “systematically and openly” Jewish members and that Korczak's Jewish and Zionist associations have been carefully camouflaged by Polish authorities.

Weingarten who addressed a press conference here suggested that Israel register its protest by boycotting the forthcoming book fair in Frankfurt where the award is to be made. A protest cable sent by the Israeli committee to the German publishers association has received no reply to date.

PROTESTS MOUNT AGAINST RANSOM DEMANDS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)—Israeli scientists and educators issued a joint statement today urging the Soviet Union to react to the excessively high visa fees levied on Jewish academicians seeking to emigrate. They warned that the new Soviet policy is “bound to have the most serious international implications.”

The statement was signed by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Israel Council of Institutions of Higher Education and the Scientists Committee of the Public Council for Soviet Jewry. Representatives of the three organizations met in emergency session on the visa fee matter.

Their statement said in part: “The latest move against Soviet Jews creates the gravest doubt as to whether the spirit of Stalinism is not still the guiding policy of certain circles in the Kremlin.”

Protests against the “ransom” of Soviet Jews continued to mount in other quarters. Various ex-servicemen's associations issued a joint appeal yesterday to the World Veterans Association in Paris to raise its voice against the Soviet policy which is “contrary to the rights of man for which the veterans of the free world fought during World War II.” The World Veterans Association reportedly has 20 million affiliated members in 50 countries.

Israeli war veterans also called veterans groups in the US. The organization of former partisans and anti-Nazi fighters and former concentration camp inmates appealed to the organization of Soviet veterans of World War II to “take all measures to halt the oppression of the Jewish people” in their country.

An Israeli firm beat tough American and West German competition to win a $10 million contract to construct a plant for the manufacture of brake linings in Yugoslavia. The deal was reported by Edward Schwartz, director general of the Ceramic-toasting Corp., which will also provide the machinery and engineering know-how for the plant.
WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA)—Rep. Claude Pepper (D., Fla.) has accused the Voice of America of devoting too little time to the plight of Soviet Jews in its weekly Russian-language program beamed to the USSR. “It is ridiculous and insulting to everyone who is concerned about the plight of Soviet Jewry to produce only one ten-minute program and not to broadcast any of this pitiful program in Yiddish,” the Congressman said in a letter made public today to Frank Shakespeare, assistant director of the US Information Agency. The VOA is part of the USIA.

A spokesman for the VOA told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Rep. Pepper’s letter was being studied at the USIA but that no response will be made until Shakespeare returns from abroad next week. The VOA’s program originated last Dec., after strong protests were lodged by Congressmen and others against the paucity of information about Jews being broadcast to the Soviet Union.

The program is broadcast on Sunday morning and repeated Monday nights in the Russian and Ukrainian languages. A VOA spokesman told the JTA that the program is devoted to cultural and religious interest but also contains information on Jewish affairs. “VOA reported the blackout on Jews wishing to emigrate and all that,” the spokesman said, adding, “We do use words in Yiddish and Hebrew as warranted by the content although we don’t have a program in those languages.”

JEWS IN RUSSIA

NEW YORK, Aug. 29 (JTA)—Mark Spitz swam a world record 2:00.7 in the men’s 200-meter butterfly in the Olympics yesterday shattering the standard he set earlier this month at the US trials, Spitz, an Indiana University student from Carmichael, Calif., continued on to his second triumph at the Olympics when, 30 minutes after receiving his first individual gold medal, he returned and anchored the US 400-meter relay team to a record 3:28.42 triumph.

The New York Times, in a “Man in the News” feature on the Jewish athlete, noted that when he was 10 years old swimming interfered with his after-school Hebrew lessons.” His father, Arnold Spitz, explained to the rabbi: “Even God likes a winner,”’” the Times feature reported. At 14, Spitz made it to the national championships and by 17 he was regarded “as one of the world’s best, setting or tying five American records in one year and breaking five world marks in international competition,” the Times stated.

SPECIAL DAY OF FAST, PRAYERS TO PROTEST LAW OF RETURN AMENDMENT

NEW YORK, Aug. 29 (JTA)—The Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada designated Sunday, Sept. 3, as a day of fast and special prayers to protest against “repeated legislation (in Israel) which offends the sensitivities of religious Jews.” The fast day was proclaimed by Rabbi Moses Feinstein, president of the rabbinical organization.

He singled out as target of the protest an amendment to Israeli’s “Law of Return,” which, he claimed, “blurs the distinction between Jew and non-Jew” and is “particularly absurd and ominous in its implications.” Orthodox elements here and in Israel have been agitating to have the Law of Return amended to specify that the conversion of prospective immigrants must be in accordance with halacha, religious law. The law as it now stands is not specific on that point.

U.S. WOULD WELCOME DIPLOMATIC TALKS WITH EGYPTIAN DELEGATION

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA)—The United States would welcome diplomatic talks with Egyptians when a high-level Egyptian delegation arrives here next month for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings. This view was expressed yesterday by State Department spokesman John King. Although the delegation, headed by Deputy Premier Mohammed Abdulla Marzaban, has not approached the US on the matter of talks, King said, “Of course we would welcome talks.” Marzaban is also Egyptian Economics Minister.

RANSOM FOR JEWS AND COMMUNITIES HAS PRECEDENT IN JEWISH HISTORY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)—The excessive visa fees demanded by Soviet authorities from educated Russian Jews wishing to emigrate to Israel has shocked Jewish and world opinion. But there is ample precedent in Jewish history for ransoming individuals and entire communities. It was the practice in Russia to pay a ransom for the rescue of Jews by paying ransom was regarded as one of the important mitzvot (good deeds) according to the Encyclopaedia Judaica.

But to avoid exorbitant ransom demands or repeated kidnapings, the rabbis of old ruled that captives should be redeemed only at their market value as slaves. One of the most famous Jewish captives, the 15th century scholar, Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg, refused to let Jews pay ransom for his release from prison in order to avoid a precedent that would encourage despotism and would rabbis for ransom. Rabbi Meir died in prison.

According to the Encyclopaedia Judaica, Jews in both Muslim and Christian lands were often seized and held captive in order to exact ransom from their fellow Jews. The phenomenon was widespread in Russia and was a common occurrence in the Ukraine and Volhynia during the 16th and 17th centuries. During the Cossack massacres of 1648-49, captured Jews were ransomed by Jewish communities in the Ottoman Empire.

In the 20th century the ransom of imperiled Jews has lost much of its former importance as a special tax. Such was the case in 1953 when Jews seeking to leave Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia were forced to pay a high levy imposed by the Nazi office in Prague headed by Adolf Eichmann.

BANK ROBBED IN JERUSALEM

Seven Men Arrested

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)—Police here arrested seven men this afternoon after an armed robbery at a bank in the Orthodox Bayit Vegan quarter. The take was IL 10,000. No further details have yet been released. It was the first such robbery in the capital in recent memory, though a wave of armed robberies of banks has been sweeping the Tel Aviv region this year. A police patrol car which happened to pass by the bank during the holdup was shot up by the robbers and one of its occupants was slightly wounded.

Fifteen athletes in seven sports are representing Israel at the Olympic Games in Munich: The contingent includes only two women—hurdler Esther Shahamurov and swimmer Shlomit Nir. Others include long-distance walker Dr. Shaul Ladany; marksmen Henry Hereshkovitz and Zelig Stromch; wrestlers Elizer Halfin, Gad Sahari and Mark Slaivin (the last a recent immigrant from Russia); and yachtsmen Yitzhak Nir and Yair Elazari.
IATA warns terrorists may soon launch new attacks on planes, airports

PARIS, Aug. 29 (JTA)--A warning to international airlines and air passengers that Arab terrorists may soon launch new attacks on civilian planes and airports in Western Europe was issued today by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) from its Geneva headquarters. The communiqué said IATA security services had discovered that the recent explosion of a bomb in the luggage compartment of an El Al plane on a Rome- Lod flight "was not an isolated instance but part of a general plan."

IATA warned all air travellers not to accept parcels or presents from strangers before boarding planes and to carefully check their own luggage for explosives concealed "by terrorist elements." Airport security services throughout Western Europe were asked by IATA to increase security checks on passengers and their luggage.

Exit visas would cost $330,000 for ten prominent Soviet Jewish scholars

LONDON, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Ten prominent Soviet Jewish scientists, scholars and academicians seeking to emigrate to Israel will have to raise a combined total of over $330,000 to pay for exit visas for themselves and their families under the new scale of fees levied by Soviet authorities, Jewish sources in the Soviet Union said today. The total was tallied by Jewish circles in Russia on the basis of the fees demanded to compensate the State for the free higher education enjoyed by those who want to leave.

The sources observed that most educated Russian Jews who have gone to Israel, and almost all who have applied for visas have already made valuable contributions to Soviet science, scholarship, medicine, technology and the arts. Thus they have already repaid the State many times for its investment in their education, the sources said. They added that while this argument may appeal to the bureaucratic imagination the real issue is the principle that no civilized society can demand ransom for its citizens who want to leave.

The Jewish circles estimated that Roman Rutman would have to pay about $31,850 for his exit visa and his wife another $19,600 for hers; Victor Polsky would have to lay out approximately $49,000 for himself, his wife and his father-in-law; Benjamin Levitch would have to pay over $100,000 for himself, his wife, his son Yevgeny, Yevgeny's wife and his son Alexander and his wife.

The exit visas of Boris Orlov, his wife and his father would cost $24,300 and Lev Litov would have to pay over $31,000 for his and his wife's visas, it was estimated. The visa sought by Viktor Yakhtshev cost $9800 price tag and Vladimir Frestin would have to pay $19,600 for himself and his wife to leave Russia. Vladimir Ragnys and his wife would pay over $31,000.

Agency urged to name companies receiving requests to cooperate in Arab boycott against Israel

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Representative Benjamin Rosenthal (D.N.Y.) in a letter to the Commerce Department has asked the Department to make public the names of companies receiving requests to cooperate in the Arab boycott against Israel, saying that a failure to do so "would be flouting the express desire of Congress."

Companies receiving such requests are required to file a report with the Commerce Department, which has the option of disclosing them or keeping them confidential.

However, the law does not require the company to include its response to the request, the department source said. Thus, there is no assurance that each filing company is indeed cooperating with the boycott. But Rosenthal feels that keeping the request reports secret makes it easier for companies to also withhold any positive responses.

In effect, he said, "the department is shielding exporters from possible public criticism for complying with the boycott requests. If an exporter knows that the fact of his compliance might become public, he might be less likely to comply with the boycott."

And, he pointed out in the letter, it is the intent of Congress in both the Export Control Act of 1965 and the Export Administration Act of 1969 to "oppose restrictive trade practices or boycotts fostered or imposed by foreign countries against other countries friendly to the United States." The department said it would study the matter and prepare a reply for Rosenthal.

Jewish agency needs for 1973 point to some $785 million

60,000 Immigrants expected in Israel

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency issued today a "statement of needs" for 1973 amounting to $785 million for its multiple activities in Israel. Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, said at a press conference afterwards that the increased needs stemmed from an anticipated 15 percent rise in immigration next year and the likely total of immigrants arriving in 1972 at 60,000.

The news conference was called to report details of the deliberations of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors which has been meeting here for the past two days. The board approved a $465 million budget for 1972 but it is "too early" to project figures for the 1973 budget according to Moshe Rivlin, Jewish Agency Director General. Rivlin said increased needs in housing and social services contributed to increasing the Agency's financial burden next year.

Housing costs topped the list in the statement of needs at $284 million. Immigration costs were next at $289 million. The Jewish Agency's 1972 budget allocated $150 million for housing and $57 million for immigration. Pincus announced the appointment of a committee by the Board of Governors to study the financial crisis afflicting Israeli universities which receive a major portion of their funds from the Jewish Agency.

Max Fisher of Detroit, chairman of the Board of Governors said the committee would go a long way toward clearing up "the confusion that has arisen around the world as to what the priorities of the universities' spending ought to be." Fisher said "We're not raising enough money around the world" and announced two steps to improve fund-raising efforts. He said that on Dec. 1, 26 pro-
fessional fund-raisers from around the world will gather for a three-month course in fund-raising, and 25 national campaign chairmen from various countries will meet in London Nov. 27 to discuss, for the first time, the strategies to reach the Jewish Agency’s fund-raising goals. Fish- er was optimistic about the chances for success this year because of what he described as a “new sense of unity” at the Board of Governors meeting. He attributed the unity to the assembling of Zionists and non-Zionists into the reconstituted Jewish Agency now in its second year.

REGIONAL CONFB OF NGO GROUPS APPEAL TO USSR TO RESCIND VISA CHARGES

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 29 (JTA)—A resolution appealing to the Soviet Union to rescind its excessive visa charges for Jewish intellectuals and intellectuals seeking to emigrate was adopted unanimously at the closing session of the regional conference of non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations. The resolution stated that the Soviet policy, if continued, “would convert intellectuals, academicians and artists into new slaves of the 20th century.”

The resolution charged that the Soviet visa fee policy “causes injury to the human personality and violates the accepted norms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” The resolution was introduced by Mrs. Runa Lasky, representing the Mexican Association for the United Nations, and Marc Turkow, secretary of the Latin American Jewish Congress. The conference was in general terms without specifying the countries voting.

RABIN AND WIFE TO BE HONORED

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA)—The Jewish National Fund of Greater Washington plans to honor Ambassador and Mrs. Yitzhak Rabin as the Ambas- sador’s tour of duty nears its end this fall. Samuel S. Meer, executive director, said an appreciation dinner will be given for the Rabins Sunday evening Oct. 8 at the Washington Hilton Hotel. He said that as a further tribute to the diplomat and his wife, the JNF will plant a forest in the names of Yitzhak and Leah Rabin near Baram on the Lebanese border.

The Rabin’s would fly home next week for the High Holidays. Rabin is said to want to end his tour of duty in Nov., but the Israeli government reportedly wants him to remain in Washington until early 1974. The matter is expected to be clarified during his home visit.

BEACHES POLLUTED, SHAZAR SAYS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)—President Zal- man Shazar revealed yesterday that he was a keen amateur fisherman but said he had a hard time finding a place to fish among the trash and man- made filth that litters Israel’s beaches. Shazar displayed a rare spark of anger in criticizing the condition of the beaches, “a disgraceful.” He made his remarks during cere- monies at his residence here in which he present- ed awards to 29 hotels and tourism agencies that earned at least $1.26 million last year.

At ceremonies in the Knesset later, Tourism Minister Moshe Kol reported that some three mil- lion tourists have visited Israel in the five years since the Six-Day War, more than in the previous 19 years. He said that income from tourism this year was expected to top $350 million, not includ- ing the passenger earnings of Israel’s two over- seas-carriers, El Al and Zim Steamship Line. Kol said 76,000 tourists will have visited Israel by the end of the year. Kol presented tourism promotion certificates to 98 hotels and firms that earned at least $350,000 last year.

ISRAEL WATCHING FOR FRENCH DIPLOMATIC MOVES IN MIDEAST

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)—Israel is watching diplomatic developments in Europe carefully following reports that Egypt is pressing France to embark on a new Mideast peace init- iative. With their military options effectively closed for the foreseeable future by the Soviet ex- cadus, the Egyptians are thought to be seeking progess on a new diplomatic front. Last month they tried to revive the Jarring mission, and failed. They are now reportedly trying to interest France in an idea mooted vaguely some time ago by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim for an Egyptian-Israeli peace conference with the participation of the Four Powers.

A senior official in Jerusalem said today that to date Israel knows of no firm and precisely stated French plan along these lines but there have been reports of French interest in the idea. Israeli diplomats have reported a feeling in Western European capitals that some form of help ought to be extended to Egyptian President Sadat, the man accused of the Jerusalem raid. With this in mind, the Germans are known to be consider- ing offering economic aid to Cairo.

Israel for its part does not object to the ex- tension of economic aid to the Arabs. There have also been reports of late that Egypt is seeking to buy weapons from Britain which has no embargo policy on arms for the Mideast, but treats each sale on its merits. This approach has always suited Israel in the past as she too buys various armaments in Britain. Government circles here are apparently not disturbed at the present time by reports that Egypt may seek arms from Britain.

Israeli Envoys Sounding Out Governments

It is believed here that a possible diplomatic initiative inspired by France towards Egyptian- Israeli negotiations with the Big Four powers present will be supported by Britain which is anx- ious, out of EEC considerations not to cross the Quai Dorsay if it can be avoided.

Israel has instructed its ambassadors in Eu- rope to hold talks with their accredited govern- ments to find out what French intentions are and what other Europeans feel about the post-Soviet exodus prospects in the Mideast. A number of Israeli envoys are on home leave and they have been consulting with the Foreign Minister and his senior staff on latest developments in Europe. The ambassadors include Michael Comay from London, Aba Ben-Natan from Paris and Emil Najer from Rome.

The general policy line laid down to them is that if a French initiative does materialize, Israel will seek to convince the other Europeans that only harm can come from letting Sadat fall under another delusion that salvation from the outside will regain him his lost territories without direct peace negotiations with Israel. Israel believes that with the Russians out of Egypt, the chances of a political settlement have increased but would be prejudiced by a French plan for Four Power pressure which in effect means an imposed settle- ment.

Sen. Richard S. Schwebel (R.Pa.) said today that he would support any effort by the US govern- ment to protest the Soviet Union’s excessive visa fees. He referred to the matter in a letter to Sec- retary of State William P. Rogers in which he described the visa fees as “an absolute mockery” of the rights of a citizen of a country to emigrate.

JEWISH ATHLETES WINNERS IN OLYMPICS

JERUSALEN, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Between 1986 and 1988, 131 Jews from 17 nations won 256 medals--30 gold, 68 silver and 67 bronze--in Olympic competition. Divided by sport, the first place went to fencing, where Jews won 71 medals--31 by Jews from Hungary and 13 from the USSR. Thirty-three medals were won by Jews in track and field events, 15 of them by competitors from the US, and 25 in gymnastics, 14 of them from Hungary. Twenty-four medals were won by Jews in swimming and 20 in water polo. Only one Jew has ever won a medal in ice hockey, judo or rowing.

Taken by countries, Hungarian Jews lead with 76 medals followed by the US with 47 medals and the USSR with 36. Next is Austria with 20 and Belgium with 14. In the first modern Olympic Games at Athens in 1896, seven Jewish athletes won 13 medals. In basketball Jews have excelled as coaches. Julius Goldman, an American, coached Canada at an Olympic medal in 1936 and Alexander Golomsky did the same for the Soviet Union in 1964 and 1968.

A Jew has also won Olympic medals in cycling--Felix Schmal of Austria who won a gold and two bronze medals in the first Olympic Games. Two brothers, Alfred and Felix Flatow of Germany, won six medals--five gold--in the 1896 Games. At the first Olympic Games Jews were outstanding in swimming, winning all three events. Mark Spitz, who won four medals for the US in the 1968 games, set records in the butterfly stroke this week.

Israel Never Won Olympic Medal

Israel has never won an Olympic medal but one of the most distinguished of Jewish medalists, Agnes Keleti of Hungary, who won no less than 11 medals, settled in Israel after the 1956 revolution in Hungary and became one of the country's main gymnastic trainers.

One of the great track and field athletes of the early 20th century was Myer Pribstein of the US who won medals at several Olympic Games. Britain's Harold Abrams won the 100 meters race in 1924, was captain of the British Olympic team in 1928 and is chairman of the British Amateur Athletics Board. His brother, Sir Sidney Abrams, who became Chief Justice of Uganda, ran for Great Britain in the 1908 and 1924 Olympics. Jews won 24 medals in the 1956 Olympics, 18 in 1964 and 18 in 1968.

CIC HAILS TRUDEAU'S MOVE TO AID ASIANS FACING EXPULSION FROM UGANDA

MONTREAL, Aug. 29 (JTA)--The Canadian Jewish Congress sent a congratulatory message yesterday to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau for his decision, announced last Friday, to aid Asians facing expulsion from Uganda by accepting 300-500 of them into Canada.

Trudeau stated that Uganda President Idi Amin's order "would appear to be contrary to his country's obligation under the United Nations Charter and Declaration of Human Rights as well as against the principle of the Commonwealth Declaration of 1971, in which member States reiterated their belief in human dignity and non-racialism."

The CIC called Trudeau's decision "courageous and timely action in the aid of victims of discrimination," declaring that "this prompt humanitarian act designed to ameliorate the suffering of innocent people touches the heart of the Jewish community."

Sydney Maiafin, president of the Canadian B'nai Brith, sent a telegram to Trudeau support-
WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Rep. Claude Pepper (D. Fla.) has accused the Voice of America of devoting too little time to the plight of Soviet Jews in its weekly Russian-language program beamed to the USSR. "It is ridiculous and insulting to everyone who is concerned about the plight of Soviet Jewry to produce only one ten-minute program and not to broadcast any of this pitiful program in Yiddish," the Congressman said in a letter made public today to Frank Shakespeare, administrator of the US Information Agency. The VOA is part of the USIA.

A spokesman for the VOA told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Rep. Pepper's letter was being studied at the USIA but that no response will be made until Shakespeare returns from abroad next week. The VOA's program originated last Dec., after strong protests were lodged by Congressmen and others against the paucity of information about Jews being broadcast to the Soviet Union.

The program is broadcast on Sunday morning and repeated Monday nights in the Russian and Ukrainian languages. A VOA spokesman told the JTA that the program is devoted to cultural and religious interest but also contains information on Jewish affairs. "VOA reported the blackmail on Jews wishing to emigrate and all that," the spokesman said, adding, "We do use words in Yiddish and Hebrew as warranted by the content although we don't have a program in those languages."

U.S. WOULD WELCOME DIPLOMATIC TALKS WITH EGYPTIAN DELEGATION

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA)--The United States would welcome diplomatic talks with Egyptians when a high-level Egyptian delegation arrives here next month for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings. This view was expressed yesterday by State Department spokesman John King. Although the delegation, headed by Deputy Premier Mohammed Abdulla Marzaban, has not approached the US on the matter of talks, King said, "Of course we would welcome talks." Marzaban is also Egyptian Economics Minister.

RANSON FOR JEWS AND COMMUNITIES HAS PRECEDENT IN JEWISH HISTORY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--The excessive visa fees demanded by Soviet authorities from educated Russian Jews wishing to emigrate to Israel has shocked Jewish and world opinion. But there is ample precedent in Jewish history for ransoming individuals and entire communities. In 1944, the rescue of Jews by paying ransom was regarded as one of the important mitzvahs (good deeds) according to the Encyclopaedia Judaica.

But to avoid exorbitant ransom demands or repeated kidnappings, the rabbis of old ruled that captives should be redeemed only at their market value as slaves. One of the most famous Jewish captives, the 13th century scholar, Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg, refused to let Jews pay ransom for his release from prison in order to avoid a precedent that would encourage despots to ransom Jews for ransom. Rabbi Meir died in prison.

According to the Encyclopaedia Judaica, Jews in both Moslem and Christian lands were often seized and held captive in order to exact ransom from their fellow Jews. The phenomenon was widespread in Russia and was a common occurrence in the Ukraine and Volhynia during the 16th and 17th centuries. During the Cossack massacres of 1648-49, captured Jews were ransomed by Jewish communities in the Ottoman Empire.

In the 20th century the ransom of imprisoned Jews has taken on a new dimension as a special tax. Such was the case in 1938 when Jews seeking to leave Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia were forced to pay a high levy imposed by the Nazi office in Prague headed by Adolf Eichmann.

NEW YORK, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Mark Spitz swam a world record 2:00.7 in the men's 200-meter butterfly in the Olympics yesterday shattering the standard he set earlier this month at the US trials, Spitz, an Indiana University student from Carmichael, Calif., continued on to his second triumph at the Olympics when, 30 minutes after receiving his first individual gold medal, he returned and anchored the US 400-meter relay team to a record 3:28.42 triumph.

The New York Times, in a "Man in the News" feature on the Jewish athlete, noted that when he was 10 years old swimming interfered with his after-school Hebrew lessons." His father, Arnold Spitz, explained to the rabbit: "Even God likes a winner," the Times feature reported. At 14, Spitz made it to the national championships and by 17 he was regarded "as one of the world's best, setting or tying five American records in one year and breaking five world marks in international competition," the Times stated.

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Police here arrested seven men this afternoon after an armed robbery at a bank in the Orthodox Bayit Vegan quarter. The take was IL 10,000. No further details have yet been released. This was the first such robbery in the capital in recent memory, though a wave of armed robberies of banks has been sweeping the Tel Aviv region this year. A police patrol car which happened to pass by the bank during the holdup was shot up by the robbers and one of its occupants was slightly wounded.

Bank Robbed in Jerusalem

Seven Men Arrested

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Police here arrested seven men this afternoon after an armed robbery at a bank in the Orthodox Bayit Vegan quarter. The take was IL 10,000. No further details have yet been released. This was the first such robbery in the capital in recent memory, though a wave of armed robberies of banks has been sweeping the Tel Aviv region this year. A police patrol car which happened to pass by the bank during the holdup was shot up by the robbers and one of its occupants was slightly wounded.

Fifteen athletes in seven sports are representing Israel at the Olympic Games in Munich: The contingent includes only two women--hurdler Esther Shahamurav and swimmer Shlomit Nir. Others include long-distance walker Dr. Shaul Ladany; marksmen Henry Hereshkowitz and Zeigl Sroch; wrestlers Elizer Halphi, Gad Sahari and Mark Sela; and yachtsmen Yitzhak Nir and Yair Lifschitz.