



daily news bulletin

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Vol. XXXIX - Fifty-Fifth Year

Thursday, August 31, 1972

No. 170

McGOVERN ACCUSES NIXON OF SILENCE ON SOVIET JEWS. ARMING ISRAEL ONLY TO EXPULSE THE RUSSIANS FROM MIDEAST

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Sen. George McGovern (S.D.), the Democratic Presidential nominee, accused President Nixon today of arming Israel only to "expel" the Soviets from the Middle East and of maintaining "silence" on the plight of Soviet Jewry. Addressing an audience of 700 at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun at a meeting sponsored by the New York Board of Rabbis, the candidate charged, as he has before, that the Nixon administration armed Israel only after a "long and dangerous delay" and "voted with the Soviet-Arab bloc to condemn Israel five times in the United Nations in the past four years."

Concurrently, McGovern said, the administration in the past four years sought big-power imposition of a Mideast peace, pursued Secretary of State William P. Rogers' "ill-conceived scheme" for nearly total Israeli withdrawal, and made Israel a "political football." It is a "diservice" to Americans and Israelis to make Israel's security "a partisan issue," McGovern declared, adding that he himself has favored an "on-going" program of aid to Israel "based solely on the military situation of the day."

Nixon has been "silent" on Soviet Jewry, McGovern declared, while he himself "would have told the Russians in the strongest possible terms" that Americans fully support equity for Soviet Jews. Nixon, said McGovern, "apparently concurred" with the Kremlin leaders that the Soviet Jewry issue is an "internal (Soviet) matter," and the result has been that the status of Soviet Jews has "dramatically deteriorated" since the Moscow summit in May, what with "ransom charges" being imposed on educated would-be emigrants, "long prison terms" being meted out to activists, and the exit rate being "sharply reduced since the first of July."

Soviet Jewry Not Internal Matter

McGovern declared that the "struggle of Soviet Jewry to be free is the struggle of all those who believe in freedom and dignity around the world." The situation is not an internal matter, "any more than what was going on in Germany in 1930 was an internal matter."

The South Dakotan received more-than-usual applause: When he scored Nixon for vetoing the child-care bill but backing an antiballistic missile system "that we don't need"; when he said it was wrong to compare aid to the "corrupt" Saigon regime with aid to Israel, "which has the respect and support of its own people," and when he said he hoped to be elected.

Stop Jewish Numbers Game

Introducing McGovern, Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, assailed talk of a "Jewish vote," declaring: "Let's stop this game of Jewish numbers.... They (Jews) will always vote according to personal conscience." United States support for Israel, he said, "is not a matter of politics; it's a matter of principle." The rabbinical leader decried the "climate of innuendo and distortion" in the campaign on the issue of Israel.

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shouts of "Never Again," appealed "directly to the people of America...to speak out loudly, forcefully, courageously" on behalf of Soviet Jews. This cause "shouldn't be forgotten when talking about peace and economic agreements," he said. "There is no such thing as people without freedom and human dignity...if we speak out, we shall prevail; then freedom shall prevail," he concluded.

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MRS. SHAPIRO SAYS HER HUSBAND WOULD HAVE TO PAY \$12,000 TO LEAVE THE USSR

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Judy Silver Shapiro told newsmen today that her husband, Gabriel, would have to pay a \$12,000 "ransom" for a visa to leave the Soviet Union. The Cincinnati social worker who married the Jewish activist at a religious ceremony at his Moscow home

last June, spoke to reporters outside the Soviet Embassy where she had just been turned down again in her request for a visa to go to Russia.

Mrs. Shapiro said the \$12,000 visa fee stemmed from the new Soviet decree that Jews wishing to emigrate reimburse the State for the free higher education they received. Shapiro is an engineer. Mrs. Shapiro said that each of her in-laws would have to pay the equivalent of \$20,000 in order to leave Russia. Both hold doctorate degrees.

She told newsmen that today was the appointed day for her civil marriage to Shapiro, promised by the Moscow marriage bureau. Religious marriages are not recognized in the Soviet Union. She said that if she had a civil marriage in the Soviet Union her husband would have a legal approach for emigration to the US. Shapiro was sentenced last month to a year's "corrective labor" for alleged draft evasion. He is permitted to live at home but must work at a job assigned by the authorities and must remit a portion of his salary to the State.

TEACHERS' STRIKE DRAWS CLOSER 7000 Classrooms To Be Affected

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Overcrowded classrooms appeared to be the main issue today in a teachers' strike threatened for Friday, the first day of the new school term. Shalom Levin, secretary of the Teachers Union, said the strike would be limited initially to grades one, seven and nine in eight population centers. These are the lowest grades in each of the three divisions of Israel's elementary and secondary school system.

Levin defended the threatened strike as an exercise of the teachers' basic right to improve their working conditions. The union demands that the maximum number of pupils in elementary and secondary school classes be reduced from 40 to 35 and in kindergartens from 35 to 30. The union also wants the Education Ministry to train new teachers and build new classrooms. Levin said the Ministry's plan to ease classroom overcrowding over a 12-year period was unacceptable.

He agreed, however, to submit to the union's executive committee a proposal by Deputy Premier and Education Minister Yigal Allon to establish a fact-finding committee on the problem. Allon proposed that the committee consist of representatives of the government, local authorities and the teachers union.

Levin, on his part, had suggested an arbitration committee with both sides pledged in advance to abide by its decision. Allon's proposal does not require such a prior agreement. The strike, if it takes place, would affect roughly 700 classrooms out of a total of 16,000.

Meanwhile, negotiations were expected to resume today in the six-week old strike against the Elite Candy Corp. They are expected to concentrate on the union's demand for higher wages and equal pay for women.

NIXON URGED TO HALT TRADE WITH USSR

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 30 (JTA)--A leader of the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry has sent a telegram to President Nixon requesting that he publicly announce that trade negotiations may stop, unless the Kremlin rescinds the new exit visa schedule. "US-Soviet trade is top priority need for the Soviet Union," Harold B. Light, chairman of the Bay Area Council, said. "They want our computer technology, our production know-how, our consumer goods, and they need our hard currency." Light stated that "Americans should not be trading away Jewish lives."

BLACK CONGRESSMAN RAPS NIXON, MCGOVERN, AJCOMMITTEE AS RACIST
Says Candidates Bow To AJC Pressure
'In Return For Jewish Votes'

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Rep. Louis Stokes (D. Ohio), a leading spokesman in the Congressional Black Caucus and a top figure at the Black National Political Convention in Gary, Ind. last March, sharply denounced President Nixon and his Democratic challenger, Sen. George McGovern, today for their pledges to oppose quotas in federal programs for equal employment. Stokes also assailed the American Jewish Committee for having allegedly exacted those pledges from the presidential candidates "in return for Jewish votes."

Stokes stated his views in a letter to Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative of the AJCommittee, which he released today to the press. Philip E. Hoffman, AJCommittee president, wrote to Nixon and McGovern on Aug. 4 to express the organization's "grave concern" over "widespread efforts and promises to achieve 'proportional representation' in our society by providing opportunities in employment, in education, in governmental appointments and civil service...on the basis of race, sex or ethnic affiliation."

In their separate replies to Hoffman, Nixon and McGovern each expressed opposition to quotas and affirmed their support for the merit system. Stokes said in his letter that he found it "distressing indeed that these three men (Nixon, McGovern and Hoffman) have attained common ground without even consulting the group which will undoubtedly bear the brunt of this mutual accord."

German, U.S. Quotas Different

Continuing, Stokes wrote: "It seems handed at best and racist at worst that these three individuals can flatly state that no matter who wins the election in 1972, minority Americans will have fewer guarantees of the rights of equal opportunity than they have had in the past."

The views expressed by Nixon and McGovern in their replies to Hoffman were applauded by AJCommittee executive vice-president Bertram Gold who acknowledged the need for American society "to rectify historical injustices" suffered by Blacks and other minority groups but observed that "the American system, which is an open society, is based on individual rights, not group rights."

In a letter to Robert Hampton, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, made public yesterday, Bookbinder cautioned the Commission not to slow down or abandon the federal government's program to assure equal employment opportunities because of federal policies against quotas.

Stokes noted in his letter that "There is a fundamental distinction to be drawn between the quotas that were applied in pre-war Germany which put a ceiling on the number of Jews in any given area and the quotas which minority Americans are demanding in federal programs which would serve only as a floor."

High Price Expected

He pointed out that as of May 31, 1971, minorities represented only 2.7 percent of the federal employees at top civil service levels and 8.6 percent of those in middle levels. He estimated that minority groups comprise about 15 percent of the population. Stokes maintained that "guidelines must be established by which minorities are recruited and hired proportionate to a particular group's percentage of the population."

Stokes concluded, "I am sorry that Mr. Hoffman sees fit to exact such a high price from the presidential candidates in return for Jewish votes. I am sorrier still that the two presidential candidates place such a low value on 30 million Americans who happen to be members of minority groups."

SHAPIRO TO RETURN TO POST IN CABINET AS JUSTICE MINISTER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Former Justice Minister Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro, who resigned amid controversy on June 11, confirmed today that he would return to the Cabinet in the same post. He was apparently asked to return by Premier Golda Meir who has filled the Justice Ministry post herself for the past two months.

Shapiro, 69, is a close confidant of Mrs. Meir. He left her government during a bitter public controversy over allegedly excessive fees authorized by his ministry for lawyers involved in an inquiry earlier this year into the operations of the Netivei Neft oil company. Shapiro claimed that elements of the Achdut Avodah, a Labor Party faction, had conspired to bring about his downfall.

Shapiro's announcement that he would return to the Cabinet came as a surprise. Speculation arose only yesterday that the Justice Minister portfolio would be given to Haim Zadok, chairman of the powerful Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and one of Israel's most prominent lawyers. Observers here said that in urging Shapiro to return, Mrs. Meir would be buckling strong public opinion but was apparently willing to do so rather than lost Shapiro's services permanently.

BRITAIN'S \$49M TRADE ARRANGEMENT WITH EGYPT SEEN AS NEW BASIS FOR TRADE

LONDON, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Foreign Office circles said today that a \$49 million credit arrangement for Egypt announced here last night represented a new basis for trade with that country in response to the improved political climate between Britain and Egypt. The circles said newspaper reports describing the deal as "a new loan" were wrong. They said arms deals are a separate issue and have nothing to do with the new credit line.

The government will guarantee credits for Egypt up to \$49 million between now and 1976 enabling Cairo to use some \$11-\$12 million a year. The credits are extended by suppliers of goods purchased by Egypt and the government's role is merely that of guarantor, the Foreign Office sources said. Hitherto, export credits for Egypt were made available only after repayment of outstanding debts. The new credits will be extended irrespective of whether previous commitments have been met, the sources said.

ISRAEL'S POPULATION 3.1 MILLION

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Official preliminary census figures show the population of Israel to be about 3.1 million, roughly 43 percent more than 10 years ago when the last census was taken. The final figures, after the census is computer processed and checked out, will be announced early next year. Moshe Siron, acting government statistician, told reporters here today that the census estimated the Israeli population at between 3,124,000 and 3,167,000 persons.

In 1961, the census revealed a population of 2,179,500 but this year's tally includes two previously-unaccounted categories--persons living in East Jerusalem and those formerly classified as "temporary residents."

12 PROFESSORS URGE USSR TO END POLICY OF EXCESSIVE VISA FEES

HAVERFORD, Pa., Aug. 30 (JTA)--The Soviet Union has been asked by the presidents of 12 universities and colleges in Pennsylvania to abandon its policy of excessive visa fees for Jewish academicians seeking to emigrate to Israel. A statement signed by the 12 was sent to Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador in Washington and to Prof. M. Keldysn, chairman of the Academy of Science in Moscow, by John R. Coleman, president of Haverford College.

The statement said, "We have read with dismay of the Soviet Union's new policy to require heavy payments from Jews seeking to emigrate to Israel. Payments of from \$5000 to \$38,000 depending on the level of education are both enormous in the lives of individual Jews and petty in the life of a great national power."

The statement cited "steady improvements" in relations between the Soviet Union and the US leading to an era of greater respect for individual and group rights. But, it added, "This latest move and other restrictions on educated Jews appear to go in the opposite direction. They destroy the chance of many people to live their lives as they wish to do. They discourage others from getting an education since that would increase the price on their heads. They disrupt the free flow of ideas among nations. And they smack of ransom."

The schools whose presidents signed the statement include Temple University; LaSalle College; Haverford College; Lincoln University; Drexel University; Villanova University and Bryn Mawr College.

MURDER OF VILNA JEW CONFIRMED

LONDON, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Jewish sources in the Soviet Union confirmed today that a 50-year-old Vilna Jew, Ilia Moisevich Serebreny, was murdered in his home last week. According to the sources, robbery appears to have been the sole motive. Serebreny had applied for a visa to go to Israel and the robbers may have been after the money he had saved for the trip, the sources said. No arrests were reported so far.

NIXON'S PURSUIT OF JEWISH VOTES COLLIDES WITH STATE DEPARTMENT'S MIDEAST POLICY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Columnist Jack Anderson reported today that President Nixon's pursuit of Jewish votes has collided with a new Middle East policy being urged on him by the State Department. According to Anderson, the US diplomatic mission in Cairo has reported that the Egyptian-Soviet split is "far more significant than Washington had dared to hope" and that the time is ripe for the US to improve its relations with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Anderson claimed that the State Department has urged "a little pressure on Israel to soften its terms" as a means to improve US standing in Egypt and as a possible road to a Mideast settlement. "President Nixon has forbidden the slightest pressure on Israel, however, while he is courting Jewish votes in the presidential campaign," Anderson wrote.

According to the syndicated columnist, Nixon decided last year to make a determined bid for Jewish votes as part of his drive to broaden the base of the Republican Party. He has overruled some White House advisors, including his staff chief, H.R. Haldeman, who argued that it would be useless to compete with the Democrats for the Jewish vote, Anderson said.

Anderson claimed that Nixon was influenced by a letter written by a B'nai B'rith official, Her-

man Edelsberg, to Nixon biographer Earl Mazo in April 1971 citing voting records to show that the Jewish vote was attainable by the Republicans. Anderson said the Edelsberg letter was carefully studied by the White House. It observed that "at this time the central Jewish concern seems to be the danger to Israel. The leadership of the Jewish community...has heard time and again that Mr. Nixon has been the best friend Israel has had in the past 20 years. I will not pretend that this has filtered down to the precincts. But it is there to exploit."

W. GERMANY DENIES IT IS WILLING TO ACT AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN U.S., EGYPT

BONN, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Reports that West Germany might be willing to serve as a mediator to bring about improved relations between Egypt and the United States were denied yesterday by a Foreign Ministry spokesman. The reports appeared following a meeting in Munich Monday between Chancellor Willy Brandt and Mohammed Hassanein Heikal, editor of the influential Cairo daily Al Ahram. A Ministry spokesman said there was no need for West German mediation because the US and Egypt have diplomatic channels of their own.

The Beirut newspaper, An Nahar, quoted Arab diplomatic sources in Bonn yesterday as saying that the West German role is to prepare better relations between Washington and Cairo "now that the atmosphere has improved after the withdrawal of Soviet experts from Egypt."

Government spokesmen refused to comment on the substance of the talks between Chancellor Brandt and Heikal. A meeting between the two last year is believed to have played a part in the restoration of diplomatic relations between West Germany and Egypt.

The Egyptian editor also met yesterday with the West German Foreign Minister Walter Scheel. Scheel has accepted an official invitation to visit Lebanon. No date has been set. The Foreign Minister is due to meet with Lebanese Foreign Minister Khalid Abu Hamad in Sept. when they will attend the opening of the UN General Assembly's fall session in New York.

NEW URBAN, MANUFACTURING CENTER ESTABLISHED IN SOUTHERN GOLAN HEIGHTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 30 (JTA)--A new urban and manufacturing center, Bnei Yehuda, was officially established yesterday in the southern Golan Heights. The town will provide health, education and trade facilities for other settlements in the neighborhood and employment for over 100 workers.

The chief economic enterprise at Bnei Yehuda is a plant built by Israel Aircraft Industries, the country's largest manufacturer of planes and aviation equipment. The plant already employs about 50 workers. Bnei Yehuda is the 17th Israeli settlement established on the Golan Heights since the region was captured from Syria in the Six-Day War. The settlers are young families from all parts of Israel.

Two senior Israeli Army officers received official reprimands today for negligence that led to the escape of three Syrian prisoners of war from a POW camp in central Israel last April. Only one of the three was subsequently recaptured. The camp commander was removed. One of the officers was reprimanded by the Army Chief of Staff and the other by the chief of the manpower division of General Headquarters. An official inquiry into a riot at the camp two days after the escapes found that local commanders did not use excessive force to restore order.



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last June, spoke to reporters outside the Soviet Embassy where she had just been turned down again in her request for a visa to go to Russia.

Mrs. Shapiro said the \$12,000 visa fee stemmed from the new Soviet decree that Jews wishing to emigrate reimburse the State for the free higher education they received. Shapiro is an engineer. Mrs. Shapiro said that each of her in-laws would have to pay the equivalent of \$20,000 in order to leave Russia. Both hold doctorate degrees.

She told newsmen that today was the appointed day for her civil marriage to Shapiro, promised by the Moscow marriage bureau. Religious marriages are not recognized in the Soviet Union. She said that if she had a civil marriage in the Soviet Union her husband would have a legal approach for emigration to the US. Shapiro was sentenced last month to a year's "corrective labor" for alleged draft evasion. He is permitted to live at home but must work at a job assigned by the authorities and must remit a portion of his salary to the State.

TEACHERS' STRIKE DRAWS CLOSER 7000 Classrooms To Be Affected

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Overcrowded classrooms appeared to be the main issue today in a teachers' strike threatened for Friday, the first day of the new school term. Shalom Levin, secretary of the Teachers Union, said the strike would be limited initially to grades one, seven and nine in eight population centers. These are the lowest grades in each of the three divisions of Israel's elementary and secondary school system.

Levin defended the threatened strike as an exercise of the teachers' basic right to improve their working conditions. The union demands that the maximum number of pupils in elementary and secondary school classes be reduced from 40 to 35 and in kindergartens from 35 to 30. The union also wants the Education Ministry to train new teachers and build new classrooms. Levin said the Ministry's plan to ease classroom overcrowding over a 12-year period was unacceptable.

He agreed, however, to submit to the union's executive committee a proposal by Deputy Premier and Education Minister Yigal Allon to establish a fact-finding committee on the problem. Allon proposed that the committee consist of representatives of the government, local authorities and the teachers union.

Levin, on his part, had suggested an arbitration committee with both sides pledged in advance to abide by its decision. Allon's proposal does not require such a prior agreement. The strike, if it takes place, would affect roughly 700 classrooms out of a total of 16,000.

Meanwhile, negotiations were expected to resume today in the six-week old strike against the Elite Candy Corp. They are expected to concentrate on the union's demand for higher wages and equal pay for women.

NIXON URGED TO HALT TRADE WITH USSR

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 30 (JTA)--A leader of the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry has sent a telegram to President Nixon requesting that he publicly announce that trade negotiations may stop, unless the Kremlin rescinds the new exit visa schedule. "US-Soviet trade is top priority need for the Soviet Union," Harold B. Light, chairman of the Bay Area Council, said. "They want our computer technology, our production know-how, our consumer goods, and they need our hard currency." Light stated that "Americans should not be trading away Jewish lives."

BLACK CONGRESSMAN RAPS NIXON, MCGOVERN, AJCOMMITTEE AS RACIST
Says Candidates Bow To AJC Pressure
'In Return For Jewish Votes'

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Rep. Louis Stokes (D. Ohio), a leading spokesman in the Congressional Black Caucus and a top figure at the Black National Political Convention in Gary, Ind. last March, sharply denounced President Nixon and his Democratic challenger, Sen. George McGovern, today for their pledges to oppose quotas in federal programs for equal employment. Stokes also assailed the American Jewish Committee for having allegedly exacted those pledges from the presidential candidates "in return for Jewish votes."

Stokes stated his views in a letter to Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative of the AJCommittee, which he released today to the press. Philip E. Hoffman, AJCommittee president, wrote to Nixon and McGovern on Aug. 4 to express the organization's "grave concern" over "widespread efforts and promises to achieve 'proportional representation' in our society by providing opportunities in employment, in education, in governmental appointments and civil service...on the basis of race, sex or ethnic affiliation."

In their separate replies to Hoffman, Nixon and McGovern each expressed opposition to quotas and affirmed their support for the merit system. Stokes said in his letter that he found it "distressing indeed that these three men (Nixon, McGovern and Hoffman) have attained common ground without even consulting the group which will undoubtedly bear the brunt of this mutual accord."

German, U.S. Quotas Different

Continuing, Stokes wrote: "It seems handed at best and racist at worst that these three individuals can flatly state that no matter who wins the election in 1972, minority Americans will have fewer guarantees of the rights of equal opportunity than they have had in the past."

The views expressed by Nixon and McGovern in their replies to Hoffman were applauded by AJCommittee executive vice-president Bertram Gold who acknowledged the need for American society "to rectify historical injustices" suffered by Blacks and other minority groups but observed that "the American system, which is an open society, is based on individual rights, not group rights."

In a letter to Robert Hampton, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, made public yesterday, Bookbinder cautioned the Commission not to slow down or abandon the federal government's program to assure equal employment opportunities because of federal policies against quotas.

Stokes noted in his letter that "There is a fundamental distinction to be drawn between the quotas that were applied in pre-war Germany which put a ceiling on the number of Jews in any given area and the quotas which minority Americans are demanding in federal programs which would serve only as a floor."

High Price Expected

He pointed out that as of May 31, 1971, minorities represented only 2.7 percent of the federal employees at top civil service levels and 8.6 percent of those in middle levels. He estimated that minority groups comprise about 15 percent of the population. Stokes maintained that "guidelines must be established by which minorities are recruited and hired proportionate to a particular group's percentage of the population."

Stokes concluded, "I am sorry that Mr. Hoffman sees fit to exact such a high price from the presidential candidates in return for Jewish votes. I am sorrier still that the two presidential candidates place such a low value on 30 million Americans who happen to be members of minority groups."

SHAPIRO TO RETURN TO POST IN CABINET AS JUSTICE MINISTER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Former Justice Minister Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro, who resigned amid controversy on June 11, confirmed today that he would return to the Cabinet in the same post. He was apparently asked to return by Premier Golda Meir who has filled the Justice Ministry post herself for the past two months.

Shapiro, 69, is a close confidant of Mrs. Meir. He left her government during a bitter public controversy over allegedly excessive fees authorized by his ministry for lawyers involved in an inquiry earlier this year into the operations of the Netivei Neft oil company. Shapiro claimed that elements of the Achdut Avodah, a Labor Party faction, had conspired to bring about his downfall.

Shapiro's announcement that he would return to the Cabinet came as a surprise. Speculation arose only yesterday that the Justice Minister portfolio would be given to Haim Zadok, chairman of the powerful Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and one of Israel's most prominent lawyers. Observers here said that in urging Shapiro to return, Mrs. Meir would be buckling strong public opinion but was apparently willing to do so rather than lost Shapiro's services permanently.

BRITAIN'S \$49M TRADE ARRANGEMENT WITH EGYPT SEEN AS NEW BASIS FOR TRADE

LONDON, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Foreign Office circles said today that a \$49 million credit arrangement for Egypt announced here last night represented a new basis for trade with that country in response to the improved political climate between Britain and Egypt. The circles said newspaper reports describing the deal as "a new loan" were wrong. They said arms deals are a separate issue and have nothing to do with the new credit line.

The government will guarantee credits for Egypt up to \$49 million between now and 1976 enabling Cairo to use some \$11-\$12 million a year. The credits are extended by suppliers of goods purchased by Egypt and the government's role is merely that of guarantor, the Foreign Office sources said. Hitherto, export credits for Egypt were made available only after repayment of outstanding debts. The new credits will be extended irrespective of whether previous commitments have been met, the sources said.

ISRAEL'S POPULATION 3.1 MILLION

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Official preliminary census figures show the population of Israel to be about 3.1 million, roughly 43 percent more than 10 years ago when the last census was taken. The final figures, after the census is computer processed and checked out, will be announced early next year. Moshe Siron, acting government statistician, told reporters here today that the census estimated the Israeli population at between 3,124,000 and 3,167,000 persons.

In 1961, the census revealed a population of 2,179,500 but this year's tally includes two previously-unaccounted categories--persons living in East Jerusalem and those formerly classified as "temporary residents."

12 PROFESSORS URGE USSR TO END POLICY OF EXCESSIVE VISA FEES

HAVERFORD, Pa., Aug. 30 (JTA)--The Soviet Union has been asked by the presidents of 12 universities and colleges in Pennsylvania to abandon its policy of excessive visa fees for Jewish academicians seeking to emigrate to Israel. A statement signed by the 12 was sent to Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador in Washington and to Prof. M. Keldysn, chairman of the Academy of Science in Moscow, by John R. Coleman, president of Haverford College.

The statement said, "We have read with dismay of the Soviet Union's new policy to require heavy payments from Jews seeking to emigrate to Israel. Payments of from \$5000 to \$38,000 depending on the level of education are both enormous in the lives of individual Jews and petty in the life of a great national power."

The statement cited "steady improvements" in relations between the Soviet Union and the US leading to an era of greater respect for individual and group rights. But, it added, "This latest move and other restrictions on educated Jews appear to go in the opposite direction. They destroy the chance of many people to live their lives as they wish to do. They discourage others from getting an education since that would increase the price on their heads. They disrupt the free flow of ideas among nations. And they smack of ransom."

The schools whose presidents signed the statement include Temple University; LaSalle College; Haverford College; Lincoln University; Drexel University; Villanova University and Bryn Mawr College.

MURDER OF VILNA JEW CONFIRMED

LONDON, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Jewish sources in the Soviet Union confirmed today that a 50-year-old Vilna Jew, Ilia Moisevich Serebreny, was murdered in his home last week. According to the sources, robbery appears to have been the sole motive. Serebreny had applied for a visa to go to Israel and the robbers may have been after the money he had saved for the trip, the sources said. No arrests were reported so far.

NIXON'S PURSUIT OF JEWISH VOTES COLLIDES WITH STATE DEPARTMENT'S MIDEAST POLICY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Columnist Jack Anderson reported today that President Nixon's pursuit of Jewish votes has collided with a new Middle East policy being urged on him by the State Department. According to Anderson, the US diplomatic mission in Cairo has reported that the Egyptian-Soviet split is "far more significant than Washington had dared to hope" and that the time is ripe for the US to improve its relations with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Anderson claimed that the State Department has urged "a little pressure on Israel to soften its terms" as a means to improve US standing in Egypt and as a possible road to a Mideast settlement. "President Nixon has forbidden the slightest pressure on Israel, however, while he is courting Jewish votes in the presidential campaign," Anderson wrote.

According to the syndicated columnist, Nixon decided last year to make a determined bid for Jewish votes as part of his drive to broaden the base of the Republican Party. He has overruled some White House advisors, including his staff chief, H.R. Haldeman, who argued that it would be useless to compete with the Democrats for the Jewish vote, Anderson said.

Anderson claimed that Nixon was influenced by a letter written by a B'nai B'rith official, Her-

man Edelsberg, to Nixon biographer Earl Mazo in April 1971 citing voting records to show that the Jewish vote was attainable by the Republicans. Anderson said the Edelsberg letter was carefully studied by the White House. It observed that "at this time the central Jewish concern seems to be the danger to Israel. The leadership of the Jewish community...has heard time and again that Mr. Nixon has been the best friend Israel has had in the past 20 years. I will not pretend that this has filtered down to the precincts. But it is there to exploit."

W. GERMANY DENIES IT IS WILLING TO ACT AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN U.S., EGYPT

BONN, Aug. 30 (JTA)--Reports that West Germany might be willing to serve as a mediator to bring about improved relations between Egypt and the United States were denied yesterday by a Foreign Ministry spokesman. The reports appeared following a meeting in Munich Monday between Chancellor Willy Brandt and Mohammed Hassanein Heikal, editor of the influential Cairo daily Al Ahram. A Ministry spokesman said there was no need for West German mediation because the US and Egypt have diplomatic channels of their own.

The Beirut newspaper, An Nahar, quoted Arab diplomatic sources in Bonn yesterday as saying that the West German role is to prepare better relations between Washington and Cairo "now that the atmosphere has improved after the withdrawal of Soviet experts from Egypt."

Government spokesmen refused to comment on the substance of the talks between Chancellor Brandt and Heikal. A meeting between the two last year is believed to have played a part in the restoration of diplomatic relations between West Germany and Egypt.

The Egyptian editor also met yesterday with the West German Foreign Minister Walter Scheel. Scheel has accepted an official invitation to visit Lebanon. No date has been set. The Foreign Minister is due to meet with Lebanese Foreign Minister Khalid Abu Hamad in Sept. when they will attend the opening of the UN General Assembly's fall session in New York.

NEW URBAN, MANUFACTURING CENTER ESTABLISHED IN SOUTHERN GOLAN HEIGHTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 30 (JTA)--A new urban and manufacturing center, Bnei Yehuda, was officially established yesterday in the southern Golan Heights. The town will provide health, education and trade facilities for other settlements in the neighborhood and employment for over 100 workers.

The chief economic enterprise at Bnei Yehuda is a plant built by Israel Aircraft Industries, the country's largest manufacturer of planes and aviation equipment. The plant already employs about 50 workers. Bnei Yehuda is the 17th Israeli settlement established on the Golan Heights since the region was captured from Syria in the Six-Day War. The settlers are young families from all parts of Israel.

Two senior Israeli Army officers received official reprimands today for negligence that led to the escape of three Syrian prisoners of war from a POW camp in central Israel last April. Only one of the three was subsequently recaptured. The camp commander was removed. One of the officers was reprimanded by the Army Chief of Staff and the other by the chief of the manpower division of General Headquarters. An official inquiry into a riot at the camp two days after the escapes found that local commanders did not use excessive force to restore order.