



# daily news bulletin

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Thursday, November 2, 1972

No. 211

## ROTHSCHILD URGES CUTBACK IN FUNDS BY FRENCH JEWISH COMMUNITY TO ISRAEL Local Community On A Distress Budget, Too Much Money Going Now To Jewish State

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The French Jewish leader said that French Jewry which had integrated more than 250,000 Jews since the end of the war, doubling its size, is now forced to close down homes for the aged, youth hostels, schools and social and cultural facilities for lack of money. He said that he is due to meet next week with Jewish Agency Chairman Louis Pincus and will raise this issue with him. "I am sure that Mr. Pincus will understand our problem but, should this not be the case we shall be forced to reconsider the entire principle of a joint UJA," Rothschild said.

## Delegates Express Disagreement

A number of delegates expressed their disagreement. Michel Topiol, UJA national president for France, said that "first priority must be given to Israel's needs." Topiol, who is also president of the Jewish Agency in France, added "The heart of every Jew is in Israel and Israel's needs are our needs."

Another delegate, Salomon Friederich, Secretary General of the France-Israel Alliance, said that the solution to the problem is not to reduce Israel's share but to increase the overall amount of money raised by the UJA in France. It is understood, however, that most members of the FSJU National Committee share their President's attitude and have empowered him to raise this issue with Pincus. The two are due to meet in Paris next week.

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## MAJOR REGROUPING IN NRP

Rafael Group Replaces Warhaftig Faction As Second Strongest; Burg List Retains Top Position

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The Lamifneh faction headed by Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Welfare Minister Michael Hazani retained the top position in the party hierarchy by winning 29 percent of the votes which will give it 212 seats at the convention. Tied for second place were the Rafael faction and the Youth List headed by Knesset members Zevulun Hammer and Yehuda Ben Meir.

Dr. Warhaftig's list ran a poor third with 12 percent of the votes and 90 seats. Of the three other contesting factions, the Moshavim (small holders) list won 10 percent and 67 seats; the Sephardic list, headed by Knesset members Avner Solaky and Daniel Levy, was tied for last place with the Religious Kibbutz List. Each won three percent of the votes and are each entitled to 20 seats at the convention.

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which has six seats in the present Knesset will be allotted only two in the next Knesset provided that the NRP retains its present strength in next year's general elections. The Rafael list which now has one Knesset member will gain two more.

Observers here believe that Rafael and Hammer of the Youth List will both demand Cabinet assignments. Dr. Rafael is expected to make a strong bid for the top leadership of the party, a post left vacant since the death of former Interior Minister Moshe Shapir in 1970. Dr. Rafael is regarded by some as the most able man in his party.

#### LIBERAL PARTY LEADER PROPOSES BRITAIN BAN AIR FLIGHTS TO LIBYA

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"Mr. Vorster claimed in essence that the Broederbond was an Afrikaaner organization which promoted the interests of the Afrikaans-speaking community, just as the Board of Deputies and the Hellenic organizations promoted the interests of their respective communities," the Board's statement said.

The Board noted that the analogy drawn by Vorster between the Broederbond and the Board of Deputies and other organizations and the propriety of his mentioning the Board of Deputies in that context have been called into question by various political leaders and sections of the press in South Africa.

#### 6 JEWS REELECTED TO HOUSE OF COMMONS

OTTAWA, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Of the eight Jews elected to the 264-seat House of Commons in 1968, six were reelected yesterday. The most prominent was David Lewis, the Polish-born leader of the New Democratic Party, which follows a moderate Socialist line and won a record 30 seats. The NDP held the balance of power in the immediate aftermath of the election, in which the Progressive Conservatives, the opposition party, won 109 seats to 108 for the Liberals, headed by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott

Trudeau. The progressives' total was 24 seats short of a parliamentary majority.

Lewis, a 63-year-old barrister, said yesterday that he would shift the NDP seats to the party that would "do something to make the tax system more just, something drastic about unemployment and stop the corporate ripoff," the last a reference to government aid to corporations.

The other Jews re-elected were Max Saltzman and David Orlikow, New Democrats; Cabinet Minister Herbert Gray and Barnett Danson, Liberals; and Jack Marshall, Progressive Conservative. The two Jewish members leaving the House are Robert Kaplan, a Liberal who was defeated, and Philip Givens, a Liberal who had resigned earlier to seek a provincial seat.

#### FILM ON SOVIET JEWRY PREMIERE ATTENDED BY 1500 DIGNITARIES

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Fifteen hundred dignitaries--religious, civic and political leaders and entertainment stars--attended last night's gala premiere at the Criterion Theatre of "Escape to the Sun," the first film dealing with Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate. The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, under the auspices of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, held a reception in the Monsanto Building after the movie. The chairman for the event was New York Conference chairman Stanley Lowell. Recent Soviet emigres Boris Kogan and Mikhail (Misha) Neiburger were honored.

Producer-director Menahem Golan, who flew in from Israel for the premiere, expressed the hope in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the film would awaken world concern for Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union. The crux of the story, he said, is endless waiting for visas, uncertainty clouding their daily activities and the barbaric and inhumane treatment behind prison bars, and tracking down of fugitives.

Associate producer Leon Charney, an American who returned from Israel two days ago, told of visiting an absorption center and meeting face to face with some who had managed to leave the Soviet Union. "The tales I heard would make strong men weep," he told the JTA. He called "Escape to the Sun" a picture "which is basically truthful," and which "deserves to be seen. It is cut from the pattern of anguished, tormented lives of Soviet Jews who cry out to America and the conscience of the world; Do not forget us."

#### NEWS BRIEFS

The Knesset unanimously adopted a resolution yesterday demanding an end to the persecution of Jews in Iraq. The Knesset acted after Foreign Minister Abba Eban said Monday that Israel could best help Iraqi Jews by arousing world opinion to their plight.

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A delegation of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Boston met with the West German Consul General Dr. Otto Burchard yesterday to protest West Germany's release of the three Munich terrorists. The delegation was headed by Bert Rabinowitz, vice president of the JCC. A statement issued later by Justin L. Wyner, president of the JCC, demanded that Bonn act through the UN to impose sanctions on Libya, the country that gave sanctuary to the freed terrorists and the hijackers.

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It was announced in Rome that Italian Jewry will sponsor a Chair on the history of Italian Jews at Bar Ilan U. The Chair will bear the name of Rabbi Elie Toaff, Chief Rabbi of Rome.

## RABBI WARNS EVANGELISTIC DRIVE DUE NEXT YEAR POSES THREAT TO JEWS, CATHOLICS

WAKE FOREST, N.C., Nov. 1 (JTA)--A rabbi warned here last night that a nationwide ecumenical evangelistic drive to be launched throughout the US next year under the slogan "Key 73" poses a serious threat to "the pluralistic idea that Jews, Catholics and others are full partners in American society." The warning was issued by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of the inter-religious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee, who addressed the opening session of a three-day colloquium on Civil Religion in America co-sponsored by the Southeast Baptist Theological Seminary and the AJCommittee.

Rabbi Tanenbaum said that a careful reading of "Key 73" literature and the speeches of its sponsors indicated that this "evangelical revival" is based on the conception that America is a "Christian nation" in which "Jews and other non-Christians were tolerated as less than full partners in the democratic enterprise." The announced intention of "Key 73" is "Calling our Continent to Christ in 1973."

Rabbi Tanenbaum said that "the implications of Key 73 for the American 'civil religion' is that it will tend to transform the American way of life into a uniformist evangelical Christian theocratic society." He said that "Christians and Jews together need to critique that tendency before it becomes coercive of the vitality of pluralism, as much as Jews themselves need to critique and resist analogous efforts of some 'fundamentalist' Jews who seek to impose similar theocratic tendencies on Israel as a Jewish State."

## PROTEST TREATMENT OF SOVIET JEWISH SCIENTISTS, INTELLECTUALS

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)--A group of scientists, doctors and academicians from the Greater New York area demonstrated at Rockefeller University today to protest the treatment of Jewish scientists and intellectuals in the Soviet Union who seek to emigrate to Israel. The demonstration, sponsored by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, was timed to coincide with the visit of Dr. M.V. Keldish, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences who toured the university today.

While the demonstrators were not permitted inside to confront the Russian visitor directly, a spokesman for the Conference said the issue of the treatment of Jewish scientists in the USSR was definitely brought to the attention of Dr. Keldish by American scientists affiliated with Rockefeller University who accompanied him on his tour.

The demonstration was organized in response to an appeal for help from six Jewish scientists in the Soviet Union who were dismissed from their jobs and subjected to harassment since applying for exit visas. The six asked their American colleagues to bring their plight to the attention of Dr. Keldish who is presently touring scientific establishments in the US to expand and improve Soviet-American scientific relations.

## NO CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT MOTION DEFEATED BY 58-31 VOTE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA)--The Knesset voted 58-31 with two abstentions last night to defeat an opposition motion of no confidence in the government over the financial failure of two State-owned corporations, the Vered water resources development company and Arad Chemicals. Vered was the subject of a highly critical report issued by the State Comptroller last week. Arad, in addition to its financial difficulties, was reported today to have halted oper-

ations as a result of a technical breakdown that could take nine months to repair.

The no confidence motion was introduced by Gahal, the State List and the Free Center factions whose spokesmen accused the government of "criminal negligence" in a series of development projects involving Vered. Yigal Horowitz of the State List alleged that the government squandered public funds amounting to IL 250 million in various projects, enough he said to have solved the housing shortage.

Haim Gvati, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Development, replying for the government said its success in many other projects vindicated the admitted failures of Vered and Arad. He denied that the Foreign Ministry had pressured Vered to undertake extravagant projects abroad for political reasons, a denial supported by the State Comptroller's report.

The report placed the blame for Vered's failure entirely on that company's management. It said losses amounting to some \$20 million were the result of Vered undertaking construction and other projects in foreign countries in fields in which it lacked experience and without bothering to calculate the likely profits and costs.

At the time of Vered's failure it was engaged in road building and other construction work in Nigeria, Iran, Kenya, Uganda, Ivory Coast, Peru, Honduras and Brazil. The Comptroller's report said that Vered acted out of misguided motives when it consistently underbid competitors of other countries in order to secure contracts for Israel.

## DOCTORS' STRIKE CLOSES DOWN CLINICS

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Israel was spared an imminent bus strike today but some 3000 physicians employed by Kupat Holim, the Histadrut sick-fund, went out on a general strike that closed down clinics all over the country and limited hospitals to skeleton staffs. The bus cooperatives, Dan and Egged, which control the country's urban and inter-urban bus systems, yielded to an appeal by Transportation Minister Shimon Peres to postpone their general strike called for tomorrow until the issue in dispute--a fare hike--can be brought before the Cabinet again at its next regular meeting on Sunday.

The issue in the physicians' strike is the appointment of Asher Yadin, a non-medical man, as chief of Kupat Holim. The doctors insist that the post should be held by a physician. Histadrut leaders have called the strike unjust and some allege that the real motive may be to nationalize health services. Meanwhile, slowdowns and strikes continued at the Lod Airport customs house, in eight movie houses in Jerusalem and at the Gabor textile factory in Kiryat Shemona.

## AUSTRIA PRAISED FOR AIDING EMIGRES

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA)--An 11-man Austrian parliamentary delegation feted at a luncheon in the Knesset heard their country praised for aiding Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union who pass through Vienna on their way to Israel. Yisrael Yeshayahu, Speaker of the Knesset said the 10-day visit of the Austrian parliamentarians was another contribution to rectifying the last vestiges of the Nazi holocaust.

**LATE NEWS BULLETIN:** NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Gavriel Shapiro, Soviet Jewish activist, was reported by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry to have arrived this afternoon in Vienna. His American wife, Judy Silver Shapiro, was there to greet him. The SSSJ also reported that Roman Rutman is due to leave the USSR Nov. 5.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWRY ON FILM

By Murray Zuckoff, JTA News Editor

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)--"Escape to the Sun," the first motion picture to deal with the plight of Soviet Jews trying to emigrate to Israel and "based" on events leading up to the infamous Leningrad hijack trial in 1970, had its world premiere last night at the Criterion Theater. It is a controversial film. But the controversy, unfortunately, is whether it is a bad or terrible film, amateurish or inept.

The New York Times film critic wrote that current events and problems have spawned a number of bad films. "And now, to treat the plight of Jewish intellectuals in Russia, which isn't a joke, comes Menahem Golan's 'Escape to the Sun,' which is," The acting, he stated, ranges from "the professionally inept to the almost amateurish and which deals in a helpless pseudo-realism." The Times critic noted further that the film "continually strives to be fancy without ever achieving competence." But the direction, he asserted, is what "really subverts the movie and keeps sinking it beneath the level, to which it might have aspired, of the merely routine."

The critic for the Film Review of the Jewish Broadcasting and Film Committee of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, wrote that "by and large the characters fall short of the potential of the story. Their emotion often is a mere pastiche of the real thing, and they become unbelievable and boring."

This writer, who saw it last night and previously last summer in Israel, felt the film did nothing to present the cause of Soviet Jewry in a forceful, significant and realistic manner. In fact, the film on many levels is a disservice to the tragedy and heroism of the Soviet Jews.

Caricatures And Inaccuracies

The characters portrayed are caricatures of the real Jews who have defied and challenged the Soviet bureaucracy and have risked their jobs and freedom in their fight for the right to emigrate. The film plops away and is bogged down in technical gimmicks of still frames interspersed with fuzzy lighting to present flashbacks, and swaying camera work presumably to provide the tension which the film fails to develop in the unfolding scenes.

The passion and the anguish which the real Soviet Jews express in their daily activities and which has seared the conscience of mankind, is here portrayed in full gamut from a to A. Yuda Barkan, the Israeli actor who looks like a young Paul Muni, portrays the medical student, Yasha, one of the group of ill-fated Jews seeking to "escape to the sun." His acting varies from a full-mouthed smile when he is happy to a close-lipped grimace when sad.

Gila Almagor, who was brilliant as the prostitute in the Israeli-made film, "Queen of the Road," has a small part as the presiding judge who pronounces the sentences on the Jewish prisoners. Laurence Harvey, the villainous commissar, Kirsanov, complete with drooping mustache and menacing looks is insufferably melodramatic and stilted. Various and sundry characters popping in and out of alleys, cars and doorways seem to be from the old Hollywoodish spies and good-guys films.

The worst part of the film is its historical inaccuracy and, what in fact, amounts to falsification in one instance: two of the Jews in the group seeking to escape are shown boarding a Soviet airliner armed with guns. In the real event, one of the would-be emigrants (Mark Dymshitz) was armed but the gun did not work and all the defendants testified at their

trial that they had no desire or intention to use firearms.

There are other glaring faults. Not once does the film concede that the action is taking place in the Soviet Union although all the signs on the public walls, streets, buses and newspapers are in Russian. (According to the film credits, the picture was shot on location in Norway, Germany and Russia. The film, in fact, was not in any part photographed in Russia.) Not once is there any mention that the land of the "sun" is Israel. The country to which the ill-fated group is seeking to emigrate is referred to as "over there." Even the fact that the group is Jewish is implied rather than spelled out: their names are Jewish and in one scene Yasha is scornfully referred to as "Jew."

Possibly A Primer on Soviet Jewry

Moreover, the oppression the group is suffering from is limited to the alternately sullen/tearing, compassionate/vengeful antics of Kirsanov. Not once is the nature of the plight of the Jewish people shown in its full scope and magnitude. Not once is the pervasive nature of Soviet repression of Jewish rights dealt with in depth. It is possible that those involved in the film felt that the presence of these elements would be taken amiss as a contribution to cold-war anti-Soviet politics. As it is, the absence of these elements taken together with the worst type of Hollywoodiana makes a mockery of the Soviet Jewry struggle.

In Israel many in the audience on the opening night of the film in Jerusalem, voted with their feet - they walked out midway in the presentation. At last night's showing, which drew some 1500 people including local and national political figures and activists in the Soviet Jewry struggle who paid up to \$15 to watch the film, no one walked out. But when the film ended after 105 minutes, several people applauded half-heartedly. There were audible expressions of dissatisfaction and disappointment.

Are there any redeeming features at all? Only if the film is viewed as a primer on Soviet Jewry rather than an in-depth presentation. Boris Kogan, a recent arrival in Israel from the Soviet Union, who was present at last night's world premiere, expressed the hope that the film would help bring into focus the plight of Soviet Jews. Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said the film is indicative of heightened public sensitivity about Soviet Jewry that a full length feature film has been made on this topic."

Compared to early films dealing with anti-Nazi themes and the horrors suffered by Jews in Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe - "Watch on the Rhine," "The Seventh Cross," and "The Moon is Down" - "Escape to the Sun" is a disaster. And it is a Jewish disaster because the way the theme, which imperatively needs telling, is presented, is badly botched.

ALLON TO MEET WITH NEXT U.S. PRESIDENT

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigal Allon will go to the United States early next month to attend an Israel Bond meeting in New York and to meet with the next American President, it was announced today. Allon's visit was timed to take place several weeks after the US elections to give Israel its first chance to assess the attitude of the next administration.

The 125th anniversary of the death of Felix Mendelssohn was commemorated in Sofia last week.





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The Board noted that the analogy drawn by Vorster between the Broederbond and the Board of Deputies and other organizations and the propriety of his mentioning the Board of Deputies in that context have been called into question by various political leaders and sections of the press in South Africa.

#### 6 JEWS REELECTED TO HOUSE OF COMMONS

OTTAWA, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Of the eight Jews elected to the 264-seat House of Commons in 1968, six were reelected yesterday. The most prominent was David Lewis, the Polish-born leader of the New Democratic Party, which follows a moderate Socialist line and won a record 30 seats. The NDP held the balance of power in the immediate aftermath of the election, in which the Progressive Conservatives, the opposition party, won 109 seats to 108 for the Liberals, headed by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott

Trudeau. The progressives' total was 24 seats short of a parliamentary majority.

Lewis, a 63-year-old barrister, said yesterday that he would shift the NDP seats to the party that would "do something to make the tax system more just, something drastic about unemployment and stop the corporate ripoff," the last a reference to government aid to corporations.

The other Jews re-elected were Max Saltzman and David Orlikow, New Democrats; Cabinet Minister Herbert Gray and Barnett Danson, Liberals; and Jack Marshall, Progressive Conservative. The two Jewish members leaving the House are Robert Kaplan, a Liberal who was defeated, and Philip Givens, a Liberal who had resigned earlier to seek a provincial seat.

#### FILM ON SOVIET JEWRY PREMIERE ATTENDED BY 1500 DIGNITARIES

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Fifteen hundred dignitaries--religious, civic and political leaders and entertainment stars--attended last night's gala premiere at the Criterion Theatre of "Escape to the Sun," the first film dealing with Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate. The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, under the auspices of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, held a reception in the Monsanto Building after the movie. The chairman for the event was New York Conference chairman Stanley Lowell. Recent Soviet emigres Boris Kogan and Mikhail (Misha) Neiburger were honored.

Producer-director Menahem Golan, who flew in from Israel for the premiere, expressed the hope in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the film would awaken world concern for Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union. The crux of the story, he said, is endless waiting for visas, uncertainty clouding their daily activities and the barbaric and inhumane treatment behind prison bars, and tracking down of fugitives.

Associate producer Leon Charney, an American who returned from Israel two days ago, told of visiting an absorption center and meeting face to face with some who had managed to leave the Soviet Union. "The tales I heard would make strong men weep," he told the JTA. He called "Escape to the Sun" a picture "which is basically truthful," and which "deserves to be seen. It is cut from the pattern of anguished, tormented lives of Soviet Jews who cry out to America and the conscience of the world; Do not forget us."

#### NEWS BRIEFS

The Knesset unanimously adopted a resolution yesterday demanding an end to the persecution of Jews in Iraq. The Knesset acted after Foreign Minister Abba Eban said Monday that Israel could best help Iraqi Jews by arousing world opinion to their plight.

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A delegation of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Boston met with the West German Consul General Dr. Otto Burchard yesterday to protest West Germany's release of the three Munich terrorists. The delegation was headed by Bert Rabinowitz, vice president of the JCC. A statement issued later by Justin L. Wyner, president of the JCC, demanded that Bonn act through the UN to impose sanctions on Libya, the country that gave sanctuary to the freed terrorists and the hijackers.

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It was announced in Rome that Italian Jewry will sponsor a Chair on the history of Italian Jews at Bar Ilan U. The Chair will bear the name of Rabbi Elie Toaff, Chief Rabbi of Rome.

## RABBI WARNS EVANGELISTIC DRIVE DUE NEXT YEAR POSES THREAT TO JEWS, CATHOLICS

WAKE FOREST, N.C., Nov. 1 (JTA)--A rabbi warned here last night that a nationwide ecumenical evangelistic drive to be launched throughout the US next year under the slogan "Key 73" poses a serious threat to "the pluralistic idea that Jews, Catholics and others are full partners in American society." The warning was issued by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of the inter-religious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee, who addressed the opening session of a three-day colloquium on Civil Religion in America co-sponsored by the Southeast Baptist Theological Seminary and the AJCommittee.

Rabbi Tanenbaum said that a careful reading of "Key 73" literature and the speeches of its sponsors indicated that this "evangelical revival" is based on the conception that America is a "Christian nation" in which "Jews and other non-Christians were tolerated as less than full partners in the democratic enterprise." The announced intention of "Key 73" is "Calling our Continent to Christ in 1973."

Rabbi Tanenbaum said that "the implications of Key 73 for the American 'civil religion' is that it will tend to transform the American way of life into a uniformist evangelical Christian theocratic society." He said that "Christians and Jews together need to critique that tendency before it becomes coercive of the vitality of pluralism, as much as Jews themselves need to critique and resist analogous efforts of some 'fundamentalist' Jews who seek to impose similar theocratic tendencies on Israel as a Jewish State."

## PROTEST TREATMENT OF SOVIET JEWISH SCIENTISTS, INTELLECTUALS

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)--A group of scientists, doctors and academicians from the Greater New York area demonstrated at Rockefeller University today to protest the treatment of Jewish scientists and intellectuals in the Soviet Union who seek to emigrate to Israel. The demonstration, sponsored by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, was timed to coincide with the visit of Dr. M.V. Keldish, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences who toured the university today.

While the demonstrators were not permitted inside to confront the Russian visitor directly, a spokesman for the Conference said the issue of the treatment of Jewish scientists in the USSR was definitely brought to the attention of Dr. Keldish by American scientists affiliated with Rockefeller University who accompanied him on his tour.

The demonstration was organized in response to an appeal for help from six Jewish scientists in the Soviet Union who were dismissed from their jobs and subjected to harassment since applying for exit visas. The six asked their American colleagues to bring their plight to the attention of Dr. Keldish who is presently touring scientific establishments in the US to expand and improve Soviet-American scientific relations.

## NO CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT MOTION DEFEATED BY 58-31 VOTE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA)--The Knesset voted 58-31 with two abstentions last night to defeat an opposition motion of no confidence in the government over the financial failure of two State-owned corporations, the Vered water resources development company and Arad Chemicals. Vered was the subject of a highly critical report issued by the State Comptroller last week. Arad, in addition to its financial difficulties, was reported today to have halted oper-

ations as a result of a technical breakdown that could take nine months to repair.

The no confidence motion was introduced by Gahal, the State List and the Free Center factions whose spokesmen accused the government of "criminal negligence" in a series of development projects involving Vered, Yigal Horowitz of the State List alleged that the government squandered public funds amounting to IL 250 million in various projects, enough he said to have solved the housing shortage.

Haim Gvati, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Development, replying for the government said its success in many other projects vindicated the admitted failures of Vered and Arad. He denied that the Foreign Ministry had pressured Vered to undertake extravagant projects abroad for political reasons, a denial supported by the State Comptroller's report.

The report placed the blame for Vered's failure entirely on that company's management. It said losses amounting to some \$20 million were the result of Vered undertaking construction and other projects in foreign countries in fields in which it lacked experience and without bothering to calculate the likely profits and costs.

At the time of Vered's failure it was engaged in road building and other construction work in Nigeria, Iran, Kenya, Uganda, Ivory Coast, Peru, Honduras and Brazil. The Comptroller's report said that Vered acted out of misguided motives when it consistently underbid competitors of other countries in order to secure contracts for Israel.

## DOCTORS' STRIKE CLOSES DOWN CLINICS

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Israel was spared an imminent bus strike today but some 3000 physicians employed by Kupat Holim, the Histadrut sick-fund, went out on a general strike that closed down clinics all over the country and limited hospitals to skeleton staffs. The bus cooperatives, Dan and Egged, which control the country's urban and inter-urban bus systems, yielded to an appeal by Transportation Minister Shimon Peres to postpone their general strike called for tomorrow until the issue in dispute--a fare hike--can be brought before the Cabinet again at its next regular meeting on Sunday.

The issue in the physicians' strike is the appointment of Asher Yadlin, a non-medical man, as chief of Kupat Holim. The doctors insist that the post should be held by a physician. Histadrut leaders have called the strike unjust and some allege that the real motive may be to nationalize health services. Meanwhile, slowdowns and strikes continued at the Lod Airport customs house, in eight movie houses in Jerusalem and at the Gabor textile factory in Kiryat Shemona.

## AUSTRIA PRAISED FOR AIDING EMIGRES

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA)--An 11-man Austrian parliamentary delegation feted at a luncheon in the Knesset heard their country praised for aiding Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union who pass through Vienna on their way to Israel. Yisrael Yeshayahu, Speaker of the Knesset said the 10-day visit of the Austrian parliamentarians was another contribution to rectifying the last vestiges of the Nazi holocaust.

**LATE NEWS BULLETIN:** NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Gavriel Shapiro, Soviet Jewish activist, was reported by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry to have arrived this afternoon in Vienna. His American wife, Judy Silver Shapiro, was there to greet him. The SSSJ also reported that Roman Rutman is due to leave the USSR Nov. 5.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWRY ON FILM

By Murray Zuckoff, JTA News Editor

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA)--"Escape to the Sun," the first motion picture to deal with the plight of Soviet Jews trying to emigrate to Israel and "based" on events leading up to the infamous Leningrad hijack trial in 1970, had its world premiere last night at the Criterion Theater. It is a controversial film. But the controversy, unfortunately, is whether it is a bad or terrible film, amateurish or inept.

The New York Times film critic wrote that current events and problems have spawned a number of bad films. "And now, to treat the plight of Jewish intellectuals in Russia, which isn't a joke, comes Menahem Golan's 'Escape to the Sun,' which is," The acting, he stated, ranges from "the professionally inept to the almost amateurish and which deals in a helpless pseudo-realism." The Times critic noted further that the film "continually strives to be fancy without ever achieving competence." But the direction, he asserted, is what "really subverts the movie and keeps sinking it beneath the level, to which it might have aspired, of the merely routine."

The critic for the Film Review of the Jewish Broadcasting and Film Committee of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, wrote that "by and large the characters fall short of the potential of the story. Their emotion often is a mere pastiche of the real thing, and they become unbelievable and boring."

This writer, who saw it last night and previously last summer in Israel, felt the film did nothing to present the cause of Soviet Jewry in a forceful, significant and realistic manner. In fact, the film on many levels is a disservice to the tragedy and heroism of the Soviet Jews.

Caricatures And Inaccuracies

The characters portrayed are caricatures of the real Jews who have defied and challenged the Soviet bureaucracy and have risked their jobs and freedom in their fight for the right to emigrate. The film plops away and is bogged down in technical gimmicks of still frames interspersed with fuzzy lighting to present flashbacks, and swaying camera work presumably to provide the tension which the film fails to develop in the unfolding scenes.

The passion and the anguish which the real Soviet Jews express in their daily activities and which has seared the conscience of mankind, is here portrayed in full gamut from a to A. Yuda Barkan, the Israeli actor who looks like a young Paul Muni, portrays the medical student, Yasha, one of the group of ill-fated Jews seeking to "escape to the sun." His acting varies from a full-mouthed smile when he is happy to a close-lipped grimace when sad.

Gila Almagor, who was brilliant as the prostitute in the Israeli-made film, "Queen of the Road," has a small part as the presiding judge who pronounces the sentences on the Jewish prisoners. Laurence Harvey, the villainous commissar, Kirsanov, complete with drooping mustache and menacing looks is insufferably melodramatic and stilted. Various and sundry characters popping in and out of alleys, cars and doorways seem to be from the old Hollywoodish spies and good-guys films.

The worst part of the film is its historical inaccuracy and, what in fact, amounts to falsification in one instance: two of the Jews in the group seeking to escape are shown boarding a Soviet airliner armed with guns. In the real event, one of the would-be emigrants (Mark Dymshitz) was armed but the gun did not work and all the defendants testified at their

trial that they had no desire or intention to use firearms.

There are other glaring faults. Not once does the film concede that the action is taking place in the Soviet Union although all the signs on the public walls, streets, buses and newspapers are in Russian. (According to the film credits, the picture was shot on location in Norway, Germany and Russia. The film, in fact, was not in any part photographed in Russia.) Not once is there any mention that the land of the "sun" is Israel. The country to which the ill-fated group is seeking to emigrate is referred to as "over there." Even the fact that the group is Jewish is implied rather than spelled out: their names are Jewish and in one scene Yasha is scornfully referred to as "Jew."

Possibly A Primer on Soviet Jewry

Moreover, the oppression the group is suffering from is limited to the alternately sullen/tearing, compassionate/vengeful antics of Kirsanov. Not once is the nature of the plight of the Jewish people shown in its full scope and magnitude. Not once is the pervasive nature of Soviet repression of Jewish rights dealt with in depth. It is possible that those involved in the film felt that the presence of these elements would be taken amiss as a contribution to cold-war anti-Soviet politics. As it is, the absence of these elements taken together with the worst type of Hollywoodiana makes a mockery of the Soviet Jewry struggle.

In Israel many in the audience on the opening night of the film in Jerusalem, voted with their feet - they walked out midway in the presentation. At last night's showing, which drew some 1500 people including local and national political figures and activists in the Soviet Jewry struggle who paid up to \$15 to watch the film, no one walked out. But when the film ended after 105 minutes, several people applauded half-heartedly. There were audible expressions of dissatisfaction and disappointment.

Are there any redeeming features at all? Only if the film is viewed as a primer on Soviet Jewry rather than an in-depth presentation. Boris Kogan, a recent arrival in Israel from the Soviet Union, who was present at last night's world premiere, expressed the hope that the film would help bring into focus the plight of Soviet Jews. Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said the film is indicative of heightened public sensitivity about Soviet Jewry that a full length feature film has been made on this topic."

Compared to early films dealing with anti-Nazi themes and the horrors suffered by Jews in Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe - "Watch on the Rhine," "The Seventh Cross," and "The Moon is Down" - "Escape to the Sun" is a disaster. And it is a Jewish disaster because the way the theme, which imperatively needs telling, is presented, is badly botched.

ALLON TO MEET WITH NEXT U.S. PRESIDENT

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigal Allon will go to the United States early next month to attend an Israel Bond meeting in New York and to meet with the next American President, it was announced today. Allon's visit was timed to take place several weeks after the US elections to give Israel its first chance to assess the attitude of the next administration.

The 125th anniversary of the death of Felix Mendelssohn was commemorated in Sofia last week.