



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

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Vol. XXXIX - Fifty-Fifth Year

Friday, December 29, 1972

No. 249

TERRORISTS AGREE TO RELEASE SIX ISRAELI HOSTAGES IN RETURN FOR SAFE CONDUCT OUT OF THAILAND Egyptian Envoy Plays Key Role In Negotiations For Release Of Israelis

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Four gunmen of the Black September movement who seized the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok today reportedly agreed to release their six Israeli hostages in return for safe conduct out of Thailand. According to the latest report from Bangkok the agreement was announced by Thailand's Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chulasapya who reportedly will accompany the gunmen out of the country along with Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Chatchai Chunahawan and the Egyptian Ambassador, Mustafa El Tawi. The actual release of the hostages was not confirmed by late afternoon.

The reports said that the Egyptian envoy played a key role in the incident by speaking to the terrorists on the telephone, urging them to accept the Thai offer of safe conduct. According to reports still unconfirmed by Israeli officials, the gunmen will be flown to Cairo by a Scandinavian Airlines plane. One report said they will be allowed to retain their weapons.

(The U.S. State Department in Washington disclaimed any direct involvement in the efforts to secure the release of the Israeli hostages. State Department spokesman Charles Bray said today that the American role was limited to assisting communications between Jerusalem and Bangkok. He said that in view of the restricted U.S. role in the incident, the State Department deemed it inappropriate to comment further at this time.)

Israeli authorities identified the hostages as Shimon Azimor, the Israeli Ambassador to Cambodia who was visiting the Bangkok Embassy when it was seized; the Embassy First Secretary Nissan Hadass and his wife; Attache Dan Beeri and his wife; and Pichas Lavie, an administrative officer.

The gunmen demanded the release of 36 terrorists jailed in Israel, among them Kozo Okamoto, the survivor of a trio of Japanese gunmen responsible for the Lod Airport massacre May 30. They also demanded return of the bodies of two Arab terrorists killed in the attempted hijack of a Sabena jet at Lod Airport May 9. The gunmen set a deadline of 8 a.m. Friday, Thai time (8 p.m. today, New York time) for the release of the prisoners. They said if the deadline was not met they would kill the hostages and blow up the embassy.

No One Stopped Gunmen From Entering

The Cabinet met in emergency session at Premier Golda Meir's Tel Aviv office at noon today. The meeting lasted less than an hour. A brief statement issued said only that "At today's special Cabinet session a report on the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok was given." No information on any related action by Israel was released. It was believed that no decisions were adopted at the meeting. None of the ministers made any statements except Minister of Commerce and Industry Haim Bar

Lev who would say only, "It's very grave."

According to reports from Bangkok this morning, the Israeli Ambassador to Thailand, Rehavam Amir, was absent from the Embassy when the four gunmen seized the premises. Two of the gunmen reportedly entered by the front door wearing black ties and tails, garb normally associated with formal diplomatic functions, and carrying concealed weapons. Two others in jackets and bullet-proof vests, carrying submachineguns, reportedly scaled the walls of the Embassy compound.

Amir was at Parliament House with the rest of the diplomatic corps attending the investiture of the Crown Prince of Thailand. He and Thai Premier Thanon Kittikachorn were informed of the Embassy seizure during the ceremonies.

About 300 Thai police surrounded the Embassy compound. Gen. Prapass Charusathira, Deputy Premier and Commander of the Thai Army, was quoted as saying that Thailand would not make "any rash movements to endanger the lives of the hostages." The terrorists hung a green, white and red Palestinian flag from an upstairs window of the Embassy and tossed out a note listing their demands. The note said they didn't want to harm the Israeli hostages but "If the demands are rejected we would be free to treat the staff in the same manner of murder it treats our people."

Israelis Critical Of Security Measures

The seizure of the Bangkok Embassy has already sparked bitter criticism here of the Foreign Ministry and Israel's security services. The critics demanded to know how four armed terrorists were able to enter the premises unhindered, especially in view of events since the Lod Airport massacre and the Munich slayings of 11 Israeli athletes. They asked where the security guards were and what happened to the stringent security measures which the Foreign Ministry says it ordered all Israeli missions abroad to observe.

Political observers said the terrorists selected the Bangkok Embassy as their target, apparently to try to upset the improving relations between Israel and several Southeast Asian nations which have traditionally avoided involvement in the Middle East conflict. South Vietnam has recently established diplomatic relations with Israel and Cambodia has opened an Embassy in Jerusalem. Israel is about to open a Consulate in Hong Kong and Jerusalem's relations with Thailand have been growing steadily closer.

The Foreign Ministry released the following information on the hostages: Nissan Hadass, 36, the First Secretary, holds a masters degree in history from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and entered the foreign service in 1961. He served in Sierra Leone and Germany before going to Thailand last Aug. His wife Ruth, 30, was born in Indonesia, lived in Holland and came to Israel in 1945. They were married in 1961 and have a daughter, born this year.

Pichas Lavie, 37, head of the Embassy's consular section, was born in Germany and came to Israel at the age of three. He was sent to Bangkok in 1970. Lavie is married and the father of two daughters and a son. Dan Beeri, 25, was born in Rehovoth and was a member of Kibbutz Kfar

Hahoresht. He was sent to Bangkok as an attache in 1972. His wife Sara, 26, was born in Israel and lived at Kibbutz Ashdod Yaacov.

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HOUSING SCANDAL CHARGED IN KNESSET

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Tamir asked Housing Minister Zeev Sharef why the Government had to import mobile homes to house immigrants when flats earmarked for immigrants were being sold cheaply to favored persons. Sharef replied that his ministry was not responsible for the acts of Shikun Ovdim which was not required to sell its flats to anyone in particular.

Avraham Offer, the Labor MK who heads Shikun Ovdim, denied the Haaretz allegations in an earlier statement. He said the six flats in Haifa were sold on the public market at normal prices. Offer was not present at today's housing debate in the Knesset. Also absent was Labor MK Moshe Wertman of Haifa, whose unmarried son was allegedly one of the beneficiaries of Shikun Ovdim's "protektsia."

YAARI URGES MAPAM TO REMAIN IN LABOR PARTY ALIGNMENT; RETIRES AS MAPAM LEADER AFTER 52 YEARS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Meir Yaari, retiring as secretary general of Mapam after 52 years of leadership in that party and its affiliated movements, urged Mapam last night not to abandon its alignment with the Labor Party lest "the chauvinist reactionary alternative" come to power. Yaari warned that if Mapam quits the alignment, a move advocated by some of the party's younger elements, "the opportunists in the Labor Party might reach a compro-

mise with the right-wing."

The veteran Mapam leader issued his warning in his farewell address to Mapam's sixth national convention here in the presence of President Zalman Shazar, Premier Golda Meir, and Knesset Speaker Israel Yeshayahu, who were attending as guests. He offered a mild rebuke to Mrs. Meir for not having expressed often enough Israel's readiness to respond to any Jordanian offer for negotiations without prior conditions. But he also criticized "those among us (Mapam) who claim that Hussein opened the door to talks while Israel shut it."

Yaari had sharper words for Defense Minister Moshe Dayan who he charged, "does not gamble on the card of peace but rather on that of time, the Army and the eventual submission of the inhabitants of the territories." He said Dayan's hope was that the Arabs would come to accept Israeli control over the territories even if it takes another ten years. "If that is indeed the Dayan plan, then it is not a plan for peace," Yaari said. However, he added, he preferred to remain in the Alignment camp "for there is the chance that he (Dayan) might repent."

Beigin-Weizman Rift Heals

In another political development, the breach between Herut leader Menachem Beigin and the party's former No. 2 man, Gen. Ezer Weizman, appeared to be healed -- on Beigin's terms. Weizman resigned last week as chairman of the Herut executive after the party's 11th national convention elected a 250-member Central Committee made up largely of Beigin supporters. But Beigin and Weizman met last night at Beigin's home and reportedly reached an agreement whereby Beigin will fill Weizman's former post in addition to his overall leadership position in Herut.

Weizman, a former Air Force commander and former Transport Minister, was given the job of heading Herut election campaign headquarters, a sensitive and difficult job in view of the turbulence within the party as it begins campaigning for next year's Knesset elections. Beigin has named Knesset member Chaim Landau as executive party chairman. The new arrangements are expected to be confirmed by the Central Committee which holds its first meeting next Sunday.

MOVES TO REINTRODUCE BILLS BARRING MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS FOR USSR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Senate and House backers of legislation linking freedom of emigration to U.S.-Soviet trade are preparing to resubmit their bills jointly approximately two weeks after Congress convenes on Jan. 3.

Aides in the office of Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.) and Rep. Charles Vanik (D. Ohio) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that new support for their legislation is being sought from freshmen Congressmen. Five of the 76 Senators who cosponsored the Jackson Amendment have dropped out this session. Support among the 13 newly elected Senators is expected to more than offset this loss.

The Jackson Amendment, which would withhold most-favored-nation status and credit privileges from Communist nations which violate emigration rights, continues to enjoy a firm foothold in the Senate, where 51 constitutes a majority. The corresponding Vanik Bill has so far failed to clear the minimum majority mark of 218 in the House. Mark Tallman, administrative assistant to Vanik, attributes this lesser showing to a lack of publicity. "There is no heat in the House" for this legisla-

tion, he told the JTA. "Everyone assumes that all the action is with the Jackson Amendment in the Senate."

Last session the Vanik Bill was co-sponsored by 134 representatives when it was introduced at the same time as the Jackson Amendment on Oct. 4, 1972. All the legislation, including the Nixon Administration's East-West Trade Relations Act, must be resubmitted this session because it failed to pass before Congress adjourned.

Representative Vanik's office issued letters four days ago appealing for new support. So far five of the 69 freshmen Representatives have responded with pledges to co-sponsor the bill.

The East-West Trade Relations Act, introduced by Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D. Wash.), is crucial to the expansion of U.S.-Soviet trade. The Soviets insist upon most-favored-nation status before repaying some of the World War II lend-lease. If the USSR reneges on lend-lease, the U.S. insists there can be no trade expansion. Magnuson's office told the JTA it had set no date for reintroducing its trade legislation. According to an aide in Jackson's office, "The Nixon Administration is spending a lot of time trying to circumvent our move."

BACKGROUND TO NICARAGUA CATASTROPHE

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

Virtually all of Nicaragua's tiny Jewish community of about 120 persons lived in Managua and maintained a community center with a synagogue constructed about 15 years ago. The small, unpretentious one-story building of masonry construction was reportedly destroyed by the earthquake which leveled the Nicaraguan capital Saturday.

The center, distinguished by stars of David in its windows, was situated less than half a kilometer from the cathedral and occupied a corner on the main thoroughfare leading to the airport. Community members gathered there almost nightly for social purposes and conducted prayer services regularly Friday evenings and on holidays.

For the services, the men would sit at a long table covered with a white cloth. Their services were in the Ashkenazi style. The community never had a rabbi. Hebrew education for the children was conducted by a knowledgeable local person or occasionally by an itinerant teacher.

Most of Managua's Jews are of Polish and Rumanian origin, welcomed to Nicaragua early in the Nazi period by the late Luis Somoza, father of General Anastasio Somoza, commander of Nicaragua's army and a former President who is directing the rescue effort in Managua. The Somoza family always maintained warm relations with the Jewish community and Nicaragua's United Nations representatives nearly always supported Israel.

Since it became a state 25 years ago, Israel has been represented in Managua by an Honorary Consul selected from the Jewish community. The Israeli Ambassador in a nearby country was accredited to the Nicaraguan Government. At first it was the envoy in Mexico, later in Guatemala and now the Ambassador in Costa Rica which has a thriving Jewish community of about 1800 persons, nearly all of Eastern European origin.

Jewish Community Held In Esteem

The first Jewish settlers in Nicaragua came from France 100 years ago. They were boys in their upper teens who founded commercial establishments with ties to Paris and other French cities from which they had emigrated. Some of them returned to France, but most remained with their business, some of which continue in the hands of their descen-

dants and are in the forefront of Managuan retail commerce.

The majority had assimilated to a great extent before the arrival of the first Eastern Europeans in the late 1920's. Sons of several mixed marriages rose to high positions in the Government. Their pride in their Jewish origin was reflected during Israel's victory in the Six-Day War.

The Eastern European emigrants arrived virtually penniless in Nicaragua. Some of them pioneered in the textile industry and others participated in modern construction and hotel development in Managua. Most Nicaraguan Jews remained small-time traders. Presumably both the wealthy and not-so-well-off lost their possessions, if not their lives, in the catastrophe.

Altogether, the community from its very beginnings held the respect and even esteem of many Nicaraguans and was considered a valued if tiny segment of that nation. The Nicaraguan Jewish community is a member of the Central American Jewish Federation which, besides Costa Rica, consists of Guatemala with about 1500 Jews, El Salvador with about 300, Honduras with only 100 divided between two cities, and Panama, with about 3200 Jews, the largest in the Central American-Panama area.

PANOV, TARRASUK, GIVEN WARNINGS

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA)--The National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today it had learned that Valery Panov, the ousted member of the Kirov Ballet, and Leonid Tarrasuk, former curator of the Heritage Museum of Leningrad had been summoned by the KGB secret police and warned they would be prosecuted for "libeling the state" if they did not stop making overseas calls for assistance.

Both have attracted particular attention and interest from figures in the arts in other countries who have sent appeals and expressions of support on their behalf to Soviet officials. The NCSJ also said Panov had been told he could perform in provincial towns but not in Leningrad, apparently with the Kirov Ballet Company from which he was expelled when he applied for an exit visa for Israel.

The NCSJ said his wife, Galena Ragozinka, a ballerina, who is not Jewish, and who was demoted and subsequently resigned in protest, was told she could perform in Leningrad but not while she was under the "bad influence" of her husband.

United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim was urged this week to investigate "through an appropriate UN agency the penal conditions and institutions of the USSR" in which 40 Jewish prisoners of conscience are jailed. The plea was contained in a letter from Harold Ostroff and William Stern, president and executive secretary respectively of the Workmen's Circle. The two Jewish leaders also asked Waldheim to "appeal to the heirs of those who founded the USSR to grant amnesty to those now languishing in these dungeons of brutality and degradation."

Israel's Cabinet decided Sunday to establish a regional center in the Raffah approach, just below the southern tip of the Gaza Strip, to provide services for the new settlements in the region and for Israel defense units in and around the area. Israel Galilee, Minister Without Portfolio, told the Cabinet that plans call for settling 306 families in the regional center by 1975. Absorption Minister Natan Peled of Mapam voted against the plan. Mapam's official policy is that the settlement plan in the Raffah approach is politically and economically unwise.

**MRS. MEIR, SHAZAR: TRUMAN GREAT
FRIEND OF ISRAEL. JEWISH PEOPLE.**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Flags flew at half mast in Israel yesterday in mourning for former President Harry S. Truman who died Tuesday at the age of 88. President Zalman Shazar of Israel described President Truman as "a rare friend" and a "far-sighted man." President Shazar said, "The late President's sincere friendship and his understanding and sympathy for Israel were of central importance in some of the most critical moments of Israel's struggle for nationhood and thereafter. We share in the grief felt by the American people on the passing of one of its greatest servants and leaders."

Premier Golda Meir sent a personal message of condolence yesterday to Mrs. Harry S. Truman in which she asserted that the name of President Truman "will forever be linked with the restored sovereignty of our people." Mrs. Meir's message said: "Allow me to express my personal sorrow as well as that of the people of Israel on the passing of one of the greatest humanitarians of our time. He was all that a leader of a people should be. He will be remembered not only by the American people but by all mankind as one of the great men of this century... His blessed memory shall be cherished not only by Israel of today but by all generations to come...."

The Chief Rabbinate Council also sent a message of sympathy to the Truman family. The Council co-chairman, Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef eulogized the late President as "a righteous gentile" who helped strengthen Israel in its formative years.

Eliahu Eilat, who was Israel's Ambassador to the United States during the Truman administration told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that President Truman had a "far-reaching effect" on the development of the State of Israel. The 70-year-old diplomat cited four decisions by Truman which aided Israel's development: His pledge to include the town of Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba within Israel's borders; his support for the United Nations partition plan; his swift recognition of Israel; and his grants of large sums in economic aid to the Jewish State soon after its establishment.

RABIN, RAMATI PAY RESPECTS **Shazar May Represent Israel At** **Special Memorial Services In Jan.**

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 28 (JTA)--The respect and esteem which the people of Israel felt for the late President Harry S. Truman was demonstrated yesterday when two top ranking Israeli diplomats flew to Independence, Mo., to pay final respects to the former President. Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, and Shaul Ramati, Consul General of Israel for the Midwest, whose Consulate is in Chicago, visited the Truman Library where President Truman was lying in state.

Rabin and Ramati were the first foreign diplomats to view the flag-draped coffin and to stand in silent tribute to President Truman. They told the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle later that they had come on their own initiative "to demonstrate our feelings of respect and gratitude to President Truman." They did not visit the Truman family. The diplomats said they "wished to avoid intruding

on the family in their hour of grief." They are not attending the Truman funeral today.

An official memorial service will be held for President Truman in Washington, D.C. early in Jan. shortly after Congress reconvenes to which nations throughout the world will send representatives. It is believed that President Zalman Shazar of Israel will represent his country at these services. Rabin and Ramati were escorted to the Truman Library yesterday by Morton Sosland, president of the Kansas City Jewish Federation and David H. Goldstein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau here.

JEWISH LEADERS EXPRESS SORROW AT DEATH OF LESTER B. PEARSON

MONTREAL, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Two major Jewish organizations expressed grief today at the death of Lester B. Pearson, former Prime Minister of Canada and one of the architects of the historic United Nations partition plan that led to the establishment of Israel. Mr. Pearson, who died last night of cancer at the age of 75, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957 for his activity in 1956 during the Suez Canal crisis that led to the establishment of a United Nations Emergency Force to keep peace between Israel and Egypt. He was the President of the UN General Assembly in 1952.

Sol Kanee, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, issued a statement "on behalf of the Jewish community in Canada" expressing its deepest sympathies to the family of Mr. Pearson "in recognition of his lifetime of service" to humanity. The statement expressed sorrow at the passing of "a great friend of Israel and the Jewish people" and as the architect of the plan which resulted in the creation of the State of Israel." The statement also recalled that Mr. Pearson was sympathetic to "the Jewish community's pleas seeking asylum for the victims of the war" in Europe.

Philip Givens, QC, MPP, president of the Canadian Zionist Federation, expressed profound condolences to Mr. Pearson's family and recalled the diplomat's "monumental contributions to the people of Canada, the United Nations and the world community" which has assured his place in the history of the 20th century. The statement added that Mr. Pearson "conducted the brilliant negotiations that led to the establishment of the State of Israel by the United Nations on Nov. 29, 1947. Throughout his tenure in office he continually expressed concern "for the survival of the Jewish State. Canada has lost a remarkable citizen and Jews a good friend."

**ZIONIST, RABBINICAL GROUP, URGE
END OF NORTH VIETNAM BOMBING**

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA)--The Labor Zionist Alliance and the Rabbinical Assembly issued statements today denouncing the renewed bombing of North Vietnam and called for an immediate halt. Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, LZA president, declared that the bombings "will not provide any solutions nor will they bring peace a day closer. On the contrary, they threaten to rekindle and expand this war which everybody wants ended."

Dr. Shapiro called upon the U.S. government to "do whatever is necessary to reopen the negotiations" and urged "that the first step in that direction be the cessation of the bombing." A telegram to President Nixon signed by Rabbi Judah Naditch on behalf of the Rabbinical Assembly Executive Council urged immediate cessation of the bombing.



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Yaari had sharper words for Defense Minister Moshe Dayan who he charged, "does not gamble on the card of peace but rather on that of time, the Army and the eventual submission of the inhabitants of the territories." He said Dayan's hope was that the Arabs would come to accept Israeli control over the territories even if it takes another ten years. "If that is indeed the Dayan plan, then it is not a plan for peace," Yaari said. However, he added, he preferred to remain in the Alignment camp "for there is the chance that he (Dayan) might repent."

Beigin-Weizman Rift Heals

In another political development, the breach between Herut leader Menachem Beigin and the party's former No. 2 man, Gen. Ezer Weizman, appeared to be healed -- on Beigin's terms. Weizman resigned last week as chairman of the Herut executive after the party's 11th national convention elected a 250-member Central Committee made up largely of Beigin supporters. But Beigin and Weizman met last night at Beigin's home and reportedly reached an agreement whereby Beigin will fill Weizman's former post in addition to his overall leadership position in Herut.

Weizman, a former Air Force commander and former Transport Minister, was given the job of heading Herut election campaign headquarters, a sensitive and difficult job in view of the turbulence within the party as it begins campaigning for next year's Knesset elections. Beigin has named Knesset member Chaim Landau as executive party chairman. The new arrangements are expected to be confirmed by the Central Committee which holds its first meeting next Sunday.

MOVES TO REINTRODUCE BILLS BARRING MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS FOR USSR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Senate and House backers of legislation linking freedom of emigration to U.S.-Soviet trade are preparing to resubmit their bills jointly approximately two weeks after Congress convenes on Jan. 3.

Aides in the office of Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.) and Rep. Charles Vanik (D. Ohio) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that new support for their legislation is being sought from freshmen Congressmen. Five of the 76 Senators who cosponsored the Jackson Amendment have dropped out this session. Support among the 13 newly elected Senators is expected to more than offset this loss.

The Jackson Amendment, which would withhold most-favored-nation status and credit privileges from Communist nations which violate emigration rights, continues to enjoy a firm foothold in the Senate, where 51 constitutes a majority. The corresponding Vanik Bill has so far failed to clear the minimum majority mark of 218 in the House. Mark Tallman, administrative assistant to Vanik, attributes this lesser showing to a lack of publicity. "There is no heat in the House" for this legisla-

tion, he told the JTA. "Everyone assumes that all the action is with the Jackson Amendment in the Senate."

Last session the Vanik Bill was co-sponsored by 134 representatives when it was introduced at the same time as the Jackson Amendment on Oct. 4, 1972. All the legislation, including the Nixon Administration's East-West Trade Relations Act, must be resubmitted this session because it failed to pass before Congress adjourned.

Representative Vanik's office issued letters four days ago appealing for new support. So far five of the 69 freshmen Representatives have responded with pledges to co-sponsor the bill.

The East-West Trade Relations Act, introduced by Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D. Wash.), is crucial to the expansion of U.S.-Soviet trade. The Soviets insist upon most-favored-nation status before repaying some of the World War II lend-lease. If the USSR reneges on lend-lease, the U.S. insists there can be no trade expansion. Magnuson's office told the JTA it had set no date for reintroducing its trade legislation. According to an aide in Jackson's office, "The Nixon Administration is spending a lot of time trying to circumvent our move."

BACKGROUND TO NICARAGUA CATASTROPHE

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

Virtually all of Nicaragua's tiny Jewish community of about 120 persons lived in Managua and maintained a community center with a synagogue constructed about 15 years ago. The small, unpretentious one-story building of masonry construction was reportedly destroyed by the earthquake which leveled the Nicaraguan capital Saturday.

The center, distinguished by stars of David in its windows, was situated less than half a kilometer from the cathedral and occupied a corner on the main thoroughfare leading to the airport. Community members gathered there almost nightly for social purposes and conducted prayer services regularly Friday evenings and on holidays.

For the services, the men would sit at a long table covered with a white cloth. Their services were in the Ashkenazi style. The community never had a rabbi. Hebrew education for the children was conducted by a knowledgeable local person or occasionally by an itinerant teacher.

Most of Managua's Jews are of Polish and Rumanian origin, welcomed to Nicaragua early in the Nazi period by the late Luis Somoza, father of General Anastasio Somoza, commander of Nicaragua's army and a former President who is directing the rescue effort in Managua. The Somoza family always maintained warm relations with the Jewish community and Nicaragua's United Nations representatives nearly always supported Israel.

Since it became a state 25 years ago, Israel has been represented in Managua by an Honorary Consul selected from the Jewish community. The Israeli Ambassador in a nearby country was accredited to the Nicaraguan Government. At first it was the envoy in Mexico, later in Guatemala and now the Ambassador in Costa Rica which has a thriving Jewish community of about 1800 persons, nearly all of Eastern European origin.

Jewish Community Held In Esteem

The first Jewish settlers in Nicaragua came from France 100 years ago. They were boys in their upper teens who founded commercial establishments with ties to Paris and other French cities from which they had emigrated. Some of them returned to France, but most remained with their business, some of which continue in the hands of their descen-

dants and are in the forefront of Managuan retail commerce.

The majority had assimilated to a great extent before the arrival of the first Eastern Europeans in the late 1920's. Sons of several mixed marriages rose to high positions in the Government. Their pride in their Jewish origin was reflected during Israel's victory in the Six-Day War.

The Eastern European emigrants arrived virtually penniless in Nicaragua. Some of them pioneered in the textile industry and others participated in modern construction and hotel development in Managua. Most Nicaraguan Jews remained small-time traders. Presumably both the wealthy and not-so-well-off lost their possessions, if not their lives, in the catastrophe.

Altogether, the community from its very beginnings held the respect and even esteem of many Nicaraguans and was considered a valued if tiny segment of that nation. The Nicaraguan Jewish community is a member of the Central American Jewish Federation which, besides Costa Rica, consists of Guatemala with about 1500 Jews, El Salvador with about 300, Honduras with only 100 divided between two cities, and Panama, with about 3200 Jews, the largest in the Central American-Panama area.

PANOV, TARRASUK, GIVEN WARNINGS

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA)--The National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today it had learned that Valery Panov, the ousted member of the Kirov Ballet, and Leonid Tarrasuk, former curator of the Heritage Museum of Leningrad had been summoned by the KGB secret police and warned they would be prosecuted for "libeling the state" if they did not stop making overseas calls for assistance.

Both have attracted particular attention and interest from figures in the arts in other countries who have sent appeals and expressions of support on their behalf to Soviet officials. The NCSJ also said Panov had been told he could perform in provincial towns but not in Leningrad, apparently with the Kirov Ballet Company from which he was expelled when he applied for an exit visa for Israel.

The NCSJ said his wife, Galena Ragozinka, a ballerina, who is not Jewish, and who was demoted and subsequently resigned in protest, was told she could perform in Leningrad but not while she was under the "bad influence" of her husband.

United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim was urged this week to investigate "through an appropriate UN agency the penal conditions and institutions of the USSR" in which 40 Jewish prisoners of conscience are jailed. The plea was contained in a letter from Harold Ostroff and William Stern, president and executive secretary respectively of the Workmen's Circle. The two Jewish leaders also asked Waldheim to "appeal to the heirs of those who founded the USSR to grant amnesty to those now languishing in these dungeons of brutality and degradation."

Israel's Cabinet decided Sunday to establish a regional center in the Raffah approach, just below the southern tip of the Gaza Strip, to provide services for the new settlements in the region and for Israel defense units in and around the area. Israel Galilee, Minister Without Portfolio, told the Cabinet that plans call for settling 306 families in the regional center by 1975. Absorption Minister Natan Peled of Mapam voted against the plan. Mapam's official policy is that the settlement plan in the Raffah approach is politically and economically unwise.

**MRS. MEIR, SHAZAR: TRUMAN GREAT
FRIEND OF ISRAEL. JEWISH PEOPLE.**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Flags flew at half mast in Israel yesterday in mourning for former President Harry S. Truman who died Tuesday at the age of 88. President Zalman Shazar of Israel described President Truman as "a rare friend" and a "far-sighted man." President Shazar said, "The late President's sincere friendship and his understanding and sympathy for Israel were of central importance in some of the most critical moments of Israel's struggle for nationhood and thereafter. We share in the grief felt by the American people on the passing of one of its greatest servants and leaders."

Premier Golda Meir sent a personal message of condolence yesterday to Mrs. Harry S. Truman in which she asserted that the name of President Truman "will forever be linked with the restored sovereignty of our people." Mrs. Meir's message said: "Allow me to express my personal sorrow as well as that of the people of Israel on the passing of one of the greatest humanitarians of our time. He was all that a leader of a people should be. He will be remembered not only by the American people but by all mankind as one of the great men of this century... His blessed memory shall be cherished not only by Israel of today but by all generations to come...."

The Chief Rabbinate Council also sent a message of sympathy to the Truman family. The Council co-chairman, Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef eulogized the late President as "a righteous gentile" who helped strengthen Israel in its formative years.

Eliahu Eilat, who was Israel's Ambassador to the United States during the Truman administration told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that President Truman had a "far-reaching effect" on the development of the State of Israel. The 70-year-old diplomat cited four decisions by Truman which aided Israel's development: His pledge to include the town of Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba within Israel's borders; his support for the United Nations partition plan; his swift recognition of Israel; and his grants of large sums in economic aid to the Jewish State soon after its establishment.

RABIN, RAMATI PAY RESPECTS **Shazar May Represent Israel At** **Special Memorial Services In Jan.**

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 28 (JTA)--The respect and esteem which the people of Israel felt for the late President Harry S. Truman was demonstrated yesterday when two top ranking Israeli diplomats flew to Independence, Mo., to pay final respects to the former President. Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, and Shaul Ramati, Consul General of Israel for the Midwest, whose Consulate is in Chicago, visited the Truman Library where President Truman was lying in state.

Rabin and Ramati were the first foreign diplomats to view the flag-draped coffin and to stand in silent tribute to President Truman. They told the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle later that they had come on their own initiative "to demonstrate our feelings of respect and gratitude to President Truman." They did not visit the Truman family. The diplomats said they "wished to avoid intruding

on the family in their hour of grief." They are not attending the Truman funeral today.

An official memorial service will be held for President Truman in Washington, D.C. early in Jan. shortly after Congress reconvenes to which nations throughout the world will send representatives. It is believed that President Zalman Shazar of Israel will represent his country at these services. Rabin and Ramati were escorted to the Truman Library yesterday by Morton Sosland, president of the Kansas City Jewish Federation and David H. Goldstein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau here.

JEWISH LEADERS EXPRESS SORROW AT DEATH OF LESTER B. PEARSON

MONTREAL, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Two major Jewish organizations expressed grief today at the death of Lester B. Pearson, former Prime Minister of Canada and one of the architects of the historic United Nations partition plan that led to the establishment of Israel. Mr. Pearson, who died last night of cancer at the age of 75, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957 for his activity in 1956 during the Suez Canal crisis that led to the establishment of a United Nations Emergency Force to keep peace between Israel and Egypt. He was the President of the UN General Assembly in 1952.

Sol Kamee, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, issued a statement "on behalf of the Jewish community in Canada" expressing its deepest sympathies to the family of Mr. Pearson "in recognition of his lifetime of service" to humanity. The statement expressed sorrow at the passing of "a great friend of Israel and the Jewish people" and as the architect of the plan which resulted in the creation of the State of Israel." The statement also recalled that Mr. Pearson was sympathetic to "the Jewish community's pleas seeking asylum for the victims of the war" in Europe.

Philip Givens, QC, MPP, president of the Canadian Zionist Federation, expressed profound condolences to Mr. Pearson's family and recalled the diplomat's "monumental contributions to the people of Canada, the United Nations and the world community" which has assured his place in the history of the 20th century. The statement added that Mr. Pearson "conducted the brilliant negotiations that led to the establishment of the State of Israel by the United Nations on Nov. 29, 1947. Throughout his tenure in office he continually expressed concern for the survival of the Jewish State. Canada has lost a remarkable citizen and Jews a good friend."

**ZIONIST, RABBINICAL GROUP, URGE
END OF NORTH VIETNAM BOMBING**

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA)--The Labor Zionist Alliance and the Rabbinical Assembly issued statements today denouncing the renewed bombing of North Vietnam and called for an immediate halt. Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, LZA president, declared that the bombings "will not provide any solutions nor will they bring peace a day closer. On the contrary, they threaten to rekindle and expand this war which everybody wants ended."

Dr. Shapiro called upon the U.S. government to "do whatever is necessary to reopen the negotiations" and urged "that the first step in that direction be the cessation of the bombing." A telegram to President Nixon signed by Rabbi Judah Naditch on behalf of the Rabbinical Assembly Executive Council urged immediate cessation of the bombing.