



daily news bulletin

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Jewish Agency General Assembly Opens PINCUS TO APPEAL FOR GREATER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM WORLD JEWRY TO MEET COST OF IMMIGRATION FROM USSR

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency's second annual General Assembly which opens here tonight and continues for three days will hear an appeal from Louis Pincus for greater contributions from world Jewry to meet the cost of Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union. The chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive is scheduled to say in his keynote address at the formal opening that the Agency's budget for 1973 is based on a forecast of 70,000 immigrants this year, most of them from the USSR.

According to Pincus, last year's contributions were praiseworthy but they did not match either Israel's needs or the capabilities of world Jewry. The Jewish Agency was reconstituted 18 months ago to embrace the United Jewish Appeal and the Keren Hayesod along with the World Zionist Organization.

President Zaiman Shazar, Premier Golda Meir, former Premier David Ben-Gurion and Israel's two Chief Rabbis are among the dignitaries who will share the dais at tonight's opening of the General Assembly. The opening session will be chaired by Max Fisher of Detroit, chairman of the Jewish Agency's board of governors.

The central item on the three-day agenda is next year's budget which will be presented tomorrow by Jewish Agency Treasurer Arye Dulzin. Speakers scheduled to address the plenary session include Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon and Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir. The Assembly will devote eight hours to nine committee meetings on immigration, housing, settlement, youth aliya and other aspects of Jewish Agency work.

20 IRAQI JEWS GIVEN EXIT VISAS; FAMILIES OF EXECUTED JEWS EITHER IN HIDING OR HAVE LEFT COUNTRY

PARIS, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Diplomatic sources here said today that 20 Iraqi Jews have been given exit visas by Iraqi emigration authorities. This followed reports last week that nine Jews imprisoned in Iraq since last fall were recently executed. The sources said that the families of three of the victims have reportedly left the country and the families of the other six were presumably hiding in Baghdad. The homes of the nine have been covered with signs reading, "The former residents have fled."

The sources attributed the issuance of exit visas to a power struggle between the Iraqi secret police, the army and the general security services. They did not elaborate. The Union of Jewish Students meeting here last Thursday, protested the executions in a cable to President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr of Iraq.

Protests Against Executions

(In Copenhagen, the Danish League for Human Rights cabled the Iraqi government today protesting the recent killing of nine imprisoned Jews. Signatories included Jens Lillielund, who the Danish Jewish community honored last year as a "friend of Israel.")

(In New York, the American Jewish Congress has called on the government of Iraq to confirm or deny the reported executions. In a telegram to Abdul Karim al-Shaikhly, Iraqi Ambassador to the United Nations, the AJCongress also called on Iraq to "publicly establish that the prisoners remain in safe custody and to provide immediate access to them by an impartial body such as the International Red Cross." The telegram, signed by Judge Justine Wise Polter, vice-president of the AJCongress, added: "Anything less will give credence to these reports and call forth upon your government the most severe condemnation for an act of barbarism and brutality that must shock the conscience of the world.")

(A spokesman for the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that there was no information regarding the reported executions. In Washington, the State Department also said that it had no information.)

Disturbing Reports Of Torture

(There has been no official comment in Israel on the reports of the executions. A source in Jerusalem said today: "Very disturbing reports have reached Jerusalem of the physical torture of the Jewish prisoners held in Baghdad and there is reason to believe that some of them are no longer alive. There are also reports of mass expropriation of property from the Iraqi Jewish community reminiscent of the confiscations which preceded the show trials and hangings (of Jews) in 1969.")

KAHANE ARRAIGNED FOR INCITING ARABS TO LEAVE ISRAEL; FACES FIVE YEARS IF CONVICTED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Jewish Defense League, was arraigned by a Jerusalem magistrate under Israel's seditious laws yesterday for incitement in connection with the JDL's campaign to get Israeli Arabs to leave the country. Rabbi Kahane, who was released on IL 5000 bail, faces a jail sentence of up to five years if convicted.

His arraignment stemmed from a JDL letter-writing campaign offering to pay Arabs to get out of Israel. Hundreds of letters were allegedly mailed. Meanwhile, legal sources here said Rabbi Kahane would go on trial shortly for his alleged role in JDL efforts to smuggle arms out of Israel to conduct a private war with Arab terrorists in Europe. He was arraigned on the arms smuggling charges several months ago.

HUSSEIN TO HAVE FAR-RANGING, TOP LEVEL DISCUSSIONS DURING WASHINGTON VISIT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (JTA)--King Hussein of Jordan will have far-ranging discussions with leading Congressmen and senior American government officials during his five-day visit to Washington, beginning with a conference tomorrow morning at the White House with President Nixon.

State Department spokesman John King said that Hussein, who arrives this afternoon, will meet with Secretary of State William P. Rogers at the State Department following the White House meeting. He indicated that before his expected departure from Washington Friday, the Jordanian ruler will also see Pentagon officials.

King declined to say whether "new initiatives" regarding a Middle East settlement will emerge in the discussions or whether the United States will

provide the Jordanian government with a new grant of \$5 million in economic aid, the sum it gave Jordan for the year which ends June 30.

No New Proposals By British

State Department officials have made it clear that the top-level British delegation in Washington late last week offered no new proposals on the Middle East. British Prime Minister Edward Heath himself said publicly in an NBC interview that "We have no new proposals from the point of view of a blueprint to put forward" and that he did not advance any in his discussions with President Nixon on the Middle East.

Heath observed that Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home "obviously" was discussing it in "more detail" with Secretary of State Rogers, but a Department official said no proposals came from the Foreign Secretary. The U.S. officials did inform the British of American ideas regarding the Middle East, the source said, but he declined to disclose them.

IL 140M JETPORT IN EILAT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Israel will build an IL 140 million jet airport in Eilat capable of handling intercontinental jets, it was announced here yesterday. Yehuda Rabin, chief of the Civil Aviation Administration, said construction would start this April and the airport would be completed within five years. He also reported that IL 5 million has been spent to resurface the runways at Jerusalem's Atarot Airport so that it can handle medium-size aircraft of the Super Caravelle and Boeing 727 types. The Jerusalem airport is scheduled to open next month.

Rabin said the Eilat airport would service intercontinental jets flying directly from Europe and other points. He said it would be built at one of two sites, four or 11 kilometers from Eilat. The runways will be laid out so that jets approaching from the Red Sea will not fly over Eilat's resort hotel area and will not interfere with traffic to Jordan's Aqaba Airport. Rabin said that plans for the Eilat air terminal building called for the most modern equipment and facilities in compliance with international standards.

He conceded that scheduled international airlines have been hesitant about landing at Jerusalem because of the political implications but that there was every indication that charter flights would make good use of the improved facilities. Rabin also disclosed plans for the construction of an airport about 17 kilometers south-east of Beersheba which he said may subsequently become an alternative to Lod, at present Israel's only international airport.

FULL ACCEPTANCE OF SHULCHAN ARUCH, HALACHA, BASIS FOR JOINING COUNCIL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Rabbis who do not accept halacha and shulchan aruch (code of religious law) in their entirety will be excluded from the World Rabbinical Council which Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren plans to set up in Jerusalem to deal with halachic problems arising in Israel and the diaspora.

A re-reading of the Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi's remarks at a press conference here last Wednesday indicated that he set total acceptance as the criteria of eligibility. Rabbi Goren, when asked if he would invite non-Orthodox rabbis, replied "There is one nation, one Torah, one halacha and one shulchan aruch." Anyone who rejects any part of this cannot be eligible.

YAIR ARAN NAMED FIRST ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH VIETNAM

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Yair Aran, a 60-year-old German-born diplomat has been named Israel's first Ambassador to South Vietnam, it was announced yesterday. His appointment was approved by the Cabinet and will be made official after the Saigon government formally agrees to his nomination. Aran, presently the Israeli Consul General in Bombay, was educated at Heidelberg and at the Sorbonne. He served for many years as executive vice-president for administration of the Hebrew University.

SHMUEL LAPIN, YIVO OFFICIAL, DEAD AT 43

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Shmuel Lapin, since 1966 the executive secretary of YIVO, the Institute for Jewish Research, died yesterday at Hillcrest General Hospital in Queens after a long illness. He was 43. He was the son of Ber Lapin, a Yiddish poet.

Born in New York, he was educated at City College and at Columbia University where he received a masters degree in comparative literature for his thesis on the Yiddish poets H. Leivick, Jacob Glatstein and Itzik Fefer. From 1960-66 Lapin was national director of the Labor Zionist Farband in Canada.

As YIVO executive secretary, Lapin was instrumental in fostering the growth of the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies which offers courses in Yiddish and East European Jewish culture and the Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish literature and culture, conducted jointly by YIVO and Columbia University.

PROMYSLOV URGED TO HELP END EXIT TAX

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Assemblyman Albert H. Blumenthal (D-L) met today with Vladimir Promyslov, Mayor of Moscow, and urged him to use his influence as a member of the Soviet Central Committee towards eliminating the prohibitive diploma tax. Blumenthal described the tax as "a ransom, a means of holding Jews in a country hostile to them, from which only the very few can manage to leave."

At a private meeting with Promyslov arranged by Mayor John V. Lindsay, Blumenthal voiced his alarm that the Soviet Union would disrupt the growing detente between great nations by its repressive treatment of its Jewish citizens. He further urged Promyslov to work to halt the harassment, jailing, removal from jobs and intimidation of Jews who seek to emigrate.

'RED ORCHESTRA' FILM SHARPLY CRITICIZED

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 5 (JTA)--A West German documentary film on the "Red Orchestra," the World War II Soviet espionage network in Western Europe that was headed by Leopold Trepper, was sharply criticized today by Trepper's wife. Mrs. Luba Trepper, visiting Holland on behalf of the Dutch Trepper Defense Committee, called the film, shown on local television, "calumnious." She said it portrayed the Germans "too favorably" and was "proof that neo-Nazism is again tolerated in West Germany."

Trepper, living in Warsaw, has been denied an exit visa by Polish authorities. In the current issue of the Dutch weekly Haagse Post, Trepper criticized the German documentary for "inaccuracies." Similar criticism was made by Gilles Perrault, head of the French Trepper Defense Committee and author of the book "The Red Orchestra." In an interview in the Dutch daily Het Parool, he said the documentary was made "with the preconceived commercial intention to sell it to former Nazi-occupied West European countries."

MAPAM FACTIONALIZED BY THOSE WHO WANT TO REMAIN IN ALIGNMENT AND THOSE WHO SEEK INDEPENDENT COURSE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (JTA)--A sharp division in Mapam between factions that want to maintain its four-year-old alignment with Premier Golda Meir's Labor Party and those who want to dissolve it was perpetuated in the new 341-member Central Committee elected here last night. The pro-Alignment forces, representing Mapam's veteran leadership, retained a majority--68.5 percent of the delegates. But the younger elements who want Mapam to chart an independent course captured 31.5 percent which constitutes a powerful minority.

Their strength was demonstrated in a 268-122 vote in the Mapam Council in favor of a resolution barring any Mapam representative in a Cabinet, Knesset or Histadrut post from serving more than two terms. This means that party veterans such as Yaacov Hazan and Meir Yaari will have to vacate their Knesset seats unless the Central Committee agrees to make an exception in their cases.

Beginning Of The End For Mapam?

Commenting on the outcome of last night's Council meeting, Hazan observed that "Mapam is on the verge of creating individual factions and this might turn out to be the beginning of Mapam's end." Hazan said he would ask himself "if it is better to be in a small party with factions or, under such conditions, be part of a large party." His remark was seen as a hint that he might support Mapam's absorption by the Labor Party, ending its 25 years of existence as an independent faction.

The Council also decided last night to continue Mapam's three secretarial posts--a general party secretary, a political secretary and a secretary of the Central Committee. In view of Yaari's decision to resign, the post of general secretary is expected to go to Meir Talmi of Kibbutz Mishmar Haemek. Naftali Feder is expected to be nominated for the post of political secretary and his confirmation for a second term seems assured when the Council meets.

Naftali Ben Moshe, who is secretary of the Central Committee, reportedly wants to give up that post because he opposes the Alignment. However, he is said to be under pressure to accept the nomination for another term. A rival contestant is Ephraim Rosen, son of Deputy Absorption Minister Shlomo Rosen.

BRAZILIAN DIPLOMAT SEEKS STRONGER LINKS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Mario Gibson Barboza of Brazil called on President Zalman Shazar this morning at the start of his four-day official visit to Israel. He told reporters that he came to strengthen links between his country and Israel. Barboza visited Cairo last week.

Israeli observers discounted the possibility that the Brazilian diplomat intended to be active in mediation between Israel and the Arab states. They regard his visit as a good-will gesture in line with Brazil's policy of broadening its diplomatic contacts.

Yitzhak Harkavi, Israel's Ambassador to Brazil who returned here to be on hand for Barboza's visit, told reporters today that Brazil has consistently maintained a neutral policy in the Middle East. Harkavi said Brazil has not been as friendly to Israel as some of the

smaller Latin American countries but noted that relations on both sides have always been correct.

Agreements Expected To Be Signed

Barboza held a working session with Foreign Minister Abba Eban this morning and was Eban's dinner guest this evening. It is believed that their discussions included Israel's quest for reciprocal air landing rights. Brazil, so far, has turned down all requests for landing rights for El Al at Rio de Janeiro. In that respect Brazil is believed to be bowing to heavy pressure on the part of some Arab countries. The Arabs have threatened to cancel the landing rights of Varig, Brazil's national airline, if the Israeli airline is accorded landing rights in Brazil.

While in Cairo, Barboza signed an agreement with the Egyptian government which permits the Patrobas oil company of Brazil to prospect for oil in Egypt. His official statement at the end of his Cairo visit reaffirmed Brazil's adherence to Security Council Resolution 242.

The Brazilian Foreign Minister is expected to sign agreements here for increased scientific and technical cooperation with Israel. Israeli agronomists and irrigation engineers have won praise in Brazil for their successful work in the difficult terrain of northeastern Brazil. Israel operates a post-graduate course for agriculturalists in northern Brazil.

Barboza was accompanied on his trip by Oswaldo Aranha a Brazilian industrialist and a son of the late Oswaldo Aranha who was president of the United Nations General Assembly in Nov. 1947 when it voted to partition Palestine.

MOSCOW ACTIVIST ASSAILS ANTI-SEMITIC BOOK

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Mikhail Agursky is a cybernetics engineer, and a Moscow activist. The Nov. 16, 1973 issue of The New York Review of Books published a long article by him, which was taken from the USSR, reviewing the anti-Semitic novel "Beware--Zionism!" Yesterday, Agursky issued a statement via telephone from Moscow to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry excoriating a recent novel, "The Promised Land," by Yuri Kolesnikov, excerpts of which appeared in the Sept. and Oct. issues of the Soviet magazine "Oktibr."

The novel alleged that the liquidation of six million Jews was part of an arrangement between the Zionists and the Nazis and that Mussolini and Eichmann were Zionist agents. In his statement to the SSST, Agursky said: "This novel releases the Nazis from their responsibility for this massacre. All Soviet press is strictly regulated, and such a novel could not be published without an official approval. The mere fact of publishing this novel is very alarming since the Soviet officials are longing to rehabilitate Nazi Germany. Nevertheless, this fact shows very clearly the powerful circles in Russia which seek to represent the Second World War as a result of a Jewish plot and to rehabilitate Nazis.

"The Soviet leadership is likely not to be able to restrain these circles. It is a great potential danger to all Soviet Jews. I make a strong protest against the article in the Soviet press. Please publish my statement."

Research into the genetic traits of the Jewish ethnic groups in Israel, begun by the late Dr. Haim Sheba, will be continued and expanded through a IL 50,000 grant from Malben, a subsidiary of the Joint Distribution Committee, it was announced yesterday in Tel Aviv by Samuel L. Haber, JDC executive vice-chairman. The research program is conducted by the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer Hospital.

