



daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XL - Fifty-Sixth Year

Wednesday, February 14, 1973

No. 32

EBAN: ISRAEL HAS 'APPREHENSION BORDERING ON CERTAINTY' THAT 10 JEWS IN IRAQ HAVE DIED IN PRISON

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that Israel had "apprehensions bordering on certainty" that ten Jews imprisoned in Iraq have died in prison. Eban said that Israel's apprehensions stemmed from reports from various sources and were increased by events similar to those which preceded the show trials and public hangings of nine Jews in Iraq in 1969.

The Foreign Minister made his remarks in the Knesset in reply to a question from MK Yitzhak Navon. He said "The confiscation of the property of those arrested--similar to the steps taken in 1969--and the methodical prevarication of the Iraqi authorities in imparting details concerning the fate and whereabouts of the detainees, enhance our apprehensions almost to the point of certainty" that the prisoners are dead.

Eban noted that international efforts on behalf of the detainees began last Oct. when news of their arrests first surfaced. He said "appeals have been made by governments--among them some which do not maintain relations with Israel but consented to act on humanitarian grounds." Eban said that statements issued by the Iraqi Embassies in Paris and Rome when pressed for information were "nebulous and evasive."

If The 40 Are Alive, Let Them Be Seen

The statements denied that any Jews had been detained on political or religious grounds or that the detainees had been put to death in prison.

"Only if the Iraqi authorities enable authoritative organizations or persons to see the 10 detainees alive will proof be furnished that they are alive," Eban declared.

He listed the names of the Jewish prisoners as: Abdul Aziz Jacob; Shaul Rejouan; Jacob Rejouan; Ezra Hazem; Shaul Shemesh; Victor Eza David; Azouri Shemesh; Naji Zitiat; Salim Zedaka; and Ezra Shemtov. Eban said that international efforts were continuing to seek the exodus of "the tiny remnant" of Iraq's Jewry and the Jews in other Arab countries.

Shmuel Divon, director of the Arab and Soviet Jewry section of the Foreign Ministry, told the Zionist General Council meeting here last night that three Jews were still imprisoned in Syria, including Albert Elia, the secretary of the Beirut Jewish community who was kidnapped from Lebanon over a year ago. Divon said efforts on behalf of Jews in Arab countries bore some fruit in Egypt where 88 Jews were released from prison and thousands allowed to leave the country. He said the remaining Jews in Egypt were not persecuted.

EXIT VISA FOR JEWISH ACTIVIST

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 13 (JTA)--According to sources in Moscow, Aleksei Tumerman, the Jewish activist who was detained a week ago by Soviet secret police after having been seen in the company of foreign journalists, left the Soviet Union yesterday for Israel. Tumerman, one of the most active advocates of emigration to Israel, was reportedly accompanied by his wife.

See special story on Soviet Jewry P. 3

FOUR TERRORISTS CAPTURED, FIFTH KILLED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Four terrorists were captured and a fifth was killed in an encounter with an Israeli patrol near the Jordanian border over the weekend, an Army spokesman disclosed last night. Israeli authorities believe the captured terrorists were members of a gang that had been operating in the Hebron hills during the past three years but more recently went into hiding.

The gang is believed to have been responsible for the Katyusha rocket shelling of Jerusalem in Dec. 1970 and the mining of a road which caused the deaths of four Israeli Army officers near Beth Jubrin in April 1971. Army sources said the terrorists emerged from hiding with the intention of fleeing across the Jordan River. The mothers of two of them were used to scout the Jericho road to see if it was safe for them to pass. A large arms cache was confiscated near Jericho after the gang was captured.

HITLER RECORDS SOLD IN SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Records containing speeches by Adolf Hitler are being sold by a German bookshop in Johannesburg. The authorities will be asked to ban them, as they banned similar Hitler records in the past. The speeches appear in a series of documentary records, produced in Lichtenstein. They include such diatribes as Hitler's "One People, One Nation, One Fuhrer." It is significant that these records are banned throughout Germany. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies, investigating the matter, said it will make the necessary representations to the authorities. When the Board voiced similar complaints about German recordings which contained extracts from Hitler's speeches in 1967, the records were banned by the Publications Control Board.

YESHIVA YOUTH SUSPECTED OF SETTING FIRE TO MISSIONARY PRINTING SHOP

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Jerusalem police said today they were looking for a 15-year-old yeshiva student in connection with an arson attempt at a missionary printing shop in the Baka quarter. Residents of the building that houses the "Mt. Zion Reporter," a missionary monthly, found the place partially burned yesterday. Kerosine had been poured in several places in the shop but the fire apparently extinguished itself before it could spread.

Police spokesman Avraham Turjeman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Jewish Defense League was not suspected of setting this fire. Four JDL members and two yeshiva students were arrested last week on suspicion of setting fire to the International Center for the Holy Scriptures, a missionary center on the Mount of Olives.

Mayor Teddy Kolek told a City Council meeting that Premier Golda Meir was interested in finding legal or legislative means to curb the activities of Christian missionaries in Israel. The problem has been exacerbated, he said, by the appearance in Israel of the "Jews for Jesus" movement.

ISRAELI POUND JOINS U.S. DOLLAR IN TEN PERCENT DEVALUATION

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13 (JTA)--The ten percent devaluation of the U.S. dollar announced last night by Secretary of the Treasury George P. Schultz in Washington had repercussions today in Israel. A

ten percent devaluation of the Israel pound was announced despite statements by top Israeli monetary authorities as late as this morning that the IL would stand firm.

Experts here said it was too early to assess the full impact of the dollar devaluation on Israel's economy. (A spokesman for the Israel Discount Bank in New York told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that IL 4.20 to \$1 remained the official rate of exchange as of today.)

Early indications were that the dollar devaluation would have both good and bad effects on Israel's economy. Monetary circles pointed out that since the IL is pegged to the U.S. dollar, a de facto devaluation was unavoidable with respect to European and Japanese currencies.

This means that Israeli exports to non-dollar countries will gain an advantage but imports of European and Japanese goods will be more expensive. About 12 percent of Israel's imports come from the U.S. and will benefit from the cheaper dollar. Another 19 percent comes from Britain where the position of the pound sterling is still uncertain. As a result of the dollar devaluation, Israel has become one of the cheapest countries for European tourists to visit but more expensive for Americans.

Concerned About Effects In Wage-Price Spiral

Israeli economic planners waging war on inflation were concerned today over the effect the dollar devaluation will have on the wage-price spiral in Israel at a time when most labor contracts are under negotiation. The higher price of imported goods from non-dollar countries--notably West Germany and Japan--is expected to result in demands for higher wages by Israeli workers.

Most observers believe that Israel is on the verge of a new round of price increases despite the insistence in ministerial circles that price hikes are unnecessary because Israel has a sufficient stock of goods for the time being. Consumer items in heavy demand here include cars, television sets and electrical appliances from West Germany and other European countries and the Japanese Subaru cars which have become popular with Israeli drivers.

Reparations Recipients Will Benefit

The dollar devaluation will benefit Israelis receiving reparations payments from West Germany. They will now get more Israeli pounds for their marks which could fuel the inflationary spiral. Israel presently takes in almost three quarters of a billion marks through reparations payments which are the equivalent of IL 1 billion. Israeli financial circles said today that some sort of saving program would be offered to recipients of reparations payments so that they would not immediately convert their German currency into Israeli pounds.

Israeli banks continued to exchange foreign currency today at rates based on last Friday's quotations with changes to compensate for the dollar devaluation. With European money markets closed at least until tomorrow, import and export transactions here were suspended today. Israelis leaving the country and incoming tourists were not limited in the amounts of foreign currency they could exchange. Israelis, however, are subject to the limitations of the permanent foreign currency regulations.

MOVE ON TO HAVE ZOA REJOIN AZF

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA)--The hitherto smooth progress of the Zionist General Council

(Actions Committee) meeting ran into storm warnings today over reported efforts by World Zionist Organization Executive Chairman Louis Pincus to push through a resolution making membership in their national Zionist federations mandatory for all Zionist parties and movements.

The resolution would be directed primarily at the Zionist Organization of America which bolted the American Zionist Federation in Feb. 1972. The ZOA has indicated it would fight any move to force it back into line and is seeking support from the Mizrahi movement which it hopes will be sufficient to defeat the measure. Under the WZO constitution, the resolution would need a 2/3 majority to pass.

The Mizrahi in Britain is in a position similar to that of the ZOA in the U.S. The Religious Zionist Party is not a member of the British Zionist Federation. The Mizrahi caucus was reported debating today whether to support or oppose the move by Pincus.

JACOBSON CITED FOR WORK IN BRICHAH

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive vice-president of United Hias Service, was presented with the "Fighters For Israel's Independence" citation and silver pin by the Deputy Consul General of Israel in New York, Moshe Arad, for his significant role from 1944 to 1948 in aiding Jewish survivors of the holocaust to reach Palestine from Eastern Europe after their liberation from the Nazis.

This mass movement, known by the Hebrew name of "Brichah" (literally "flight"), involved not only single individuals but also whole families with children and elderly persons. At that time, the British locked the gates to Palestine to Jewish immigration, and other countries did not open their gates to these refugees.

As the head of the Joint Distribution Committee, Jacobson was instrumental in arranging to keep the borders of Czechoslovakia open to Jews fleeing from Poland after the Allied occupation. His task was to see to it that refugees who crossed the border into Czechoslovakia were cared for and sent on to Mediterranean ports from which they were transported to Palestine.

SOVIET EMIGRANT DESCRIBES SEVERE HARASSMENT OF BROTHER IN THE USSR

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Dr. Valeri Lapidus, 42, who emigrated from the Soviet Union to Israel last May, disclosed today that his brother Dr. Victor Lapidus, is undergoing extreme harassment by Soviet authorities. A senior researcher at the building research station of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Valeri Lapidus told the American Society for Technion here that his brother had tried numerous methods to obtain an exit visa for Israel, all without success.

He said he first applied for a visa last Aug. and received permission to leave upon payment of 25,700 rubles (about \$30,000), but was later told he would not have to pay the ransom if he left within 10 days. He and his wife then quit their jobs, his 11-year-old daughter withdrew from school, and his 19-year-old daughter and her husband were expelled from the university. They were also dispossessed from their apartment. In addition, he paid 900 rubles for a visa for each member of his family. A month later, however, he was told it had all been a mistake and that he would not be permitted to leave.

Valeri Lapidus is in the U.S. to meet with Congressmen and with United Automobile Workers Union representatives to obtain help for his 51-year-old brother, who worked in Moscow's automobile industry research institute.

40 JURISTS, LAWYERS, APPEAL TO USSR LEADERS TO GRANT AMNESTY TO 40 JEWS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Forty jurists and lawyers, including three former presidents of the American Bar Association and the deans of 17 law schools, have appealed to the Soviet government's three top leaders to grant amnesty to an estimated 40 Soviet Jews now confined in prisons and "other institutions." The appeal was cabled to Moscow last Saturday but was not revealed publicly until today when former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, one of the signers, announced it at a press conference and made the text and the list of prisoners available.

Appearing at the Mayflower Hotel on behalf of the signers, in addition to Goldberg, were John Carey, a New York lawyer who is director of the United States Institute of Human Rights, and Adrian Fisher, Dean of Georgetown University Law School and a former State Department official.

Both in the cable and in his response to questions, Goldberg said that the appeal was based on humanitarian grounds and was not motivated by "hostility" to the Soviet Union. The cable was addressed to Nikolai V. Podgorny, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Aleksei N. Kosygin, chairman of the Council of Ministers and Leonid I. Brezhnev, First Secretary of the Communist Party.

Appeal Does Not Exclude Non-Jews

Noting that the signers are "of various racial origins and religious persuasions," the cable said that the appeal was being made "on the occasion" of the Soviet Union's 50th anniversary. "We are encouraged," it said, that the Soviet Presidium had granted "partial amnesty" in connection with the anniversary for Soviet citizens but "regretably this amnesty does not extend to activists such as these Soviet Jews." The cable continued, "All of us are dedicated to peace, wish to lessen international tensions, and support the growing detente between the Soviet Union and the United States."

Asked by a newsman about dissidents in the Soviet Union other than Jews who may need assistance, Goldberg replied that "Our appeal does not exclude them. We are concerned with all political oppression wherever it exists, in the Soviet Union or even in our own country." The Soviet Jews have a "special problem" he continued, which "grows out of a simple desire to emigrate to Israel" or, in the cases of "a few" who wish to live in the Soviet Union in accord with Jewish culture and religious heritage.

WOMEN BUY \$1M IN ISRAEL BONDS

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Some 600 leaders of the National Women's Division of the Israel Bond Organization from all areas of the United States and Canada purchased a record total of approximately \$1 million in Israel Bonds at the International Premiere of the all-Israel Fashion Show held here.

The Premiere, sponsored by the Women's Division, was the first in a series of major events celebrating Israel's 25th anniversary being held this month in Miami in preparation for the 1973 International Inaugural Conference of Israel Bonds. The Conference will culminate on March 3 with a dinner honoring Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization. Israeli Premier Golda Meir will deliver a special address. The Conference will launch a worldwide campaign for the sale of \$360 million in Israel Bonds in 1973 to meet the increased economic needs of Israel.

The new fashion show will travel to 60 communities throughout the U.S. and Canada as part of the 1973 Women's Division annual campaign for Israel Bond sales, headed by Mrs. Jan Peerce as national chairman.

25-HOUR BROADCAST ON ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Radio Station WMCA will celebrate Israel's 25th anniversary with a 25-hour broadcast Feb. 26. The program, "Israel 25," will begin with a live report from Israel focusing on the history and struggles that led to the birth of the country. The broadcast will present facts and discussions on various aspects of life in Israel, including the relations between Ashkenazim and Sephardim and the Orthodoxy and secular groups. Other programs will provide interviews with Israeli artists, authors, columnists and diplomats. The listening audience will be able to phone in questions. Every four hours the station will broadcast news direct from Tel Aviv.

URGE COORDINATED ACTION ON POLLUTION

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13 (JTA)--An Israeli expert warned today that the Mediterranean Sea and especially its eastern shores was more pollution-prone than any other major body of water in the world and urged Israel to take drastic action to save its fishing grounds and beaches.

Rear Admiral (Res.) Yochai Bin Nun, former commander of the Israeli Navy and presently general manager of the Israeli Oceanography and Limnological Research Co., charged that there were too many groups in Israel dealing with pollution problems without any coordination between them. "We feel impotent because of that in dealing with the problem," he said.

According to Bin Nun, the Mediterranean is becoming polluted by industrial waste from France and Italy. He said pollutants from the North Atlantic are entering the inland sea through the Straits of Gibraltar. Westerly winds push the pollutants toward the eastern shores where they accumulate because there is no outlet, he said.

Meanwhile, measures are being taken to reduce the pollution of Haifa Bay. The Protarum Co., which produces plastics and chemical products, has been denied permission to expand its Haifa Bay plant because of the waste it produces. The ban was ordered after Haifa Technion experts discovered concentrations of toxic mercury in Haifa Bay waters to be four times as great as the world average. Samples taken of the sea waters north of Haifa Bay showed only one-eighth the amount of mercury.

DAIA WARNS OF MOUNTING ANTI-SEMITISM

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 13 (JTA)--The Argentine Jewish central political body, DAIA, has issued a warning that anti-Semitism is escalating. It cited as concrete evidence the infiltration of notorious anti-Semitic elements in some of the political parties that will participate in the general elections next month. These elements, DAIA reported, are masking their anti-Semitism with anti-Zionism.

The executive committee of the DAIA has contacted leaders of the nine national tickets running presidential and vice-presidential candidates to express concern about this development and to explain the real views of the Jewish people on various topics. The DAIA executive committee stated that it wanted to clear up any misconception about such topics as Zionism and Israel before the elections got under way.

