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WJCONGRESS LEADER SAYS CUBA'S JEWS STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN JEWISH LIFE

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA)--Cuba's dwindling Jewish community is carrying on a valiant struggle to maintain Jewish life without the assistance of any rabbis, cantors or professional teachers. Unless adequate aid can be provided, members of the American Section of the World Jewish Congress were told by Lavy Becker of Montreal, this community "born in 1906, right after the Spanish-American War, will almost completely vanish by the end of this century."

Similar concern for the one million Jews of Latin America was expressed by Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner, of Geneva, WJC secretary-general. "Unless we help these Jewish communities come through this difficult period, we will soon be faced with another serious crisis," he said.

Dr. Riegner stressed that "economic and political uncertainties rather than anti-Semitism represents the root of Latin American Jewry's problems." He said that the WJCongress had already united the divergent factions of Latin America into an umbrella group where they are working on common concerns.

In his report on Cuba, Becker, the WJC's Consultant on Inter-Community Affairs, unfolded a portrait of Jewish life under the Castro regime and a communist government. He returned last month from his second visit in two years.

The Jewish population of Cuba reached its peak in the 1950's numbering 14,000. Many arrivals were refugees from Nazism. Today 900 Jews live in Havana and 300 are scattered throughout the rest of the island. Most of the remaining Jews are older.

Catholic Teaches Hebrew

The government, Becker noted, has permitted the community to retain all of its five synagogue buildings, one of which serves as a Jewish Center and house of worship. Subsidies are provided indirectly by the government which rents the synagogue auditoriums for various functions. Additional small contributions are made by the Cuban Jews from their earnings.

Activities of the community include religious services, festival observances, adult education classes, twice-weekly Hebrew lessons for young people, cultural programs, a circulating library and a choral group. Also a Zionist club and Zionist activities are permitted. The community has remained a member of the World Jewish Congress, and its leaders participate in international meetings, Becker reported. A day school, named after Theodor Herzl, was nationalized as a State School, and with the agreement of the community renamed after Albert Einstein. This was "a more acceptable identity for a communist state, despite Cuba's legation exchange with Israel," Becker observed.

He noted that "as a gesture of cooperation, in a nation with gasoline rationing, the 30 to 40 grade school children are bused to the Einstein School so that they can, after their regular classes, study Hebrew and other Jewish subjects for an additional 90 minutes daily."

Unfortunately, Becker related, the two teachers, whose salaries had been paid by the

government, are no longer able to work. Today the children are being taught Hebrew and other subjects by a young Catholic teacher, who received her Hebrew training over the last few years in the adult classes in the Jewish community center.

ANTI-SEMITIC PAMPHLET IN POLAND

LONDON, March 18 (JTA)--An anti-Semitic pamphlet has appeared in Poland. It is written by one Waclaw Szafranski and titled "In the Net of Simon Wiesenthal." Wiesenthal is the researcher into the Nazi era who resides in Vienna.

It is full of Sturmer-like attacks and vilifications. Wiesenthal, the head of the Nazi Documentation Center, is the main target, but the Jews as such do not escape either. The pamphlet claims that Wiesenthal had collaborated with the Gestapo and was now trying to live it down by hunting surviving Nazis. As to the Jews, the pamphlet states they are now once more engaged in a world conspiracy.

All over the West, the agents of Wiesenthal and the operators of Zion are at work, it is charged. "They are at the behest of (President) Nixon and (U.S. Secretary of State William P.) Rogers, and are also trying to subvert the policies of the Federal German Republic."

Polish writers here stated that no Waclaw Szafranski existed; this was the pen name of a Polish journalist whose real name is Ignacy Krasicki, the scion of an aristocratic Polish family.

8 IMMIGRANTS FROM SOVIET GEORGIA CHARGED WITH FIRST DEGREE MURDER

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA)--Eight recent immigrants from Soviet Georgia were charged with first degree murder by a Nazareth district court Friday in connection with the fatal beating last month of Subhi Naseir, a Nazareth Arab. Relatives of the accused created a commotion in the courtroom when the charges were read and police had to be called to restore order.

According to the charges, the eight Georgians, all residents of the new immigrant township of Upper Nazareth, attacked a car in which Naseir was giving a driving lesson to a Russian Jewish woman, Regina Poliakovskaya, who was driving the car. They began to beat the woman for "going with an Arab when there are many Georgian Jews."

When Naseir tried to intervene, they pummeled him into unconsciousness. He died on the way to a hospital. It wasn't clear whether the attackers assumed there was a romantic liaison between the woman, who is married, and the Arab or whether they were incensed because she took driving lessons from an Arab instead of a Jew.

INTERNATIONAL MANHUNT FOR IRAQI SUSPECTED OF RIGGING THREE CARS IN N.Y. WITH EXPLOSIVE DEVICES Set To Go Off On Mrs. Meir's Arrival

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA)--Government agencies in Washington and Paris have launched extensive drives to investigate and apprehend members of the Black September movement wanted in connection with a series of terrorist plots against Israeli and Jordanian installations in the United States and France.

An international manhunt is underway for an Iraqi citizen and one or more co-conspirators

charged by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney General's office with rigging bombs in three cars in New York planned to detonate at noon March 4 when Israeli Premier Golda Meir arrived in the city.

A federal warrant was issued Thursday night for Khalid Dahham al-Jawari, 27, who reportedly left the U.S. after helping to plant explosive devices in three separate cars parked near the El Al airlines freight terminal at Kennedy Airport, in front of the Israel Discount Bank and near the First Israel Bank and Trust Co. The finding of explosives in cars at the first two sites was reported earlier. The disclosure of the third bomb-laden car was made for the first time Thursday night at a press conference here.

Could Have Killed Anyone Within 100 Yards

John F. Malone, assistant director of the New York office of the FBI, said the car near the El Al terminal had Black September literature but did not indicate whether similar literature was found in the other two cars. He said also that there might have been more than one person involved in planting the bombs because the amount of explosive devices rigged would have been "a pretty tough job for one man." Malone declined to say in which countries the suspects were being sought or whether the FBI had been in contact with the Iraqi government.

According to Malone, the bombs failed to explode because of "an error in the circuitry system." He added, however, that when police experts detonated one of the bombs the explosion produced a ball of fire 25 feet in diameter that rose to 50 to 75 feet. "Anyone within 100 yards would have been killed," he said.

The cars in front of the two Israeli banks were on Fifth Avenue, a busy mid-town commercial and shopping thoroughfare. All three cars had been rented. According to the FBI, al-Jawari arrived in the U.S. from Canada in January. An Arab informer reportedly identified al-Jawari as the key person in the terrorist plot.

French Police Question Arab Suspects

Meanwhile, French police questioned two Arabs yesterday at Briancon whom they suspected of plotting to blow up the Jordanian Embassy in Paris in protest against the detention of Palestinians. The police arrested the men Friday after they entered France from Italy. Plastic explosive material, detonators and timing devices were found in their cars. One man said he was a Jordanian businessman accompanied by a professional chauffeur. But police found that the names the two Arabs gave were false and are trying to determine their nationality.

Italian police, suspecting that the two men might be arms dealers, had alerted French police to the car they were driving with German license plates. The explosive material and devices were concealed under the car's heating system and chassis. On Thursday, two Arabs were arrested in an explosive-laden car near Gap, France. Informed sources reported that, one of them is a top member of El Fatah and has carried out missions in Israeli-administered areas.

Earlier in the week, a 45-year-old French medical technician was charged in Paris with complicity in the attack carried out last Aug. by the Black September against an oil pipeline in Trieste, Italy. The woman, Mrs. Therese Lefebvre, has already been indicted for complicity in the murder of the self-styled Syrian journalist, Khodr Kanou. Mrs. Lefebvre is suspected of be-

ing one of the European members of the Black September.

An Italian magistrate who questioned her in Paris suspects her, according to the French and Italian press reports, of having been present at the time of the attack. A 24-year-old French actress, whose name was not revealed, was also questioned. She is suspected of having helped Mrs. Lefebvre at the time of the pipeline attack.

21 PFLP MEMBERS ARRESTED; LARGEST CRACKDOWN ON TERRORIST RING

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA)--Twenty-one members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine were arrested Friday as Israel's security forces cracked down on one of the largest terrorist rings operating in the Gaza Strip. The ring is believed to have been involved in recent acts of sabotage and terror, including the political murders of Father Nimri, the priest of an Arab Catholic parish in Gaza, and Ismaeil el Arbitt, chairman of the Shati refugee camp neighborhood council.

Israeli forces seized a large quantity of automatic weapons during a series of surprise raids that netted the PFLP members. The raids followed a shoot-out at a terrorist hide-away a week ago in which three wanted terrorist leaders, including the self-styled "Che Guevara," were killed.

PRESIDENTIAL RACE NARROWS DOWN TO TSUR AND NAVON

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA)--The contest for the presidency of Israel appeared today to have narrowed down to a two-man race between Yaacov Tsur, president of the Jewish National Fund, and Yitzhak Navon, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset. The third candidate most frequently mentioned, Supreme Court Justice Elishu Mani, is no longer believed to be a major contender.

The ruling Labor Party will shortly announce its candidate and the Knesset will elect a new president in May to succeed Zalman Shazar. Tsur has already announced his willingness to run. Navon is expected to state his intentions later this week but private sources said today it is almost certain that he will run for the office. Most observers believe that Navon, who is a member of the Sephardic community and is immensely popular in the Knesset, would win easily unless Premier Golda Meir throws her considerable influence behind Tsur.

The National Religious Party which is considering nominating State Controller Itzhak Nebenzahl or Hebrew University Prof. Ephraim Urrbach, both Orthodox Jews, has indicated that it would support Navon inasmuch as its own nomination would be no more than a token gesture. The NRP indicated that it would also support Tsur if he won the nomination, though he was clearly their second choice. The opposition Gahal Party, which had leaned toward Judge Mani, is believed prepared to support Navon.

El Al and the Rumanian airline, Tarom, will increase the number of weekly flights from Lod to Bucharest from seven to 11 this summer in order to provide transportation for an expected increase in the number of Israeli tourists visiting Rumania. George Dimitrou, director general of the Rumanian International Tourist Bureau, said at a press conference in Tel Aviv that 12,000 Israelis are expected to visit Rumania this year compared to 10,000 last year. He said his bureau has prepared special tours for Israelis and was alert to security problems.

Mayor Asher Azar of Eilat, wants to extend his town's limits by some 25 kilometers—which would take it across the old demarcation line into Sinai.

First of Its Kind in The USSR5. JEWISH SCIENTISTS PROPOSE REFORMS IN SPHERE OF EMIGRATION

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA)--Five leading Jewish scientists in the Soviet Union have proposed to Soviet authorities a series of concrete reforms which, they said, would remove the issue of emigration from "the area of arbitrary and secret actions" to the area of "open, formal rules and laws." The proposals were the first of their kind ever made by a Jewish group in the USSR, according to Prof. Hans J. Morgenthau of City University, New York, chairman of the Academic Committee on Soviet Jewry.

The proposals were summarized in a statement prepared by mathematics Prof. Boris Moïshezon, the only one of the scientific group who has been permitted to leave the USSR. According to Moïshezon, he and his colleagues have asked for:

The enactment and publication of a law governing emigration, which would be identical in all parts of the USSR and under control of official Soviet organs, such as the Procurator's Office and the Supreme Soviet; and the creation of an official public organ to be concerned with all aspects of emigration in place of the current system in which our offices merely accept applications and transmit decisions reached by secret commissions.

Proposals also included the recognition of the right of applicants for emigration to receive their answers in written form, instead of only orally—as is now the practice—and the right when denied permission to appeal to the courts, the Procurator's Office, and the Supreme Soviet which normally review complaints from Soviet citizens; and the creation of an official public commission of experts to delimit areas of classified employment and determine the length of time that must pass before a person involved in secret work may be permitted to leave the USSR.

The five include, in addition to Prof. Moïshezon, Professors David Azbel, a chemist; Aleksandr Voronel, a physicist; Benjamin Levich, a physicist; and Aleksandr Lerner, a specialist in automation control, the committee said.

The five originally proposed to address their demands to the Soviet authorities in the summer of 1972, but were dissuaded by the arrest and continual threats directed against the son of Prof. Levich, Evgeny. When Prof. Moïshezon received an exit permit in Nov., 1972, he was charged by his colleagues with the task of publicizing their cause. Early in 1973 he was invited to lecture in advanced mathematics at Columbia and Harvard Universities. Before returning to Israel, to take up his new permanent position on the faculty of Tel Aviv University, Prof. Moïshezon transmitted his colleagues' demands to the Academic Committee on Soviet Jewry.

INTERFAITH GROUP URGES APPOINTMENT OF RELIGIOUS CHAPELS IN U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA)--An interfaith organization of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Greek Orthodox leaders disclosed today at a press conference, that it had urged the State Department to appoint a rabbi for the United States Embassy in Moscow.

The rabbi, along with the Roman Catholic and Protestant chaplains already there, would

minister to the Jews in the rapidly growing American colony in Moscow, which includes the diplomatic corps, businessmen; scientists, journalists and students.

The press conference was held at the Regency Hotel by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. Present were Rabbi Arthur Schneider, president of the Foundation and Rabbi of Park East Synagogue; the Rev. Dr. Harold A. Bosley, senior minister of Christ Church United Methodist, N.Y.; and the Rev. Donald R. Campion, editor-in-chief of the Jesuit weekly, America.

All three clergymen returned recently from an 11-day visit with church and synagogue officials in Moscow, Leningrad and Vilna.

Rabbi Schneider said that in the near future, at least 200 American Jews would be living in the Soviet capital city, that a rabbi to serve them was an "unmet need," and that many non-Jews, as well as Jews in Moscow favored the naming of a rabbi or Jewish chaplain. Never before, he pointed out, has a future Jewish-American "presence" in Moscow looked so promising. "Because of the present detente," he added, "there has been an increase in the number of Americans residing in Moscow, many of them Jews."

In a meeting with Pyotr V. Makartsev, Deputy Chairman of the Council on Religious Affairs USSR, Council of Ministers, the delegation expressed its "sense of revulsion by Americans of all faiths to the 'diploma tax' affecting those who wish to emigrate," the three clergymen asserted.

"We conveyed to Mr. Makartsev, and through him to the Soviet government our conviction that the further enforcement of this law can only hinder the improvement of the political and economic relations between our countries," stated Dr. Bosley.

They pointed out that the Jackson/Mills/Vanik amendment is an accurate barometer of the mood in the United States, a country of immigrants, who are particularly committed to the freedom of movement of every individual.

PURIM FESTIVITIES GALORE IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA)--Israelis celebrated Purim today. While the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem were strung with colored lights and filled with children costumed as cowboys, Indians or astronauts, it was Beersheba, capital of the Negev, that outdid its sister cities this year.

Some 6000 marchers and seven bands held the 13th annual Negev parade, joined by hundreds of motorcyclists, horseback riders and Bedouins on camels. The festivities were presided over by Ofra Mei Ami, a high school student from Moshav Mivtahim who was elected beauty queen of the Negev.

The Cabinet postponed its weekly session until Tuesday. Habad Hasidim began their annual mission this morning of delivering Purim parcels to Israeli servicemen and women all over the country and at outposts deep in the administered territories. In addition, 25,000 parcels were distributed to new immigrants and the sick in hospitals. Habad emissaries visited the homes of 800 widows and war orphans.

Although no statistics were available, the consumption of humantaschen this year reportedly set a new record. The extra demand for the Purim delicacy was attributed to the large number of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union celebrating their first Purim in Israel.

Israel plans to literally burn IL 600,000 between May 27-30. That sum, in the form of fireworks, will go up in smoke to celebrate the nation's 25th anniversary. The amount is almost double the IL 320,000 spent for fireworks last Independence Day. The first major fireworks display will take place on the nights of May 27-28 on the top of Massada.

