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PINCUS: NO INFORMATION THAT SOVIET HEAD TAX HAS BEEN WAIVED GENERALLY

LONDON, March 22 (JTA)--Louis Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, said today that he had "no information" that the Soviet Union's education tax "had been waived for Jewish applicants for exit visas in a general way." He added, however, that "it may be that there is the inevitable time lag between the initiation of a new policy and its application by the bureaucrats."

Pincus made his statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency when he was asked to comment on reports that the education tax has been waived in a number of cases and that its collection may have been suspended. "We have had repeated reports about a so-called improvement in the situation but such improvements can only be judged when borne out in fact," he said. "Our past experience makes one rather reluctant in his assessment of reported improvements in the Jewish situation in the Soviet Union."

Still Harassed And Imprisoned

The Jewish Agency chairman who is attending meetings of the Conference of Jewish Organizations (COJO) here recalled a recent statement by Soviet Interior Minister Boris Shumilin that it was not against Soviet law for people to ask for permission to emigrate. "Nevertheless," Pincus said, "people in the Soviet Union are still being harassed after having applied for exit visas; people in the Soviet Union are still languishing in prisons and forced labor camps, although their only crime was to want to leave the Soviet Union for Israel."

Pincus said: "One thing is certain--and we have had it confirmed in the last few days in various ways--the Soviet regime is rather sensitive to world public opinion. I hope that Jewish activities on behalf of Soviet Jews will not relax." He added that "if there is any substance to the reports about an improvement in the situation, we will soon be able to know about it. We will soon see whether Jews in the Soviet Union can leave without being asked to pay this ransom tax. At the moment we have no information that this tax has been waived."

ISRAEL DEVELOPING OWN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA)--Gen. Amos Horev, the Army's chief scientist, hinted today that Israel was developing its own air-to-air missile to intercept enemy planes. Horev spoke at the opening session of an aeronautical conference here. He mentioned the air-to-air missile as among the 20 percent of research projects in the security field that are finally selected for development but gave no further details. Israel has developed a surface-to-surface missile known as the "Gabriel" which is the principal armament of Israel's Navy.

REPORT EMPLOYEES OF SOME CIVILIAN FIRMS 'CLEANED OUT' SINAI AREA OF VALUABLE EQUIPMENT AFTER 1967 WAR

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA)--The Knesset Financial Committee agreed today to a request from the Attorney General to withhold from pub-

lication some parts of the State Comptroller's report concerning events in Sinai directly after the Six-Day War. The State's Attorney asked that the material be withheld on grounds that its publication could have adverse effects on public opinion and political ramifications.

The report concerns the activities of various civilian firms that contracted with the government to perform certain building, construction, supply and clearing projects. According to the report, employees of some of these firms "cleaned out" the area of valuable equipment and installations--anything that could be disassembled and loaded on a truck.

According to the report, in Abu Zneima, a former Egyptian industrial center and port, property estimated at \$9 million simply vanished. In other places such as the manganese quarries at Um Bugama and the coal pit at Djebel Maareh, equipment worth millions of dollars disappeared.

During the period covered by the report, no control had been established by the Israeli authorities in these places and the jurisdiction was not yet clear. The property vanished during the several weeks before the matter of jurisdiction was settled.

WOMAN TERRORIST EXPELLED FROM FRANCE; 2 JORDANIAN TERRORISTS TO BE CHARGED

PARIS, March 22 (JTA)--Dr. Diane Campbell-Lefevre, the 31-year-old South African doctor believed to be a Black September member, was today expelled from France. The young South African was brought to Orly Airport under heavy police guard and placed aboard an Air France plane bound for London. Police circles here expect that her Palestinian companion, 27-year-old Jamil Abdel Hakim, will also be expelled from France.

The two were brought before the French State Security Court sitting in chambers this morning. It is understood that the police told the court the doctor had committed no crime with which she can be charged in France. Intent to commit a crime is not an offense under French law. The Palestinian can only be charged with using forged travel documents and illegal entry into France. Police sources here believe that under these circumstances he will also be expelled.

Dr. Campbell-Lefevre and Jamil Abdel Hakim were arrested last Saturday. During their interrogation by members of the French police and agents of the Counter-Intelligence Agency (D.S.T.) they reportedly admitted being members of the Black September terrorist organization. They said, however, that they did not know the final purpose of the smuggled explosives.

Meanwhile, two Jordanians arrested last Thursday while carrying 30 pounds of explosives in their car will be charged with a variety of offenses such as smuggling, illegal transport of explosives, forged documents and possession of lethal materials. France apparently decided to expel the two terrorists--Dr. Campbell-Lefevre and Jamil Abdel Hakim--for juridical reasons and in order to avoid being dragged into the Middle East conflict. The French government, according to reliable sources, increasingly feels that France is unwillingly and unwittingly being dragged into the Mideast war.

LABOR PARTY NOMINATES KATCHALSKI

Beats Navon By 279-221 Vote

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA)--Prof. Ephraim Katchalski, a 57-year-old biophysicist of the Weizmann Institute of Science, was nominated tonight by the Labor Party for the presidency of Israel. He was selected by a vote of 279-221 over his principal rival, Deputy Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Navon, in secret balloting at a meeting in Tel Aviv of the Labor Party's Central Committee and its Knesset faction. Following the balloting, and at the request of Party Secretary General Aharon Yadlin who asked for a demonstration of Party unity, the delegates confirmed their choice by a unanimous show of hands.

As the only candidate, Dr. Katchalski is virtually assured of election when the Knesset meets in special session April 10 to choose a successor to President Zalman Shazar. The Mapam faction of the Labor Alignment has already announced that it will support Dr. Katchalski. The National Religious Party, which had reportedly favored Navon and the Gahal opposition faction which had leaned toward another candidate, Supreme Court Justice Eliahu Mani, are not expected to oppose the Labor Party's nominee.

Dr. Katchalski received the blessings of Premier Golda Meir who spoke briefly from the rostrum after the voting. She also had warm words for Navon. But the narrowness of the secret ballot--56 percent for Katchalski - 44 percent for Navon--was a source of visible concern to the leadership of the Labor Party's Mapai faction which had vigorously pressed Dr. Katchalski's candidacy in recent days.

Dr. Katchalski's name was placed in nomination by Foreign Minister Abba Eban who portrayed Dr. Katchalski as a scientist-statesman, similar to that of Israel's first President, the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann. He also noted that as the Israel Army's chief scientist during the war for independence in 1948 and the Six-Day War in 1967, Dr. Katchalski contributed significantly to Israel's armed strength.

REPORT MOROCCAN ARMY BATTALION IN SYRIA TO FIGHT AGAINST ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA)--A Moroccan Army battalion arrived at the Syrian port of Latakia it was reported today to participate in "the fight against Israel." Israeli officials dismissed the unit as a military threat and suggested that the dispatch of the troops to Syria may have been intended to reduce the threat of a military coup against King Hassan of Morocco.

According to Arab radio broadcasts, the landing of Moroccans in Syria represented a pledge by King Hassan to share the burden of the struggle against Israel with Israel's neighbors. The Moroccans will strengthen the Syrian lines in the Golan Heights, the Arab broadcasts said.

Morocco sent troops to Egypt when the Six-Day War erupted but they arrived after hostilities had ended. Israeli sources noted that Hassan, who has narrowly escaped several attempts on his life and fears a military coup, may have sent the battalion to Syria to keep it away from Rabat.

AJCONGRESS, AZF, GRATIFIED BUT WARY OVER REPORT OF HEAD TAX SUSPENSION

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress and the American Zionist Federation welcomed yesterday's report by Victor

Louis that the Soviet Union has decided not to apply the diplomat tax against Jews wishing to emigrate. Both organizations, however, said they were tempering their expressions of gratification until they had received confirmation of the new policy from other authoritative Soviet spokesmen, and until the tax was officially abrogated.

Hester Beckman, chairman, Committee on Soviet Jewry of the AJCongress, said the test "must be what Soviet officials do henceforth, not what one Soviet journalist--however important--has predicted they might do in the future." Moreover, Miss Beckman continued, "we are sobered by the realization that in any case Soviet Jews--seeking to emigrate will still be confronted with formidable barriers. The humiliating procedures they must undergo; the loss of employment they suffer; the indignities to which they are subjected; the capricious and arbitrary rejection of emigration applications--all these remain."

Rabbi Israel Miller, AZF president, said: "Any amelioration of the heinous Soviet head tax is a source of gratification. Having had the experience of the pre-election period in the U.S., however, when there was a temporary respite in the imposition of the ransom, we view with suspicion any action which is not taken on an official level. The tax was promulgated officially and it should be officially abrogated. Action therefore on behalf of the Jackson-Mills-Vanik amendments in Congress should continue until there is an official Soviet statement rescinding the tax."

YOUNG LEADERSHIP GROUP IN LONDON

LONDON, March 22 (JTA)--Thirty-seven young American Jewish leaders of the Young Leadership Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal arrived here on a short visit today. The group is on its way from the continent where they visited Poland, Austria and other European countries. While in London they will hold a joint seminar tomorrow with the Young Leadership group of the Joint Palestine Appeal. This evening the American group held a session with Moshe Rivlin, director general of the Jewish Agency and a member of the Jewish Agency Executive.

Rivlin said "It is now 30 years after the Warsaw Ghetto revolt and 28 years after the end of the second World War but we are still feeling keenly the ir retrievable losses of the holocaust. This is not only a matter of numbers. We lost a third of the Jewish people...we also lost the intellectual reservoir that had fed both Israel and the diaspora with Jewish knowledge and Jewish brain power. This loss will continue to be felt for generations to come."

PURIM CELEBRATED IN BUCHAREST

BUCHAREST, March 22 (JTA)--The Jewish community celebrated the Purim festival here at a gathering attended by writers, artists, students and other local citizens under the auspices of the Federation of Jewish communities. Guests included Gheorghe Nenciu, deputy director of the department of religious affairs of the Rumanian government and a visiting group of the American Jewish Committee. Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania presided.

An Israeli Cultural and Trade Fair, described as the largest ever to be held in Canada, opened today at the Yorkdale Shopping Center in Toronto. It was announced by the Fair's sponsors, the Toronto Committee to Celebrate Israel's 25th Anniversary. The Fair is under the auspices of the central region of the Canadian Zionist Federation.

WILLIAM M. LANDAU ELECTED JTA PRESIDENT; SUCCEEDS ROBERT H. ARNOW

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--Raymond Epstein, vice-president and chairman of the nominating committee of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, announced today that William M. Landau has been elected president of the JTA and will take office April 1. Landau, 47, succeeds Robert H. Arnow who has been president since April, 1967. The announcement by Epstein came at the annual meeting of the board of directors of the world-wide agency that gathers and distributes news and information concerning the Jewish people the world over.

Landau, a graduate of Lehigh University and New York Law School, is managing partner of Fred Landau & Co., a U.S. national accounting firm. He is a partner in Jenks Landau & Co., an international accounting firm with offices abroad including Great Britain, Canada, Australia and South Africa. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association and a Certified Public Accountant in New York, California and Chicago.

A New York resident, Landau is a member of the Board of the United Jewish Appeal and a member of its Campaign Cabinet. He is associate chairman of the UJA's Accountants Division and a member of the board of the New York Association for New Americans. Landau is also a member of the board and was a vice-president of the JTA prior to his election to its presidency. He is a member of the board of trustees of a Westchester synagogue and a member of the board of trustees of the Young Men's Division of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Other officers elected were: Robert H. Arnow, chairman of the board; Raymond Epstein of Chicago, Jerold C. Hoffberger of Baltimore, and Philip Slomovitz of Detroit, vice-presidents; Julius Berman of New York, secretary, and Abe Goodman of New York, treasurer.

Current directors of the JTA board who were reelected were: Victor M. Carter, Los Angeles; Gottlieb Hammer, N.Y.; Irving Isaacs, Pittsburgh; Morris Levinson, N.Y.; Morris Rodman, Washington, D.C.; Hyman Safran, Detroit; Joseph D. Shane, Los Angeles; and Stephen L. Stulman, N.Y. New board members are: Melvin Swig, San Francisco; Bennett L. Aaron, Philadelphia; Marshall Weinberg, N.Y.; and Donald Carr, Toronto. Moshe Rivlin, director general of the Jewish Agency in Israel, and Nessim Gaon of Switzerland, were elected as directors.

Arnow, Lipsky, Honored For Services

Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow presented Arnow with a scroll by the JTA board of directors with the inscription: "To Robert H. Arnow who served as president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency with distinction, with dedication and thereby made an outstanding contribution to the cause of Jewish advancement and learning." Below the inscription was another one in Hebrew stating: "May you live to 120 and continue your fruitful labors in behalf of our people."

The board of directors also took cognizance of the long and devoted service of Eleazar Lipsky board chairman, and appointed him as a Director for Life and to be listed on the roster as "Past President and Director for Life."

As president of the JTA, Landau will be the top lay officer of a news service operating in more than 50 countries and transmitting more than 10,000 words of news each day. The JTA serves 65 newspapers in the U.S. and Canada and scores more around the world.

It provides direct service to Jewish communities, central organizations, the Jewish leadership and Jewish institutions through daily news bulletins published in the United States, England, France, South Africa, Argentina and Peru. JTA distributes its news to the Israeli press and radio through ITIM, the Israeli newspaper cooperative.

In addition to the JTA Daily News Bulletin issued in New York, JTA publishes the JFA Weekly News Digest, a weekly review of the major developments of the week and the JTA Community News Reporter, a weekly report on activities in the Jewish community, and a weekly feature service to the American-Jewish press and the Jewish press abroad.

JACKSON SCORES SOVIET LOBBYING

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA)--Sen. Henry M. Jackson today described the Soviet government's waiver of its education tax on some prospective emigrants in the past few days as "a beginning" and "not a substitute for a policy and a program" of emigration. Reiterating that Congressional legislation bearing his name on the emigration issue will be "enacted into law," Jackson, in an address before the National Press Club, lashed out at "lobbying" against it by Soviet officials in Washington and at its Congressional opponents.

Jackson told approximately 400 newsmen including Soviet media representatives that Russians have said here his bill would create anti-Semitism. In a rising voice he declared: "They are experts at anti-Semitism. They have been at it and against other minorities for centuries."

He asked what would happen if American officials in Moscow "lobbied" the Supreme Soviet and added, "that opportunity is not there." Jackson denounced as "nonsense" the charges that his amendment would be "interference" in the Soviet Union's internal affairs.

In discussing energy problems, Jackson observed that the \$20 billion research program he is advocating for the next 10 years would "show the foreign countries, especially the Middle East" that "we have an alternative" in fuels and will not be subjected to "blackmail."

JAPANESE SECT PLEDGES TO AID ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA)--Three hundred visiting members of Japan's pro-Israel Makoya sect swore today to "come as one to the aid of the Israel nation" should Israel ever be attacked by a foreign aggressor. "We are blood brothers with them" (the Israelis), declared the members of the sect who arrived here Monday for a 10-day visit to demonstrate their solidarity with Israel on its 25th anniversary.

The group is headed by Prof. Ikori Tashima. Many of them speak Hebrew. They expressed profound regret over the Lod Airport massacre of last May 30, perpetrated by three Japanese gunmen in the service of Arab terrorists. One member of the group, a member of Japan's parliament, asked to see the sole surviving terrorist, Kozō Okamoto, who is serving a life sentence in an Israeli prison. He said he wanted to convince Okamoto to express regret for his deed.

Abraham Zalmanson, uncle of Sylvia Zalmanson, has arrived in Toronto to visit relatives and to make efforts to rouse public opinion on behalf of his niece and the other "Assirei Zion" (Prisoners of Zion). Zalmanson has been living in Israel for 15 years. The Canadian Jewish Congress is arranging public and private meetings to be addressed by Mr. Zalmanson.

