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HARASSMENT OF DAMASCUS JEWS WORSENS, EYE-WITNESS REPORTS

TEL AVIV, March 27 (JTA)--A tourist who visited Damascus several days ago reported here today that three Jews were arrested there recently and that the persecution, harassment and extortion of Damascus Jews has intensified. The tourist identified the arrested Jews, all heads of families, as Avraham Shou, Joseph Shevut and Nissim-Kaffi.

He said they were arrested because the authorities suspect that several young members of their families have fled Syria. He said that the Jews, who are confined to a single quarter of Damascus, are forced to form on the street for roll-calls at least once a week to ascertain whether any members of their families are missing. The informant said the rolls-calls are accompanied by beatings and mistreatment of women and children.

He said that Jewish shops in Damascus are on the lists of Arab terrorist organizations. They are frequently visited by terrorists who force the shop owners to contribute part of their income for terrorist activities. If the cash on hand is not sufficient, the terrorists visit the owners' homes to demand a supplement, the tourist reported. He said Jewish religious life in Damascus is limited to occasional evenings when synagogues are open. He said Jewish families stay in their homes most of the time for fear of reprisals for the flight of young Jews from Syria.

FOOD PRICES SOAR IN ISRAEL AS GOVT. CLAMPS SUBSIDY LID

Low Income Families Will Get Increased Compensation Payments

JERUSALEM, March 27 (JTA)--A stunned public was informed today that the price of frozen meat will rise by nearly 50 percent along with sharp increases in the prices of other basic commodities including sugar, fuel and tobacco. The prices soared after Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir introduced new subsidy policies for which the Treasury hopes to get Knesset approval Thursday, before the current fiscal year ends March 31.

The government's refusal to raise its price supports was expected to inflate prices but Israelis apparently were not prepared for the steep increase in meat prices and the 38 percent rise in the price of sugar. Sapir also signed regulations raising the price of gasoline by 12 percent, cigarettes by 15 percent, cooking gas, heating fuel and paraffin by 17 percent. The price of flour was also on the way up though the exact percentage remained undecided today. On the other hand, Sapir apparently bowing to pressure from Histadrut, agreed not to raise the prices of milk, dairy products, eggs and poultry.

Price supports on those items are expected to be increased. Sapir told the Cabinet this week that the present subsidies the government pays to keep prices stable are no longer adequate and would have to be increased from IL 600 million a year to nearly IL 1 billion, something the government cannot countenance. He said the consumer will have to foot part of the bill.

Histadrut representatives who sat in on a

meeting of the ministerial economic committee until four o'clock this morning were unable to agree to the government's moves. Histadrut leaders will meet in emergency session tomorrow to decide the trade union's response to the price hikes.

At a briefing for newsmen, Finance Ministry officials provided details of the various types of extra compensation that will be paid to low income families to counter the effect of the price increases. A family of four that earns IL 500 will receive an additional IL 14 per month. Their costs will probably go up IL 8.7 a month, the officials said. A family of five which earns IL 700 a month will receive an additional IL 17.5 per month. Its costs are expected to increase by IL 11.6.

Ministry officials noted that the average price increase amounted to six percent, which compared with other countries suffering from inflationary problems, is relatively small. The prices of many staples will remain steady. These include fish, tea, coffee, potatoes, bread, cocoa and edible oils. But the sharply increased price of sugar is expected to affect the prices of such foods as cake, noodles, breakfast cereals, jams, confectionary fruits and fruit juices.

SOLDIER HELD FOR EXTRADITION IN HUROK BOMBING

TEL AVIV, March 27 (JTA)--Yohoshua (Gerry) Zeller, a 19-year-old soldier in the Israeli Army, was remanded in custody for 15 days by a Tel Aviv magistrate today on a request from U.S. authorities for his extradition. According to the request, Zeller faces charges of murder and arson in connection with the fire-bombing of impressario Sol Hurok's office in New York Jan. 26, 1972 in which one person was killed.

U.S. authorities asked that Zeller be held pending the arrival of documents relating to the charges against him. Zeller arrived in Israel alone ten months ago and was in the field with an Israeli Army training unit when he was picked up by police today and brought directly to court. His parents live in New Jersey. He has requested a lawyer.

The fire-bombing was attributed to Hurok's prominence in arranging American tours for Soviet artists. Just before the bombing, an anonymous telephone caller informed a wire news service office that "there will be no cultural ties over the bodies of Russian Jews. Never again." The slogan is one used by the Jewish Defense League but the JDL claims it had no connection with the crime. Police here could not say whether Zeller belonged to the JDL or whether he was in New York at the time of the fire-bombing.

CORRECTION-ADDITION

Due to an error in transmission, the name of one of the newly elected members of the JTA Board of Directors was omitted from the list of new directors published in the JTA Daily News Bulletin March 23. He is Max Schrayner of Chicago, past president of the Chicago Jewish United Fund, a leader of the Workshop for Chicago Volunteers and a prominent insurance executive.

MEDICI SAYS HE UNDERSTANDS ISRAEL'S POSITION ON TERRITORIES

JERUSALEM, March 27 (JTA)--Italy's Foreign Minister, Giuseppe Medici expressed understanding today, in talks with Israeli leaders, for Israel's refusal to withdraw completely from the administered territories, the Egyptian precondition for talks for an interim agreement, senior officials here told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Medici, who is here on a four-day official visit, met for an hour with Premier Golda Meir and for nearly an hour with Foreign Minister Abba Eban. He said Italy wanted to see the Suez Canal reopened, the goal of proposals by the Nixon Administration for interim talks and that his country was concerned at the continued Middle East impasse. But the Italian diplomat did not present any new plans of his own, the officials said.

Medici also reportedly gave a sympathetic hearing to Israeli statements of Israel's needs in the agreement with the European Economic Community, of which Italy is a member, which is to be negotiated this year. Eban also urged that European governments take stronger action to apprehend and punish Arab terrorists. Eban said Israel was gratified by increased preventive measures taken by those governments but said their judicial and punitive actions were inadequate.

SADAT SHAKES UP GOVT.; HITS U.S. SALE OF JETS TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 27 (JTA)--White House Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren declined to comment today on Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's dismissal of Premier Aziz Sidky and his announcement yesterday that he was assuming the Premiership to prepare Egypt for "total confrontation with Israel."

Sadat announced his government shake-up at a joint meeting of the People's Assembly and the central committee of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's only political party. He stressed that Egypt must conduct a dual policy of military pressure on Israel and continued efforts to gain a political settlement.

He criticized the United States for its plans to sell Israel more F-4 Phantom jets and A-4 Skyhawk attack planes. He said this had created an "extreme danger" of a military explosion in the Middle East. He also said that Egyptian relations with the Soviet Union had again been put on a solid basis. Last summer, Sadat expelled some 20,000 Soviet military advisors and technicians from Egypt.

Sadat rejected again any territorial concessions as a basis for negotiations with Israel. Rejecting also the idea of direct talks, he said Egypt would not accept a "partial settlement" that was not linked to eventual total Israeli withdrawal from the administered territories, or a separate settlement in which the interests of the "Palestinian resistance" and of Israel's other Arab neighbors would be "sacrificed."

SADAT AIDE TO MEET FRENCH LEADERS NEXT MONTH

PARIS, March 27 (JTA)--Hafez Ismail, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's national security affairs advisor, is to meet President Georges Pompidou and other French officials next month, French official circles reported today, confirming a similar report from Cairo. The circles said no final date has been set, but that the meet-

ing will probably take place as soon as the new French government is formed, probably by mid-April.

NRP MODIFIES STAND ON MILITARY SERVICE FOR YESHIVA STUDENTS

TEL AVIV, March 27 (JTA)--The National Religious Party's Central Committee meeting as a "convention" here last night, modified two controversial resolutions adopted by the NRP's national convention earlier this month. A resolution which supported compulsory military service for yeshiva students, presently exempt, was replaced by one that encourages the formation of a system at yeshivot that would incorporate the study of Torah and military training "in such a way as fits the tasks of our generation."

The Central Committee also softened a convention resolution that made the NRP's joining any future coalition government conditional on the amendment of the Law of Return to stipulate that conversions to Judaism must be according to halacha. The resolution adopted last night stated that "the present condition must be amended" but did not demand amendment of the law. It added that NRP representatives in the government and the Knesset will not be able to share responsibility for the "defective law" and will consent to join the next Cabinet on condition that the present situation is amended so that no one is registered as a Jew unless he is a Jew according to halacha.

The altered phrasing allows the NRP a wide area for maneuvering in coalition negotiations but does not prevent it from joining the government even if the law is not amended. By a narrow majority of 51-49, the Central Committee defeated a proposal by the NRP's younger circles to rotate party representatives in the government, Knesset and other official bodies. Under the original proposal, office holders would have been permitted to serve only three consecutive terms. The proposal would have deprived most veteran NRP leaders of seats in the next Cabinet and Knesset.

EX-NAZIS GET LIGHT SENTENCES FOR COMPLICITY IN MURDER OF JEWS

BONN, March 27 (JTA)--A Munich court has sentenced four former Nazi police officers to jail for complicity in the murder of about 2000 Jews in southern Russia in the fall of 1941. They are Erich Bock, 61, Otto-Ernst Prast, 59, and Wilhelm Spiekermann, 60, who each got four and a half years, and Hans Discar, 60, who was sentenced to two years imprisonment. The public prosecutor had asked for ten years.

Meanwhile, two former SS officers went on trial in West Berlin today charged with the murder and complicity in the murder of more than 1000 Jews and gypsies in Poland from 1941 to 1943. They are Johann Baecker, 61, and Hans Quambusch, 67. They are also on trial as so-called "excess criminals." Both are alleged to have shot babies, young girls, women and men.

FRENCH TECHNICIANS REPLACE ISRAELIS IN UGANDA

PARIS, March 27 (JTA)--France and Uganda are about to sign an agreement providing for French military assistance to the Uganda air force. French advisors and technicians will service the eight "Fuga Magisters" which form the Ugandan air force. The planes were formerly serviced by Israeli experts who were expelled after Gen. Idi Amin decided to break off relations with the Jewish State. Official circles here denied that France would supply Uganda with armored vehicles.

ISRAEL'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO U.S. WILL SEEK GREATER CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN JEWRY

Exclusive Interview By David Landau and Robert Slater

JERUSALEM, March 27 (JTA)--Israel's Ambassador-designate to the United States, Simcha Dinitz told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that one of his major aims in his new job will be to maintain close ties with the American Jewish community and its leaders.

Relaxing in the Prime Minister's office after a round of briefings and final consultations before his departure for Washington Thursday, Israel's fifth Ambassador to the U.S. stressed that he would also like to play a strong role in promoting Jewish education. The Israeli government cannot move directly into the field of Jewish education but an Ambassador could do much "in the fight against ignorance, not only of Israel but also of Jewishness," he said. He envisioned playing a role in promoting Jewish values and Jewish education in the U.S. He said he hoped to sit down with the leaders of Jewish education in the U.S. for consultations on ways to improve and to expand activities in this field.

Dinitz noted the unique role of representing Israel in Washington. He said there were three areas of "great interest" in which the Ambassador must involve himself: relations with official Washington--the Administration and the legislative branches--relations with the American Jewish community and relations with the media, youth, the universities and other non-official opinion molders in the U.S.

"We have been fortunate to have had four great ambassadors in Washington," Dinitz declared. "One of the reasons for their greatness is that each didn't try to step into the shoes of his predecessor. I know that it's expected of a new ambassador to bring to his job what special talents he may have. In my humble way, I will try to do just this."

Dinitz, 42, who succeeds Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin, served until now as Prime Minister Golda Meir's special political advisor and as Director General of the Prime Minister's Office. Washington is not new to him. He began his political career in 1952 as a part-time night watchman at Israel's Washington Embassy while studying at Georgetown University. Dinitz worked in the Embassy's archives and by the time he completed his masters degree, magna cum laude, he was assistant to the head of information at the Embassy. He returned to Washington in 1968-69 as Minister in charge of information.

Israel's Policies Must Be Explained To U.S. Jews

In speaking to the JTA, Ambassador Dinitz stressed the necessity of holding continuing consultations with American Jewish leaders, on the motivations of Israeli policy. "We take the time to explain this to American colleges, to the Rotary, to the Elks and we also have to take time to explain the motivations of Israeli policy to the Jews. They must not be taken for granted. Because they're close to Israel, more time should be taken so that they can comprehend what Israel is doing," he said. He observed that a great deal had been done by previous ambassadors but this was one area where there was no limit to possible efforts.

"There should be fuller and more intimate dialogue and a process of education between Israel and diaspora Jewry," Dinitz said. He mentioned schlichim, teaching programs and study missions to Israel as ways to achieve this. He

said he himself would maintain close touch with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations as the "authoritative roof organization" of U.S. Jewry. Dinitz will be accompanied to Washington by his American-born wife Vivian who comes from Cincinnati. Her parents, Saul and Henrietta Kinsburg, left Cincinnati ten years ago to settle in Israel.

ARAB PROPAGANDA, SOME OF IT SUBTLE, MAKES HEADWAY IN BRAZIL

By Murray Zuckoff, JTA News Editor

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 27 (JTA)--Pro-Arab propaganda is making steady inroads in Brazil in the form of articles in small town newspapers and inexpensive pamphlets sold in bookstalls and in university bookstores.

The articles in the newspapers are subtle, without the cliches and verbal paroxysms that mark similar articles in the American and European press. The articles deal with issues such as the role of women in Arab society, the contributions of Arabs to the Brazilian economy and intellectual life, the political and economic development of Arab workers. These stories, written in a simple and straightforward manner, are geared toward a working class readership.

The pamphlets, equally well-written, deal with the aspirations of the Palestinian people, the aims of Arab liberation, and depict Israel and Zionists as oppressors and Gestapo-like individuals. These pamphlets are sold at prices ranging from three to six cruzeiros (fifty cents to one dollar), almost free of charge compared to other pamphlets of comparable numbers of pages, quality of printing and layout. They are evidently subsidized and thus are almost being given away.

Young Jews, especially on the campuses, are exposed to them, especially as there are no comparable pro-Israel or pro-Zionist pamphlets. The Zionist material available is written in a heavy style and is usually too expensive for the students. A recent issue of "Opinio," an intellectual news-magazine, was devoted to the Middle East situation. A number of anti-Israel and anti-Zionist letters in this issue, in fact, the most vociferously anti-Israel, were written by young alienated Jews.

W. GERMANY EXPECTS MRS. RYAN'S EXTRADITION ON WAR CRIMES CHARGES

BONN, March 27 (JTA)--The Foreign Office expressed confidence today that U.S. authorities will extradite Mrs. Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan, a former Nazi concentration camp guard, who is wanted here to face war crimes charges. An application for extradition accompanied by documentary evidence against Mrs. Ryan, has been forwarded to Washington on behalf of the West German prosecuting attorneys, the Foreign Office said.

It is said that Mrs. Ryan will be charged either with murder or abetting murder. She has been accused of selecting women and children for extermination at a Lublin concentration camp where she served as a guard between Oct. 1942-March 1944. Mrs. Ryan, who is married to an American citizen, lives in New York. She was taken into custody last week and is confined at a women's prison pending an extradition hearing.

Pat Boone, a popular American singer, will lead 500 Christians on an eight-day pilgrimage to Israel during the Easter Week, the Ministry of Tourism announced today. The Ministry said Boone would film a television show to be broadcast in the U.S. next fall.

KEY 73 LEADERS URGED TO ACKNOWLEDGE JEWISH HERITAGE

NASHVILLE, March 27 (JTA)--Leaders of Key 73 were urged by a rabbi today to issue "a policy statement that takes into serious account the profound Biblical claims regarding the Jewish people." Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of the inter-religious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee, said that the leaders of the massive Christian evangelical drive must recognize that any attempt to convert large numbers of Jews "constitutes a negation of the 4000 years of suffering and martyrdom experienced by the Jewish people as well as the Jewish belief in God's covenant with Abraham."

Rabbi Tanenbaum spoke at a "trilogue" conference here which brought together 80 Jewish, Roman Catholic and Southern Baptist clergymen and academicians to discuss issues of concern in Jewish-Christian relations. The conference, which began Sunday and closed today, was sponsored by the AJ Committee, the Jewish Federation of Nashville, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nashville and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rabbi Tanenbaum told the participants that "many Jews have expressed fear that the theme of Key 73, 'to call America to Christ,' sought to undermine the faith of other religious bodies by fair means or foul." Rev. Ron Kerr, a Methodist clergyman who is a member of the central committee of Key 73, said that in his own view, the campaign would reject the notion of some Christians that to be American one must be Christian. He said, "I believe Jewish criticisms and concern over Key 73 have been important. These concerns bring home to Christians the point that any evangelism which focuses on a specific group or specific individual lacks integrity."

SEN. PELL WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FROM SABBATH ELECTION BILL

NEW YORK, March 27 (JTA)--Sen. Claiborne Pell (D,R.I.) has agreed to withdraw his support from a Sabbath election bill he originally had introduced into the Senate, Harold Jacobs, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, reported today.

Jacobs said that Sen. Pell's aide for domestic legislation, William Young, had informed David Luchins, vice-chairman of the UOJCA communal relations commission, that Sen. Pell had not been aware of the effect his bill would have had on the Jewish community. Young assured the UOJCA that, having learned of the problem from Luchins, Sen. Pell would do everything necessary to assure that his bill does not become law.

Luchins said that Young informed him that Sen. Pell had said he would vote against his bill and would urge his Senatorial colleagues to do likewise. Once introduced, bills cannot be dropped.

SWEDES DENIED VISAS TO PROBE FATE OF IRAQI JEWS

COPENHAGEN, March 27 (JTA)--Two prominent Swedes who wanted to investigate the fate of the 11 Jews who have disappeared and may have been executed in Iraq have been refused visas to enter that country by the Baghdad authorities. According to recent reports the Jews were murdered while in jail. The Swedes, a jurist and a member of Parliament, Per Ahlman, who has long

been fighting for the rights of Jews in Arab countries, had asked for visas in Feb.

PROF.'S DISMISSAL WAS NOT POLITICAL, SAYS TEL AVIV U.

TEL AVIV, March 27 (JTA)--The administration of Tel Aviv University has denied that the dismissal of Reserves Col. Meif Payil, a senior lecturer on military history, had anything to do with his leftist views. Col. Payil was advised by letter that his contract with the university will not be renewed for the next academic year.

The military scholar was regarded as close to the "Movement for Peace and Security," a group which its critics charge advocates peace at any price with the Arabs. Some lecturers claimed that Payil's dismissal was connected with his political associations. But the Rector, Prof. Simonson, said, "We knew of his views before he started to lecture here four years ago." He said the decision to terminate Col. Payil's tenure was based on a confidential evaluation of his work and on the determination that military history studies did not warrant a full-time job.

EDUCATION NARROWING CULTURAL GAP IN ISRAEL, EDUCATOR SAYS

MIAMI BEACH, March 27 (JTA)--A prominent Israeli educator said today that his nation has waged "only an initial skirmish" in narrowing the educational gap between its citizens of European and Oriental origins. Dr. Chaim Adler, addressing 1000 delegates at the biennial convention of the National Council of Jewish Women, specifically referred to the division that exists between Jews of Asian and African background and those whose origin is European. Dr. Adler, the director of the NCJW Center of Research in Education of the Disadvantaged in Israel, emphasized that the Council center "may be crucial to the success of the battle." He spoke of the relevance of education to social justice and greater equality.

Dr. Adler said that the tremendous immigration from Afro-Asian countries during the first 15 years of Israel's independence brought great numbers from the underdeveloped Moslem Middle East. The cultural gap between this group and earlier Israeli settlers posed a threat to the solidarity of the society, and socio-economic equality of the country, he said.

Dr. Adler pointed out that "In Israel as in the United States integrated education is a political and ideological concern. The expectation, in short, is that disadvantaged students will have greater academic success if they attend integrated rather than segregated schools." He told the delegates that the Center is now engaged in testing these assumptions in a pilot integrated school. Results show "that the disadvantaged students in the project achieved better than similar students in other schools; that middle class students in the project also achieved better, leaping forward, as a matter of fact, even more rapidly than did the disadvantaged students," Dr. Adler said.

The danger of Arab terrorist attacks in West Germany has increased, with particularly endangered targets including Israeli installations, airline offices, the Jordanian Embassy and oil concerns, West German security services reported today. The services reported they had received numerous alerts recently from Western intelligence agencies, according to which Black September commandos are at present in Western Europe trying to gain entry into West Germany.