



daily news bulletin

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ORT OFFICE IN PARIS BROKEN INTO, MONEY STOLEN, ANTI-SEMITIC SLOGANS SCRAWLED ON WALLS

PARIS, April 2 (JTA)--The ORT office in Paris was broken into last night and anti-Semitic slogans scrawled on the walls by unknown persons who cracked the safe and either stole or burned its contents. Police investigators are trying to determine whether the break-in was the work of professional criminals or anti-Semitic vandals.

The ORT director for France, Elie Schieber, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the thieves stole money in the safe and burned checks. A small fire broke out but was extinguished within minutes by firemen and police. Anti-Semitic slogans covered the office walls and swastikas were scrawled on tables, desks and the pictures on the walls. Schieber said that no threats had been received and no special precautions had been taken.

SOARING PRICES, MISSING GOODS, PLAGUE PASSOVER SHOPPERS IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--With Passover only two weeks away, Israeli housewives are encountering chaotic conditions in supermarkets and groceries, stemming from last week's price hikes on a wide variety of basic foods and other goods. They are finding many items even higher than the government's announced ceilings while others have been pulled off the shelves in anticipation of new price rises.

Among the commodities that have gone up in price are many that are in heavy demand for Passover. These include poultry, beef, flour and flour-based foods such as noodles, cakes and a variety of sugar-based products. The Ministry of Commerce has promised that there would be no shortages for the holiday. But the holiday will be the most expensive for Israelis in many years.

There is a severe shortage of cigarettes and other items, mainly because of a dispute between producers and middlemen. The latter claim that the new price lists have reduced their income by several tenths of a percent and refuse to supply the stores. Meanwhile, there has been an unexplained rise in the price of parking. Private parking lots have raised their fees without permission.

ISRAELIS GET TAX RELIEF

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--Reduced income tax rates took effect in Israel yesterday, the first day of the new fiscal year. A person earning IL 1200 a month, who was recently given a IL 100 a month cost of living allowance, previously paid IL 43.90 of this in income taxes. He will now pay only IL 32. Similarly, a person earning IL 1400 a month, who received a IL 100 cost of living allowance, will pay IL 37.80 instead of IL 55.40 in income taxes.

Tax deductions have also been increased. Men over 60 may deduct IL 480 instead of the previous IL 325, and a third year immigrant will be able to deduct IL 400 instead of only IL 200. A working mother with three children will be able to deduct IL 1560 instead of IL 800, and anyone with a child in the army will be able to deduct IL 600 instead of IL 400.

ISRAELIS BUYING LAND IN ARAB TERRITORIES DESPITE OFFICIAL BAN

Dayan Wants Free Purchases, Eban Urges Caution

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--The government is studying a proposal by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan to permit land sales transactions between Jews and Arabs in the administered territories, it was learned today. Dayan made the suggestion last week in a speech in which he implied criticism of the government for not doing enough to further Jewish settlement in the territories. It appeared, however, that Gen. Dayan was not proposing anything new but rather was asking the government to give its official blessing to something that is already taking place on a fairly large scale.

Experts here estimate that Israelis have already purchased more than 150,000 dunams (37,500 acres) of land from Arabs in the administered territories. Despite the fact that they are officially not permitted to buy Arab land in the Judea and Samaria regions, some 10,000 dunams, nearly 3000 acres, have been bought there. The State Comptroller's report recently cited the Jewish National Fund as the purchaser of 85,000 dunams (22,000 acres) of land in the territories. The JNF denied this. Government officials explained that the JNF acted as an intermediary and that the land was turned over to the Israel Lands Authority.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that the government must be the final arbiter in the purchase of land in the administered territories, not individuals. He said such activities could lead to Israel's political and even military involvement because it is the duty of a State to protect its citizens' property. Eban told newsmen that he did not anticipate a Cabinet decision permitting free land purchases by Israelis in the territories because a majority of the Cabinet shared his position.

The land purchases by Israelis in the territories has sparked a sharp increase in prices. Land in the Jerusalem area, where most of the purchases have taken place, is currently selling for between IL 10-55,000 per dunam (quarter acre). Should the government officially endorse the policy, the prices will go much higher, experts say.

According to visitors arriving here from Amman, Jordan, the sellers are not only local Arab landowners but absentee Arab landlords living in Jordan or in other Arab countries. Land purchases by Jews are legal in Jerusalem. Land near the new Atarot Airport was sold by its Arab owner last week for IL 65,000 per dunam.

SCIACKY BOLTS NRP OVER 'WHO IS JEW' ISSUE; FORMS ONE-MAN KNESSET FACTION

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--Dr. Avner Sciacky, a National Religious Party MK, announced today that he was leaving the NRP to form his own one-man Knesset faction. Sciacky, a Sephardic intellectual and law lecturer at Tel Aviv University, has been at loggerheads with the NRP since last July when he voted with Herut and Aguda factions against the government on the "Who Is A Jew" issue. The rest of NRP maintained coalition discipline and abstained in the Knesset vote. Sciacky resigned his post as Deputy Education Minister at the time.

Sciacky explained today that he could not reconcile his conscience with the fact that the NRP was in effect agreeing not to amend the Law of Return

to define a Jew as a person born of a Jewish mother or converted according to halacha. Sciaky told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he was writing a book on the "Who Is A Jew" issue in which he said he would detail the halachic and legal aspects of the problem.

COURT DROPS MAJOR CHARGE AGAINST 6 ARABS WHO PLEAD GUILTY TO SPYING

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--Six of nine Arabs connected with the Syrian-directed Arab-Jewish spy ring were found guilty by a Haifa district court today after pleading guilty to the charges against them. The six agreed to submit guilty pleas after the court, on the request of the prosecution, agreed to drop the most serious charge--conspiring to help the enemy in its war against Israel. That charge carries a penalty of life imprisonment.

LEO BERNSTEIN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ISRAEL BONDS, DEAD AT 61

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Leo Bernstein, 61, executive vice-president and chief executive officer of the world-wide Israel Bond Organization, who died of a heart attack this morning at his New York home. Mr. Bernstein was named in August 1970 to direct the operations of the Israel Bond drive in the United States and other parts of the free world, after having served for more than thirty years as a leading executive in major national programs for Israel in this country.

He was associated for many years with the national leadership of the United Jewish Appeal, and was known in communities throughout the United States as a forceful and effective spokesman for the cause of Israel. Mr. Bernstein was one of the American Jewish leaders who met with Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and other Israel government figures in Jerusalem in 1950 at the historic conference which resulted in the launching of the first Israel Bond Issue in the United States. He visited Israel many times since then to discuss the progress of Israel's development program with government officials.

At the end of January 1973, Mr. Bernstein, together with Sam Rothberg, general chairman, and Ira Guilden, president of the Israel Bond Organization, and a select group of U.S. and Canadian Jewish leaders, conferred with Prime Minister Golda Meir and Finance Minister Pinchas Sapir in Jerusalem on the means of increasing economic aid to Israel this year.

At Mr. Bernstein's suggestion, that conference adopted a quota of \$360 million for 1973 for the Israel Bond campaign, which has sold a total of \$2.2 billion in Bonds since its inception in 1951. Prior to being named to the post of executive vice-president, Mr. Bernstein served for twenty years as national director of field operations of the Israel Bond Organization. He was the initiator of the concept of large-scale Bond sales to banks, trade unions, pension funds, and insurance companies, which in the last few years purchased more than \$250 million in Bonds.

In tribute to the memory of Mr. Bernstein, the offices of the Israel Bond Organization will be closed tomorrow.

BONN MAKES IT OFFICIAL: CHANCELLOR BRANDT WILL VISIT ISRAEL IN JUNE

BONN, April 2 (JTA)--The government announced officially today that Chancellor Willy Brandt would visit Israel from June 7-10. The visit was announced simultaneously in Jerusalem. Government spokesman Ruediger Von Weich-

man told a news conference that no itinerary or agenda has been established yet. He said the visit should be viewed in the context of Bonn's "balanced Middle East policy."

The Chancellor will be accompanied by his wife on his visit to Israel. Brandt was invited by Premier Golda Meir last year. He last visited Israel in 1960 when he was the Mayor of West Berlin. The Foreign Ministry announced today that Foreign Minister Walter Scheel will visit Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon from May 18-24. Scheel visited Israel last summer.

DAYAN SAYS ISRAEL WOULD HAVE SECURE BORDERS IF PEACE IS REACHED NOW

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan indicated last night what Israel's borders would be if a general peace settlement was reached in the Middle East at this time. "Jerusalem will be divided no more nor will Nathanya be endangered from the East," he told a meeting of the organization of civilian employees of the armed services.

"There will be no Egyptian enclave in the Gaza Strip nor will the Straits of Eilat be in foreign hands," he said. His remarks indicated that he envisaged Israel's permanent retention of at least parts of the former Jordanian territory closest to Israel's Mediterranean coast town of Nathanya before the Six-Day War. He implied the same for eastern Sinai and Sharm el-Sheikh which controls the Straits of Eilat (Tiran).

Dayan said that Israel stood at the threshold of a new era marked by a continuing cease-fire and the withdrawal of Soviet forces from active involvement in Egypt. The main test facing Israel is not so much official relations with the Arab states but human relations with the Arabs of the administered territories, he said.

NAVON TAKES HIMSELF OUT OF PRESIDENTIAL RACE

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--Deputy Knesset Speaker Itzhak Navon officially withdrew from the Presidential race yesterday and urged his backers to desist from any further activity on his behalf. Navon lost the Labor Party's nomination to Prof. Ephraim Katchalski of the Weizmann Institute of Science who seems assured of victory when the Knesset votes for Israel's new President April 10.

Navon said he no longer views himself as a candidate. He urged his supporters to avoid demonstrations such as those held recently by some university students who tried to rally grass roots support for the Knesset leader.

PANOV DESPAIRING, REPORTEDLY CONTEMPLATES SUICIDE

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--Anxiety was expressed in artistic circles here today over the condition of Valery Panov, the Russian-Jewish dancer who was fired from Leningrad's Kirov Ballet Co. when he applied for a visa to emigrate to Israel. Panov, who spoke by telephone to a friend with the Bat Sheva Bat Dor Dance Group of Israel, said he has been denied a visa and "the only thing for me to do is to commit suicide."

Panov's friend, Joseph Fraenkel, said the dancer told him he could not leave Russia and could not live there. He said at that point the phone call was disconnected. The Bat Sheva Bat Dor dancers gave a special performance on behalf of Panov Saturday. Absorption Minister Natan Peled who attended, said the struggle for Panov's freedom must continue until he and his friends are permitted to come to Israel.

YAMPOLSKY CHALLENGES RUSH ON SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICY Sen. Jackson Issues Own Statement

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA)--Former Russian jazz drummer Mark Yampolsky, in the seventh day of his hunger strike opposite the Soviet Embassy, today challenged comments by Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth P. Rush on the Soviet Jewry issue. Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.), a champion of the right of Soviet citizens to emigrate freely, circulated Yampolsky's remarks on Capitol Hill and issued a statement of his own.

Speaking at the State Department's foreign policy conference for news media representatives last Thursday, Rush praised the Soviet Union for its "commendable flexibility" on emigration and predicted that anti-Semitism would arise in Russia if Congress failed to grant most favored nation trade benefits and credits to the USSR. Yampolsky, 25, asserted in a letter to Rush that the Soviet education tax on emigrants is only a cover-up for the underlying policy of routine denials of permission for Jews to emigrate, except when it suits Soviet authorities.

State Department officials told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Yampolsky's letter had not been received and said that when it does arrive it will be studied and presumably acknowledged. Yampolsky gave his return address as "opposite the Embassy of the USSR, 16 St. NW Washington, D.C." Yampolsky, a former mathematics student who emigrated from the Soviet Union to Israel last Nov. is on a hunger strike to protest the refusal of Soviet authorities to grant exit visas to his in-laws, Dr. and Mrs. Isaac Politinnikov, and his sister-in-law, Victoria. Yampolsky's wife, Eleanor, is on a hunger strike in behalf of her parents outside the Soviet Embassy in London.

Yampolsky's letter to Rush challenged the State Department official's stated figures on Jewish emigration from the USSR. He said that instead of 3500 Jewish departures a month cited by Rush, only 2174 left last Feb. In circulating Yampolsky's letter today, Sen. Jackson noted that "Soviet representatives have been all over Washington threatening that my amendment will lead to anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism is so rampant in Russia that it is hard to imagine how it can be affected by the amendment," he said. He suggested that anyone who had any doubt about this "listen to the people who have been the target for anti-Semitism all these years."

The Jackson Amendment to the East-West Trade Act and identical amendments in the House sponsored by Reps. Wilbur Mills (D.Ark.) and Charles Vanik (D. Ohio) would deny U.S. trade concessions to Moscow until restrictions on the emigration of Soviet citizens are removed.

Government sources indicated to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that some confusion existed on the figures for Jewish emigration cited by both Rush and Yampolsky. The sources said Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel in Jan. 1973 totaled 2549, in Feb. 2659 and March 2174. The latter figure corresponded to Yampolsky's Feb. statistics. Total emigration in 1972 was 31,500, the sources said. They said Rush may have meant 2500 and inadvertently said 3500 were leaving each month.

PRO-JEWISH DEMONSTRATORS GREET KOSYGIN IN STOCKHOLM

STOCKHOLM, April 2 (JTA)--Demonstrations broke out here today protesting the start of a four-day official visit by Soviet Premier Alexei Kosy-

gin. On Kosygin's arrival a group of 25 demonstrators, brandishing posters calling for Jewish rights in the Soviet Union, gathered in the street while the Russian leader met with Swedish Premier Olaf Palme.

During a scuffle with police, the demonstrators were pushed aside and Kosygin failed to see them when he came out. There were no injuries reported. The Stockholm synagogue called on the Jewish community to turn out for new demonstrations during the Soviet leader's stay.

SOVIETISHE HEIMLAND ATTACKS MRS. MARKISH

LONDON, April 2 (JTA)--The Soviet Yiddish monthly, Sovietishe Heimland, published a bitter attack on Esther Markish, widow of the late Russian-Yiddish poet Peretz Markish, who recently emigrated to Israel with her son David. The publication implied that Mrs. Markish's interest in her husband's works is based on "financial considerations."

The latest issue of the magazine described Mrs. Markish as "an adventurer" and "gold digger" who is "touring the Western world and using lying Zionist propaganda for material advantage." Sovietishe Heimland alleged that Mrs. Markish and "her mixed-up son" are "selling the name (of Peretz Markish) to the Zionists."

The article referred throughout to Mrs. Markish by her maiden name, Lazebnikova, and sought to draw a distinction between herself and Peretz Markish who was murdered in the Stalin purge of Jewish writers and intellectuals during the early 1950s. Markish was rehabilitated posthumously and his works are no longer banned in Russia. But no mention is ever made of the way he died.

PLO MAY SEND DELEGATION TO BOLOGNA CONFERENCE ON MIDEAST PEACE

ROME, April 2 (JTA)--Israelis and Palestinian guerrilla representatives may meet at the leftist-sponsored Bologna Conference on Peace in the Middle East scheduled for May 11-13 if El Fatah leader Yassir Arafat has his way and sends a Palestine Liberation Organization delegation.

A three-member investigatory team which visited Beirut, Damascus and Cairo, reported to a preparatory meeting of the conference that Arafat, the PLO head, was willing to send an ad hoc delegation, conference sources said today. It would not be a formal PLO delegation, the sources said, since Arafat faces considerable opposition from within the organization to the idea of sending anyone at all.

The investigatory team, which arrived in Bologna Saturday from Cairo, comprised Remo Salati of Italy, Maurice Barth of France and Said Rifai of Egypt. The team reported it had been in contact with leaders from a wide political spectrum that included Socialists, Baathists and Communists.

The preparatory meeting also received a letter announcing the formation of an Israeli committee for the Bologna conference comprising representatives of Rakah Communists and other opposition leftist groups including Brith Hasmol, Ha'olam and Siah.

Young Communist delegates from Russia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and East Germany are expected in Israel next week to attend the three-day Rakah Communist Youth Convention opening there April 12. Delegations are also expected from Cyprus and from the World Federation of Democratic Youth which has its headquarters in Budapest.

ISRAEL PLAYS STRATEGIC ROLE FOR FREE WORLD, SAYS BEIGIN

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Menachem Beigin, the Herut leader and a leader of the Gahal opposition faction in Israel, declared here last night that Israel still plays a role of strategic importance to the free world, even though American military involvement in Vietnam is at an end. He said that role was established by the continued presence of Israeli troops on the eastern banks of the Suez Canal. As long as the canal remains closed, Russia is denied easy access to the Middle East and East Asian countries by sea. "Russian ships must travel half-way around the globe to reach the Iraqi port of Basra," he said.

Beigin spoke at the 24th annual dinner of the Jewish National Fund, marking the 25th anniversary of Israel's independence. He reiterated his contention that Israel must retain all of the Arab territories it captured in the Six-Day War. He referred to them as the "liberated areas." He said "security is a precondition for peace," indicating that the territories spelled security.

Beigin said he thought that Israel should solve the problem of Arab refugees within its own borders but that the refugee problem in Arab countries was for the Arabs to solve. Arabs who live in Israel should be granted Israeli citizenship if they ask for it, he said, and even those who refuse citizenship deserve "full equality of rights," he added.

According to Beigin, Zionism's task over the next 25 years is to see to it that a majority of the world's Jews live in Israel. He called the emigration of Russian Jews to Israel a "miracle" and a "great victory of Zionism over Communism." He referred to the Soviet exit tax as a "shameful ransom." He said no threats of rising anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union would prevent Jews from fighting for the rights of their brethren in the USSR. "The ghetto mentality is destroyed forever. We are free men," he said.

EILAT POLICE HOLD 15 FOR CEMETERY DESECRATION

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--Eilat police detained 60 Arabs and other non-Jews last night and held 15 for questioning today in the desecration of the Eilat cemetery yesterday. The local burial society reported that two tombstones were smashed, others defaced and a coffin set on fire. Police believe the desecration could have been the work of a mentally deranged person but more likely a deliberate act by anti-Jewish vandals. The local religious community observed a day of fast and prayer today on the orders of Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren.

JEWS ORGANIZING TO SEEK EAST GERMAN COMPENSATION FOR NAZI WAR CRIMES

AMSTERDAM, April 2 (JTA)--Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal announced here that an international congress of all organizations of former Nazi victims will be held in Vienna next month for joint action in seeking East German compensation for Nazi crimes. Wiesenthal, who was speaking on Dutch television, said the organizations will probably establish a joint action committee to negotiate with East Germany which has so far adamantly refused to consider compensation. He did not specify which organizations would attend the congress.

Police took special security precautions dur-

ing Wiesenthal's brief stay in Amsterdam. People attending his talk were searched and cars were prevented from parking near the hall.

ISRAEL PLANS NUCLEAR UNIT TO REPLACE FOSSIL FUELS

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--In view of the present energy crisis facing the world, Israel is studying a plan to construct a unit that would supply nuclear energy to replace conventional fuel, Deputy Finance Minister Tzvi Dinstein, said today. Speaking at the Labor Alignment Economic Club, Dinstein, who is responsible for fuel matters, said the unit, to cost IL 250 million, would be completed by 1981 if construction began immediately. He noted that 350 similar nuclear reactors are planned or already under construction in 28 Western countries. Dinstein also said that Israel has invested IL 250 million in oil prospecting, but that no further drilling is being conducted in Sinai because it requires a political decision as yet unmade.

CABINET OKs ECOLOGICAL UNIT IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--The Cabinet has approved the creation of an ecological unit within the Prime Minister's Office and the establishment of a medical school attached to Negev University in Beersheba. The ecological unit, which won unanimous endorsement, was described as a "service for the protection of the quality of the environment."

Its functions will include advising government bodies and planning authorities on environmental problems and the preparation of "environmental impact statements" in conjunction with the National Council for Planning and Construction. It will also collect and disseminate material from Israel and abroad on ecology and related issues. The unit will employ scientists and social scientists. Its director will be appointed by the Prime Minister.

EBAN SEEKS ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ISRAELIS WORKING ABROAD

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--Since Israel was established 25 years ago, thousands of Israelis working abroad have been deprived of the right to vote in Knesset elections. Foreign Minister Abba Eban is trying to obtain voting rights for the absentees who include diplomatic representatives, El Al agents, bankers, and commercial representatives.

Eban has approached Premier Golda Meir, Justice Minister Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro and Labor Party Secretary General Aharon Yadin on the matter. Shapiro and Yadin believe there is insufficient time to change the law during the present Knesset session which ends April 10.

SPECIALIST FINDS BG OK

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--A specialist from Beersheba Hospital said today that nothing serious was wrong with former Premier David Ben-Gurion who is ill at his Sde Boker home. Dr. A. Lehman, the hospital's chief internist was summoned to Sde Boker yesterday by Ben-Gurion's private physician to examine the 84-year-old elder statesman.

Ben-Gurion fell ill last month while vacationing in Tiberias and was hospitalized for a day. Dr. Lehman said his complaints yesterday stemmed from the same cold that he suffered in Tiberias and that he should be well again in a few days.