



daily news bulletin

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BEN NATAN SAYS 16 OF 60 MIRAGES DELIVERED TO LIBYA NOW IN EGYPT

PARIS, April 25 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Asher Ben Natan reiterated today Israel's charges that Libyan Mirages have been delivered to Egypt. Ben Natan told newsmen on his arrival here from a brief home leave that "We have evidence that 16 out of the 60 Mirages delivered to Libya are stationed in Egypt." He said that Egypt has also built special underground installations to store the French-made planes "out of sight."

The Israeli envoy said that he planned to see French-Foreign Minister Michel Jobert "at the earliest" moment. The Ambassador refused to disclose the purpose of the meeting but observers here believe that he has been instructed to deliver a stiff protest over what seems to be France's breach of its own terms in the Mirage deal.

France, acting on a ruling of Gen. Charles de Gaulle, reiterated by President Georges Pompidou in Jan. 1970, barred arms exports to "all the participants in the 1967 Middle East war." The Franco-Libyan arms agreement providing for the sale of 120 French-made planes to Col. Qaddafi's air force specifies that these should not be handed over to a third party.

Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban charged last week that Libya was violating the contract and summoned French Ambassador Francis Hure to formally protest against France's stand on this issue. An opposition member of the French Parliament, Gen. Paul Stehlin, today asked French Premier Pierre Messmer what steps France intends to take should it appear that the Israeli accusations are found to be true. The Premier is expected to reply some time next week.

Spy Trial Continues

3 PLEAD GUILTY TO LESSER CHARGES AS COURT WITHDRAWS CONSPIRACY CHARGE

TEL AVIV, April 25 (JTA)--Twelve young people were arrested today as police broke up an unauthorized demonstration by several dozen members of leftist groups near the Haifa district court where two Jews and six Arabs went on trial this morning for activities related to a Syrian-directed Arab-Jewish spy ring. The Haifa police chief said the demonstration was illegal and constituted a danger to the public.

Three of the defendants, including David Kupfer, 26, a Jewish laborer from Bat Yam, pleaded guilty to lesser charges after the court agreed to withdraw the most serious charge against them--conspiracy with the enemy to aid its war against Israel--which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. The three admitted membership in the spy ring. Kupfer admitted that he had bought airline tickets for Greece to meet Syrian agents but at the last minute did not make the trip.

The five other defendants, including Yehezkel Cohen, 30, of Bnei Brag, maintained their innocence of all charges. Cohen allegedly was assigned the code name Shalom when he joined the ring and had orders to sabotage Army installations and vital civilian industries.

Both Cohen and Kupfer were allegedly re-

cruited into the ring by Ehud Adiv, the leader of its Jewish section, who was sentenced to a 17-year-prison term earlier this month. The eight defendants who appeared in court this morning comprise the third group of spy suspects to go on trial so far.

It was learned today that prison authorities have warned Adiv and his co-defendant, Dan Vered, 28, to stop spreading leftist propaganda among fellow prisoners in the Ramleh Central Prison where they are being held for the time being. The warning was issued by Prisons Commissioner Aryeh Nir who accused the pair of conducting political activities in prison. Vered, a school teacher, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for his activities in the spy ring.

18 JEWS WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION

VIENNA, April 25 (JTA)--Soviet Embassy officials confirmed today that 18 Russian Jews who have been living in a rotting Vienna tenement house for up to three years will be allowed to return Saturday to the Soviet Union. "They will leave on Saturday by train for Kiev," a Soviet official told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Communist sources, who reported that the Jews had received the visas earlier this week, said the Soviets granted the visas as a "goodwill gesture" for the May Day holiday May 1. The 18 are part of 96 former Soviet citizens who emigrated to Israel but, according to them, found life there too demanding and wanted to return. But the Soviets refused them visas because they had taken on Israeli citizenship.

The Russians rented apartments in a slum tenement building on Malzgasse Street from a Jewish businessman. They were often used as cheap labor because many had no official work permits from the Austrian authorities. The Russians here would not say if any of the remaining Malzgasse Jews were to be given return visas.

DR. GOLDMANN: ISRAEL MUST TAKE PEACE INITIATIVE

TEL AVIV, April 25 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said last night that Israel must take the initiative for peace with its neighbors because the status quo "is not good for us." He said he did not advocate peace at any price but felt that a minimum price must be set and "the initiative for that must come from Israel."

Dr. Goldmann spoke at a "Road to Peace" symposium sponsored by the monthly magazine "New Outlook." The veteran Zionist leader, who has aroused controversy in the past for his sharp criticism of certain Israeli policies, said the current situation of no war-no peace was detrimental to Israel and could not be allowed to continue much longer. "It does not have the advantage of the challenge of war and it does not have the advantage of a peace situation," he said.

The image of Israel is in danger among intellectuals and progressive elements who were always pro-Israel to a great extent but are now drifting away from us, he said. "For too long we have rested on the credit given us because of the holocaust. Now our supporters are disappointed and ask themselves if another Lebanon

has emerged on the Middle East map," Dr. Goldmann said.

He chided Israel for becoming a conformist society where in the past it had always been non-conformist. "The task the Jewish State has assumed is to become the guardian of Jewish values and culture," he said, but it cannot carry out the task "as long as there is no peace and almost all efforts are devoted to security."

2 E. JERUSALEM EDITORS, ARRESTED EARLIER IN MONTH, RELEASED ON BAIL

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA)--Two East Jerusalem Arab editors arrested April 15 on suspicion of sedition and incitement were released today on IL 2000 bail each by a Jerusalem district court. Joseph Nasr, editor and publisher of the East Jerusalem weekly, Al-Fajar, and Jamil Hamad, assistant editor, had been remanded in custody for 15 days pending trial. Israeli authorities charged that the two had failed to submit their stories to the censor.

The court allowed bail over the objections of Jerusalem police who wanted to hold Nasr for further questioning. The interrogation of Hamad was said to have been completed. Both were detained after publishing a report that accused Israel and Jordan of collaboration in the Israeli commando raids on terrorist headquarters in Beirut on April 10 in which three terrorist leaders were killed. Jordan called the report "completely unfounded" and accused the weekly of serving Israeli intelligence.

The arrest of the two editors raised a storm of criticism in the Israeli press. Haaretz said it damaged Israel's image. Maariv said the detention of the pair would be viewed as punishment for expressing anti-Israel opinions. In addition to alleging Israeli-Jordanian collusion, Al Fajr published a front page editorial urging Arabs to mourn the slain terrorist leaders.

YUGOSLAVIA INVITES ISRAELI THESPIANS

TEL AVIV, April 25 (JTA)--An Israeli theatrical delegation has been invited to attend the Congress of the International Theater Institute in Moscow next month. The invitees include Yehoshua Veinberg and Yaacov Yasur, directors of the Tel Aviv and Haifa Chamber Theaters; stage designer Arnon Adar; and Amnon Maeskin, an actor it was learned today. Yaacov Agmon, an Israeli producer and his wife, Gila Almagor, a stage and film star, have also been invited to attend the Congress on a personal basis.

An Israeli theater critic whose invitation to attend a meeting of the World Executive of the Theater Critics Association in Novisad, Yugoslavia, was rescinded by the meeting's organizers last week, has been re-invited, it was learned today. The new invitation was extended to Mendel Kohansky who had been told earlier that his visit to Yugoslavia at this time would be inopportune. The reversal by the Yugoslavs was apparently in response to protests raised by the Paris headquarters of the Critics Association.

SOVIET BULLETIN FINED FOR INCITEMENT TO RACIAL HATRED

PARIS, April 25 (JTA)--The official bulletin of the Soviet Embassy was found guilty here yesterday of "incitement to racial hatred" and "racial defamation" for anti-Semitic material it printed in its Sept. 1972 issue.

The bulletin, "The Review of Soviet Information Services," was also fined 1500 francs (\$650) and a one franc (20 cents) symbolic damage payment to the plaintiff, the International

League Against Anti-Semitism (LICA). Presiding Judge Simone Rozes ordered the judgement to be published in six newspapers to be chosen by the plaintiffs and paid for by the defendants.

The court had recessed for three weeks to consider the case after hearing witnesses and pleas from plaintiffs and defense on March 26. Among witnesses heard was former French Senate President Gaston Monerville who told the court that in his view the anti-racist legislation which he introduced in Parliament "applied to the case in both spirit and letter."

Another witness, French Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan, told the court, "Never since Nazi days have I seen such hate propaganda published in France."

The witnesses were referring to claims by the Soviet bulletin that "According to fundamental conceptions (of the Bible), the world should belong to the followers of the powerful God Jehovah." Another passage said, "According to the rules (of the Talmud and the Torah), entire generations of Israelis have been inculcated from the cradle with hatred of other nations."

The court rejected at the time a plea by the defendants that the publication was covered by the Soviet Embassy's diplomatic immunity. Judge Rozes said at the time that "The Review" was registered as a French publication and was thus subject to all normal legislation.

FRENCH CATHOLIC STATEMENT ON JEWS, ISRAEL, DENOUNCED BY ARAB CIRCLES

ROME, April 25 (JTA)--An international controversy stirred by the French Episcopate's declaration upholding the right of Jewish people to Statehood, is causing consternation in Vatican circles. The declaration was denounced by Arab circles as "pro-Zionist." Aides of Pope Paul VI were described as being "alarmed" at the reaction and were said to be studying the issue.

The declaration, which was two years in preparation, was released in April 1961. In it the French Episcopate called on Catholics to revise their thinking on Judaism and recognize the "political existence" of the State of Israel. Several days later the Archbishop of Paris said that the document was a religious and not a political statement.

Arab commentators accused the Catholic Church of siding with Israel and hinted reprisals against Catholic missions in the Middle East. The Algerian newspaper, El Moudjahid, a semi-official organ of the Algiers government, warned that the attitude expressed by the French bishops might prompt a reappraisal of the "toleration that the Arab countries have shown so far toward the activities of Christian missions." The Lebanese Embassy in the Vatican called the declaration "regrettable" and complained that the French Church which always found open doors in Lebanon was now supporting Lebanon's enemy.

The Vatican has refrained from commenting publicly on the declaration. Vatican press secretary Federico Allessandrini said in response to questions last night that he had nothing to add to repeated pronouncements by the Pope on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Pope Paul called again for peace in the Middle East in his Easter message last Sunday. Allessandrini remarked, however, that the Church's position on Judaism "has been defined by Vatican II," a possible implication that the French bishops' declaration was gratuitous.

THE HITLER BOOM IN AUSTRIA

By Richard Bruce, JTA Vienna Correspondent

VIENNA, April 25 (JTA)--I saw Adolf Hitler

last night along with 100 or so other movie goers. I saw the award-winning English actor-Alec Guinness portray "Der Fuehrer" with a ghostly reality that sent shivers down my spine. "That's Hitler, alright," said a member of the audience at Vienna's Apollo movie house who was old enough to recall the day Austria became part of the Third Reich.

The premiere of the film, "Hitler--The Last 10 Days," was a small part of the "Hitler-mania" currently gripping West Germany and Austria--and it's causing quite a stir in this tiny alpine nation. New books, television productions and, in particular, the new film, have been professionally timed to coincide with dates that recall clearly the Nazi era--like Hitler's birthday April 20.

The wave of Hitler publicity has brought some surprising results: in Austria it has led to a national uproar. A Viennese housewife started it by saying she would welcome Hitler back.

Interviewed on the "Heldenplatz," the Heroes Square where Hitler made his first triumphant speech in Austria, Mrs. Edith Asberger, 49, who turned out to see him then, said, "I would go again and welcome him back." The television station got protest calls. The press played up the story and Adolf Hitler got back onto the front pages of the newspapers he controlled all those years ago.

"Hitler is not allowed to die," said an article in the Vienna newspaper, Kurier, which printed a full-page critical story about the people who flock to buy Hitler books and see the movies. But the people the Kurier interviewed were not so critical.

Karl Schneeberger, a clerk, said, "Today we wouldn't need Hitler any more. But in those days he got us jobs. We needed him then." Helene Schoenhofer, a secretary, said, "His basic ideas weren't bad. It was what was to follow that was terrible." In Austria there are books and magazine articles full of Hitler--it is called "the nostalgia wave."

SCALI: SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION REPRESENTS 'SMALL STEP FORWARD' Risks In Forthcoming Mideast Review

UNITED NATIONS; April 25 (JTA)--Ambassador John Scali believes that the Security Council's resolution of April 21 condemning Israel for its commando raids on terrorist headquarters in Lebanon "did represent a small step forward". In that it also included for the first time, a condemnation of terrorist violence. For that reason, the U.S. refrained from vetoing the resolution, Scali explained in an interview on the CBS Morning News television program.

He said that another reason why the U.S. chose to abstain rather than exercise its veto power was that a veto "might have been seized on by the hardliners and indeed some of the fanatics on the Arab side as a signal to launch attacks and propaganda against the United States, alleging that this proved American complicity in the Israeli raid in Lebanon."

The U.S. envoy said he thought there are "definite risks" in the Security Council's decision to undertake a general review of the Middle East situation next month. "I am concerned lest the review serve as a take-off point and as a forum for ventilating and exchanging one-sided accusations and remarks of the kind that heat up the diplomatic atmosphere rather than cool it down." He said that if the review is a calm discussion of "what to do and where the next step should be, then conceivably it could be a step forward. But I'm not bursting with optimism that this will be the case," Scali added.

He did not deny directly that his use of the

word "even-handed" and his condemnation of "the cycle of violence and counter-violence" in his Security Council statements before the April 21 vote, signaled "a new, slightly cooler approach to Israel" by the U.S. "My remarks were very carefully phrased and measured. They were meant to reflect a determination and a readiness to be fair and open-minded in seeking to encourage both sides to negotiate," he said. He added that they "were not intended to signal any shift in emphasis."

U.S. Talking Candidly To Israel

Scali said the U.S. has been talking "very candidly" with the Israeli government but would not say if it has advised Israel not to conduct future raids such as the one on Beirut. "They (the Israelis) understand our views," he said.

The Ambassador denied that Arab oil pressures affected American Middle East policies. "Let me say that our energy crisis and the fact that most of the oil is in the Arab countries will not ever be a determining factor in what our policy should be in this part of the world."

Referring to his exchange with the Soviet UN Ambassador Yakov Malik over arms shipments to the Middle East, Scali said he was "a bit annoyed" by the contention that the only arms going into the Middle East were American arms sent to Israel.

He said the Russians have shipped more late model MIG planes to Syria in the past several months than they did all of last year. Scali stressed that U.S. weapons shipments to Israel "are intended to keep an arms balance in the area" and are "not intended in any way to encourage anything that Israel might have in mind -- not that they have anything in mind that we know of -- in the way of offensive action."

13 IMMIGRANTS FROM USSR CHARGE ISRAEL 'ABANDONING SOVIET JEWS' Charge Termed Shocking, Almost Libelous

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA)--Thirteen recent immigrants from the Soviet Union, all scientists, ended a week-long hunger strike outside the Prime Minister's Office last night and repeated their charges, that the Israeli government was damaging the cause of Soviet Jews. Mordechai Gazit, director general of the PM's Office, said their charges were "shocking" and almost libelous.

But a spokesman for the group asserted last night that the government was "abandoning Soviet Jews." He cited a recent remark by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir that Israel's immigration program should be based on an average of 50,000 newcomers a year from all countries. The spokesman alleged that this was a clear hint to the Soviet Union that Israel would be satisfied if no more than 30-35,000 Jews were allowed to leave the USSR each year.

The 13 were sharply criticized by Absorption Minister Natan Peled when they began their hunger strike April 18. Peled said they were falsely accusing the government of dragging its feet on the matter of Jewish emigration from Russia. He said they were apparently unaware of the "energetic struggle" being waged by Israel for abolition of the education tax and an end to the harassment and imprisonment of Jews in the USSR.

West Germany's Chancellor Willy Brandt will be accompanied by 100 German newsmen and scores more from other countries of the European Economic Community when he visits Israel in June, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today.

400 AT RALLY ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWISH ARTISTS, INTELLECTUALS

NEW YORK, April 25 (JTA)--More than 400 people massed in Duffy Square in mid-Manhattan during the noon hour today to hear American celebrities of the stage, screen and the arts appeal for justice for harassed and persecuted Jewish artists, writers and intellectuals in the Soviet Union. The rally was sponsored by the Writers and Artists for Peace in the Middle East in cooperation with the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Speakers pointed out that Jewish artists, writers and intellectuals in the USSR have been subjected to the harshest economic and social censure only because they have expressed a wish to emigrate to Israel or other countries where they can live freely as Jews and as creative individuals. They have been dismissed from their jobs. They cannot work in their professions, yet they are not permitted to leave, the audience was told.

Clive Barnes, drama and dance critic of the New York Times, cited the example of Valery Panov and his wife, Galina, both ballet stars who were dismissed from Leningrad's Kirov Ballet Co. after applying for visas to go to Israel. "Panov is a symbol of Jewish oppression in the Soviet Union," Barnes said. He described the Panov case as "racial discrimination at its worst."

Time Again To Survive

The noted playwright, Paddy Chayefsky declared: "It is imperative for American Jews to protect every Valery Panov, every Benjamin Levitch, every Jew in Russia and everywhere else who is threatened because he is a Jew. We have endured as a proud people for four thousand years. The time has apparently come again to fight and to survive."

Others speakers urged that this special group of oppressed artists and writers in the Soviet Union not be forgotten in the excitement generated by news that the Soviet authorities were suspending the education tax on emigrants. Mayor John V. Lindsay proclaimed April 25 as "a day of recognition for Soviet Jewish writers, artists and intellectuals." He urged all New Yorkers "to continue to support, in every way possible, this valiant and courageous group."

The ruthless persecution of Jewish writers and intellectuals in the Stalin era was recalled by actress Joanne Woodward who read, in English translation, a poem by the late Soviet Yiddish poet, Peretz Markish. Markish was executed in the early 1950s, one of the first victims of the Stalin purge of Jewish intellectuals.

Father Norman O'Connor told the gathering: "I speak not as a Catholic priest but as a human being. We want freedom for all. We have been negligent in the fight for Jews."

URGE STATE TO PROVIDE MORE FREE TEXTBOOKS FOR NEW YORK YESHIVAS

NEW YORK, April 25 (JTA)--A state-wide campaign has been launched in New York by the Commission on Legislation and Civic Action of Agudath Israel of America for the passage of a bill to provide free textbooks from the state government for yeshivas and all non-public schools from kindergarten through the sixth grade, it was announced by Rabbi Moshe Shiner, executive

president of the organization.

He recalled the passage in 1965 of legislation providing textbooks to non-public schools from the seventh through the twelfth grades and that after this law was contested in the courts, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld its constitutionality.

In a message to Orthodox Jewish legislative activists throughout New York State, Rabbi Menachem Shavoyich, chairman of Agudath Israel's Legislative Commission, asked that letters be written to legislative leaders in Albany and to local state senators and assemblymen, urging passage of a bill introduced by Senator Leon Giuffreda, chairman of the Senate Education Committee (Bill No. S3505), which extends the book provision law to children from kindergarten through the sixth grade.

He also urged that all letters should stress that the bill should be effective immediately, and that its funding should be included in the supplemental budget for the current 1974 fiscal year.

TAFT REBUKES ABOUREZK AND HATFIELD

WASHINGTON, April 25 (JTA)--Senator Robert Taft Jr. (R., Ohio) says he "strongly" advises that those who advocate a change or a hands-off policy by the United States towards the Middle East "ought to take a look at the realities of the situation as they exist."

Openly rebuking Senators James Abourezk (D., S.D.) and Mark Hatfield (R., Ore.) who had urged in Senate speeches that the U.S. back off from its support for Israel, Taft suggested that they meet Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco "and get briefed on some of the developments which are occurring in the Middle East situation."

Taft said that the United States "has been exercising great restraint in connection with the delivery of arms." The U.S. also should, he added, "certainly work with the other major nations which have been supplying arms, particularly to the Arab countries, and specifically jets to Libya, which are now reported being transferred to Egypt, to try to accomplish a scale-down of the likelihood of major fighting breaking out." Anyone who feels the U.S. is not concerned "with arms deliveries to the Middle East 'simply does not know what the facts are,'" Taft said.

Abourezk had said that the U.S. take the lead in reducing both tensions and arms shipments in the Mideast while Hatfield contended that any Mideast settlement "must include Palestine." They made these statements when the United Nations Security Council was engaged with the charges against Israel on its raid on Arab territories in Beirut.

The Israeli developed and produced sea-to-ssea missile, "Gabriel," will be on display in Paris next month. It will be exhibited as part of the Israeli Aircraft Industries exhibition. The Gabriel, produced by the Israel Aircraft Industries, will also be shown for the first time to the public at an exhibition to open next month in the Tel Aviv fair grounds.

Israel probably will not participate at this year's Cannes film festival according to Variety, the American show business weekly, "for reason of caution and for reasons that the host country will insist upon." France, explains Variety, made it known that Israeli participation at the festival would be possible only if Israel supplied tight security measures.