



# daily news bulletin

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## **MRS. MEIR LAUDS NIXON, JACKSON FOR AID TO SOVIET JEWS BUT SAYS ISRAEL CANNOT INTERVENE IN DISPUTE**

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said today that the Israeli government could not and should not intervene in the internal dispute in the United States over the Jackson Amendment. Addressing Hebrew University students here, Mrs. Meir had lavish praise for both President Nixon, who insists that "quiet diplomacy" is the best approach to the Soviet Union over Jewish emigration, and Sen. Henry M. Jackson, the Washington Democrat, whose measure would deny U.S. trade concessions to Russia as long as it restricted emigration.

Mrs. Meir was obviously weighing her words carefully as she spoke. She said she was happy over the large number of American Congressmen who support the Jackson Amendment in the Senate and an identical measure in the House introduced by Charles A. Vanik (D, Ohio) and Wilbur Mills (D, Ark.). She described Jackson as a sincere friend of Israel and of the Jewish people.

She also noted that Nixon spoke on behalf of Soviet Jewry during his summit meeting in Moscow last May and was continuing his efforts on their behalf. She said the relaxation of the Soviet education tax was brought about mainly through the President's efforts. But she observed that the tax was only symptomatic of a deeper malaise.

The Jackson Amendment is understood to have been discussed at a Cabinet meeting yesterday which heard reports from Mrs. Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban on developments concerning Soviet Jews. The refusal of Cabinet Secretary Michael Arnon to divulge any information was seen as a further indication of Israel's efforts to maintain a low profile as two of its best friends, Nixon and Jackson, differ over an issue that is very close to Israel.

A weekend meeting between top ministers and Jewish Agency leaders reportedly resolved that Israel would refrain from adopting a position or trying to pressure U.S. public opinion on the Jackson Amendment issue.

Mrs. Meir today rejected charges by some Soviet emigre groups here that her government was not doing enough to aid Russian Jews. Responding to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's bellicose May Day speech in Cairo, the Premier said she hoped for the sake of Egyptian soldiers and people that Sadat does not implement his threat to make war on Israel. She said there was no doubt of the outcome if Egypt resumed hostilities and pitied the fate of the young Egyptians sent into battle.

## **JEWISH LEADERS TO MEET WITH KISSINGER; TOPIC IS SOVIET JEWRY**

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--American-Jewish leaders are scheduled to meet with Dr. Henry Kissinger in Washington tonight to discuss the issue of Soviet Jews, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. The meeting with President Nixon's national security advisor on the eve of his departure for Moscow is expected to deal with what further steps the White House might be able to take to help Russian Jews and what

Kissinger himself may be able to do in Moscow.

The Jewish leaders are expected to give Kissinger a list of the names of the 42 Jewish "prisoners of conscience" presently serving sentences in prisons and labor camps in the USSR as well as the names of Soviet Jews who have applied for exit visas and have been turned down.

Dr. Kissinger will depart for Moscow on Thursday for a four-day visit. According to the official announcement of his trip the matters he will discuss with Soviet leaders include U.S.-Soviet trade, arms control, and plans for Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev's visit to the U.S. this summer.

The meeting with Kissinger will take place against the background of new reports of harassment, repression of Jews in the Soviet Union, including the imposition of a 10-year prison sentence on Isaac Shkolnik, a Ukrainian Jew accused of spying for Israel, and reports from Moscow this week that 25 Jews who applied for exit visas for the first time have been denied them.

These and other reports add credence to the view expressed by Jewish activists in the USSR and Jews in this country that the Soviet regime continues to impose severe restrictions on Jewish emigration despite its claim to have suspended the education tax.

## **Prolonged Silence Not Sign Of Softening**

The JTA learned that American-Jewish leaders will tell Kissinger that they want to keep the door open to the White House and its "quiet diplomacy" approach to the Soviets on the issue of Russian Jews but will still press for the Jackson-Mills-Vanik amendments because more is at stake than the education tax.

Jewish leaders are reportedly disturbed by the paucity of information that has emerged since 15 Jewish leaders met with President Nixon at the White House April 19. A statement issued by the leaders who attended the meeting at the time said that Nixon had "reaffirmed his concern for the plight of Soviet Jews and pledged his continuing personal efforts on their behalf."

Herman Weisman, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said in a statement issued today that the ZOA did not want any prolonged silence concerning the White House meeting "to be interpreted as a softening or qualification of its support for encouraging the actions planned by both houses of Congress on behalf of Soviet Jewry."

Weisman was referring to the amendment of Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D, Wash.) and the identical measures introduced in the House by Reps. Wilbur Mills (D, Ark.) and Charles Vanik (D, Ohio) which have overwhelming support in both houses of Congress. Weisman reiterated the ZOA's "full-fledged support" for the Jackson Amendment.

## **Support For Amendments Urged**

The New York Federation of Reformed Synagogues has also called for "unrelenting support" for the Jackson-Vanik bill. Five hundred delegates attending the Federation's 31st annual conference here Sunday, urged Nixon to deny the Russians trade benefits until Soviet authorities have given Jews the right and opportunity to emigrate. The group also sent messages of support

to Jackson and Vanik. Irving Husin, president of the Federation, observed that "Jews are still harassed by Soviet officials when they apply for exit visas and that even if the (education) tax were no longer utilized, the intimidation against those wishing to leave continues."

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry urged Nixon in a telegram yesterday to withdraw his opposition to the Jackson-Mills-Vanik amendments and to "indicate America's concern with human dignity" by supporting the measures. The telegram was signed by Harold B. Light, first vice-chairman of the San Francisco-based group.

Continued support for the amendments was also approved last night by the executive committee of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). The committee adopted a statement commending the Nixon Administration and Congress for their efforts to induce the Soviet Union to end its emigration policy and welcomed Nixon's announcement that the Soviet Union has decided to suspend the education tax. The committee also noted that this Soviet decision "was accelerated by the extraordinary and unprecedented demonstration of Congressional support for the Jackson-Mills-Vanik amendment."

The statement continued: "We support both trade and détente with the Soviet Union but we believe it is imperative for the Soviet Union to change its restrictive immigration policies in order to achieve détente. In the forthcoming weeks the Soviet commitment to the Administration will be tested by performance...."

#### Lindsay In Moscow; Will Discuss Soviet Jews

In another development related to Soviet Jews it was announced yesterday that New York Mayor John V. Lindsay will leave tomorrow night on an official seven-day visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of Mayor Vladimir Promyslov of Moscow and the Moscow City Council. Mayor and Mrs. Lindsay will spend five days in Moscow and two days in Leningrad. Lindsay will be accompanied on his trip by Seymour Graubard, national president of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League.

The announcement of the trip by City Hall stated that Lindsay will "take up the issue of Soviet Jewry with Soviet officials and private citizens, including members of the Jewish community" while he is in Russia. The announcement said the Mayor would also participate in discussions of public administration and common urban problems in Moscow and Leningrad.

Graubard said he was invited to go along because he is active in the cause of Soviet Jewry and interested and active in problems of urban affairs. Graubard was one of the Jewish leaders who met with Promyslov when he was in New York last Feb. and was invited by him to visit the Soviet capital.

Stanley Lowell, chairman of the Greater New York Council for Soviet Jewry, was also asked by Lindsay to accompany him but Soviet authorities rejected Lowell's application for a visa. Lowell nevertheless urged the Mayor to accept the invitation.

#### TEKOAH DISCUSSES PLIGHT OF JEWS IN ARAB COUNTRIES WITH WALDHEIM

UNITED NATIONS, May 1 (JTA)—Ambassador Yosef Tekoah met with Secretary General Kurt Waldheim today and gave him the text of a statement Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban presented to the Knesset Sunday which con-

firmed the murder of five members of the Kashkosh family in Baghdad.

Tekoah discussed with Waldheim the plight of Jewish communities in Iraq, Syria and the Soviet Union and submitted the text of a Knesset resolution adopted Sunday which appealed to parliaments and international organizations to intercede with Iraqi authorities to permit the departure of Jews from Iraq.

Tekoah also gave the Secretary General a list of the names of Iraqi Jews who have been abducted or disappeared and are feared dead. They are:

Azouri Shemesh, Shaul Rajwan, Yaacov Abdul Aziz, Ezra Abu Daoûd, Dr. Ezra Khzam, Salim Sidka, Nagi Tzitat, Shaul Shemesh, Ezra Shemtov, Nagi Kashkosh, Suad Kashkosh (wife of Nagi), Naim Patal, Ezra Kahtan, Salim Gahtan, Shua Uzeir.

The Ambassador also discussed with Dr. Waldheim the comprehensive report on the Middle East currently in preparation by Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the Secretary General's special envoy to the Middle East. The Jarring report will be submitted to the Security Council which will hold a general debate on the Middle East later this month.

#### NEWS BRIEFS

A misrouted consignment of equipment and medical supplies sent from Texas and addressed to a consignee in Tripoli, Libya, was landed at Lod Airport today. An Israeli official who spotted the Libyan address alerted security personnel who checked the parcels but found nothing of a dangerous nature. The consignment, landed by a TWA plane, has been placed in storage pending a decision on its disposal. Israeli officials are investigating how the parcels were misrouted.

The celebration of the 25th anniversary of Israel began yesterday at Place Bonaventure in Montreal in the presence of representatives of Federal and Provincial governments, and all the Jewish organizations in Montreal. Consul General David Ephreti addressed the large public gathering outlining the tremendous achievements of Israel during its first 25 years. He stressed that the cooperation of diaspora Jewry is essential to the future of Israel's progress. Festivities featuring Israeli films, musical entertainment and a book exhibition will continue until May 7.

The opening ceremony of Israel's 25th anniversary will be broadcast live from the Western Wall in Jerusalem via satellite on TV Channel 10-Teleprompter Manhattan Sunday from 1-1:30 p.m. (EDST). On May 10, Channel 10 will broadcast from 9-10 p.m. (EDST) a special film showing Israel's anniversary parade and celebrations. The broadcast will be repeated May 12 from 8-9 p.m. (EDST).

Deputy Consul General in New York, Moshe Arad, called yesterday upon the International Affairs Committee of the National Council of Jewish Women to help narrow the social gap in Israel. Addressing some 30 committee members attending an Israel 25th anniversary luncheon in New York, Arad said that Israel's main goal, after peace, is to ingather the majority of the Jewish people in the world. American Jewry, he said, has to continue with its efforts to rescue the Jews in the Soviet Union and Iraq.

The leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada, David Louis, declared in Tel Aviv that his party would do its utmost to influence the Canadian government to support Israel's stand of no retreat prior to a peace settlement.

# STATE DEPT. OFFICIAL'S TESTIMONY ON SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICY TERMED '100% WRONG' BY JEWISH LEADER

WASHINGTON, May 1 (JTA)--A State Department official's account before a House subcommittee today of the assurances President Nixon reportedly received from Soviet leaders regarding Jewish emigration was strongly disputed by a Jewish spokesman who testified before the same subcommittee.

Walter Stoessel, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs told the Subcommittee on Europe of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that "The President has received firm assurances that the present Soviet emigration policy which has permitted the current level of emigration will be continued indefinitely."

Jerry Goodman, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, claimed that Stoessel was "100 percent wrong...absolutely incorrect." Goodman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after the hearings adjourned that no such assurances were contained in the memoranda read to 15 American Jewish leaders at a meeting with President Nixon in the White House April 19. Goodman, who attended the meeting, said the memoranda from unidentified Russian leaders, referred only to suspension of the Soviet education tax on emigrants.

He noted that the White House press secretary, Ronald Ziegler had made no reference to assurances regarding the rate of emigration when he briefed the press after Nixon's meeting with Jewish leaders. Nor did Sen. Hugh Scott, the Republican Minority Leader, refer to such assurances after Senate and House members met with Nixon and were read the same memoranda, Goodman said.

Stoessel told the JTA that the assurances he referred to were mentioned by Secretary of State William P. Rogers in testimony yesterday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. But he couldn't say where Rogers learned of them.

## Situation of Soviet Jews Worsening

In addition to Goodman, Dr. Hans Morgenthau, a political scientist of City University, New York and Albert Arent, of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, testified today before the House subcommittee. All said that the situation of Jews in the USSR was worsening.

They responded to questions by subcommittee chairman, Rep. Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D,NY), and Rep. Peter H.B. Frelinghuisen (R,NJ). Dr. Morgenthau stated flatly that the "basic policy of the Soviet Union was not changed at all by the assurances President Nixon received" from the Soviet leadership.

Dr. Morgenthau described the education tax on emigrants which has reportedly been suspended as "a particular tactic to prevent or at least control the emigration of Soviet Jews." He said "Its cessation has not materially affected the fate or the condition of Soviet Jews. Instead of being prevented by taxes from leaving they are now prevented by other measures more burdensome."

Goodman said "It is not the education tax but the arbitrariness of Soviet policy" that makes it important to enact into law the Jackson and Mills-Vanik amendments to the U.S.-Soviet Trade Act. He noted that the number of Jews whose visa applications have been rejected is increasing and in some areas where applications were formerly allowed they are now refused.

Arent, Goodman and Dr. Morgenthau each

pointed out that while Jews are permitted to leave in "fairly respectable" numbers, visas are being denied to Jewish activists and that there are 42 Jewish prisoners of conscience in Soviet jails. Dr. Morgenthau referred to the cases of Benjamin Levich, a scientist, and Valery Panov, a ballet dancer, whose careers he said were "ruined" by the refusal to allow them to emigrate.

## Not All Problems Resolved

The witnesses were subjected to sharp questioning by Frelinghuisen. At one point he asked what right the U.S. had to interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union. Replying, Dr. Morgenthau said: "This is an assumption I do not accept. Freedom and lack of freedom of emigration affects more than one country--the country of departure and the country of destination. The U.S. has an interest as a possible recipient of these emigrants."

Stoessel said in his testimony that "The President recognizes, as we all do, that all of the problems have not been resolved." He noted that the Soviets have permitted some 60,000 Jews to leave over the last four years and said it "seems reasonable to speculate that as long as there is a Soviet desire to see U.S.-Soviet relations improved, the Soviet leadership will see to its own best interests to pursue an emigration policy that will not arouse public and Congressional hostility in this country."

## ISRAEL UNVEILS ARTILLERY WEAPONS

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA)--Israel unveiled a collection of self-propelled artillery weapons yesterday and staged a midnight dress rehearsal of the military parade to take place May 7 in observance of the nation's 25th anniversary. The weapons, mostly of American make, though including a few Russian pieces captured from Egypt during the Six-Day War and "improved" according to Israeli specifications, will all be in the parade.

They were displayed to newsmen at Jerusalem's newly opened Atarot Airport which is the staging area for next Monday's parade. A military spokesman said the high mobility of these weapons offset Israel's numerical disadvantage in combat with the Arab armies. He noted that during the war of attrition with Egypt which ended with the Aug. 1970 cease-fire, Israel was forced to rely more on aircraft than it will have to in the future.

The parade rehearsal through downtown Jerusalem brought throngs into the streets, normally almost deserted at that late hour. Coffee bars and cafes stayed open late and crowds, mostly youngsters, lined the darkened streets and cheered the tanks rumbling by and the marching infantry men.

A false bomb scare forced a British European Airways jet to return to Lod Airport shortly after its take-off this morning and led to the search of two other BEA planes on the ground. The airliner was recalled after an anonymous telephone caller claimed that a bomb had been placed on a BEA plane but didn't say which one. All the planes were thoroughly searched but no bomb was found.

A 24-year-old Israeli youth was remanded in custody for five days by a Haifa court yesterday after he breached the supposedly impregnable security surrounding the Queen Elizabeth 2 and boarded the giant liner at Haifa Port with a phony pass. Meir Miarah of Ashdod fooled Israeli and British security guards on the dock and gangway by flashing an insurance identity card which they apparently mistook for a boarding pass.