



daily news bulletin

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PRICE FREEZE EXPECTED IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--Reliable sources said today that the government has already decided to freeze prices for a period of six months and that only the extent of the freeze remains to be determined. That will be the task of a ministerial committee appointed by the Cabinet Sunday to study anti-inflation measures, the sources said.

The Cabinet's deputy spokesman, Michael Nir, told newsmen that there had been no decision on the principle of a freeze and that the committee was only to draft contingency plans. But knowledgeable sources said today that the committee, headed by Finance Ministry director general Avraham Agmon, will recommend a freeze on many commodities and that the government fully intends to accept this recommendation.

Histadrut has been calling for a price freeze for months and also demands a mid-year cost-of-living allowance payment to compensate workers for rising prices. The Manufacturers Association has been vigorously opposing both a price freeze and COL payments. While they appear prepared to yield on the latter, they are still fighting a price freeze.

Peleg Tamir, a spokesman for the Association, said today that a COL allowance and a price freeze would pull the economy in opposite directions. He said that if the prices of goods are fixed at the same time that consumers have more disposable income, a spending spree for services would result, exacerbating inflation.

Government economists argue, however, that a price freeze combined with more money in peoples' pockets will have a psychological effect to reduce the impulse to spend.

Doctors' Strike Continues

Sources said that the level at which commodity prices are pegged will be determined by agreements between the government and producers. The agreements will have the force of law and where no agreement can be reached, the government will fix prices under special laws, the sources said.

The freeze is not expected to apply to commodities such as fruits and vegetables which are subject to seasonal price changes; nor can privately built apartments be effectively frozen in price. Flats built by public companies will, however, be frozen.

The freeze is also expected to apply to such services as barbers and laundries but private doctors' and lawyers' fees will not be frozen, the sources said.

The doctors' strike continued today but the week-old strike of radio and television broadcasters ended last night after a seven-hour negotiating session. The agreement reached between the journalists association and the government provides broadcast journalists with the same wage increases that were recently won by privately employed journalists. The dispute over promotion practices was not resolved and will be left to Histadrut to decide.

Minister Confirms Freeze

Labor Minister Yosef Almog confirmed in the Knesset today that the government was re-

solved to freeze prices on what he called "popular commodities," a term he didn't define.

He said there would be no freeze on such basics as bread, fish, meat and milk on which prices were fixed some time ago, or on luxury goods.

Almog spoke in reply to two motions of no-confidence by the opposition Gahal and Free Center factions which blamed the government for "the anarchy pervading the economy." Both motions were defeated by a 55-23 vote.

Almog said a measure of the government's responsible approach was its refusal to surrender to the excessive wage demands of striking public employees even though this is an election year. He warned that a sharp increase in wages would have serious repercussions that would work to the disadvantage of wage-earners.

RUSSIANS TAKE TOUGH STAND ON JEWISH EMIGRATION

WASHINGTON, June 19 (JTA)--Soviet leaders and top aides now in Washington have publicly taken a firm line against softening Soviet emigration policy in return for most favored nation treatment in trade with the United States.

Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev personally gave this indication last night when questioned by a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent at the White House dinner. The Soviet leader, who was chatting briefly with reporters, replied when questioned about the Mills-Vanik bill "hardly any compromise is necessary. All that is necessary is a plain decision. This (most favored nation treatment) is an idea in the interests of both," (U.S. and the Soviet Union). At that point aides urged Brezhnev away before the JTA could follow up with further questions.

Earlier in the day, Leonid Zamyatin, spokesman for the Brezhnev party, declared "trade cannot be conducted on a basis of discrimination." Other Soviet officials questioned by the JTA at the White House dinner responded with similar statements.

Alexander Yefstafyev, the Soviet Embassy Press Counsellor, vehemently denounced Soviet Jewish efforts to emigrate. "We regard those who want to leave our country as traitors," he said. He called Prof. Benjamin Levich, a Soviet scientist who has applied for permission to emigrate, a "louse" for "spreading lies about us."

Among those who attended the White House dinner last night were two prominent members of the American Jewish community, Jacob Stein and Max Fisher. They both met briefly with Brezhnev and later indicated optimism that the Nixon-Brezhnev summit conference may ultimately yield results beneficial to Soviet Jewry.

Stein said he did not know of any meeting by a Jewish group with Brezhnev. Fisher, long a leader of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, said a meeting was "being worked for."

Vigil Forced To End

Brezhnev's stay in Washington has given rise to some of the strictest security measures yet seen in the federal capital. Some of these measures, such as the police closure of traffic on the street on which the Soviet Embassy is located, have forced the suspension of the daily vigil that has been maintained by Jews without interruption for the last

three years.

The barricades, which bar vehicles and limit pedestrian access to the street were up last Sunday when Brant Cooper-Smith, regional director of the American Jewish Committee and one of the originators of the vigil arrived on the scene with several other participants. They were told by secret service and metropolitan police officers on duty that the block was closed to all but residents and persons who could show they had business there.

Jewish circles here expect the ban to be lifted after the visit of Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev. They believe the show of police strength at the Embassy and at the White House and its environs during last Sunday's Freedom Assembly for Soviet Jews was intended as much to satisfy Soviet authorities as to forestall any demonstrations.

The vigil outside the Embassy had been going on daily for 15 minutes. Except for prayers, it was a silent demonstration in which only small groups of people participated. No vigil has been held for the past three days. But several Washington area rabbis and others have appeared daily to pray in front of the police barricades at the head of the Embassy block.

MILLS-VANIK BILL LOSING GROUND

WASHINGTON, June 19 (JTA)--The House Ways and Means Committee voted 15-9 yesterday to consider a new trade reform bill in closed session from which all persons would be excluded except committee staff and administration representatives. The surprise move is believed to have serious implications for the Mills-Vanik bill which conditions most favored nation status for the Soviet Union on the easing of obstacles to emigration from Russia.

Seven sponsors of the Mills-Vanik measure voted along with eight non-sponsors in favor of closed sessions. All nine Congressmen opposed, including Rep. Vanik, are sponsors of the legislation. It was not immediately known how committee chairman Wilbur Mills (D.Ark.) voted.

The vote to deal with the sensitive trade reform legislation without scrutiny by the press and public was seen by some observers as a possible indication that support for the Mills-Vanik bill may be wavering. At last count the bill was sponsored by 280 out of 435 House members, more than sufficient for its passage.

It was pointed out by sources here, however, that sensitive factors other than the Mills-Vanik measure are involved in the trade reform legislation. The bill, introduced by Rep. James A. Burke (D.Mass.), calls for stronger tariffs and import quotas as opposed to the Nixon Administration's trade reform act that gives the President a free hand in determining tariffs and import quotas. The House measure is expected to come to the floor for a vote on Aug. 3, just before Congress adjourns for summer recess.

GOLDA AND DAYAN TO THRASH OUT DIFFERENCES

TEL AVIV, June 19 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan will meet in a "working session" shortly to discuss the Labor Alignment's platform for the national elections little more than three months away. The meeting was scheduled after Mrs. Meir announced her decision to stand for re-election as leader of the Labor Party.

Gen. Dayan has strong convictions of his own on such subjects as Israel's future boundaries and Jewish settlement in the administered territories.

The territorial question has never been written into the Party platform except in a vague way. But there has been general agreement in the Party leadership on the so-called "oral platform" which calls for Israel's retention of the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, Sharm el-Sheikh and a slice of Sinai that would form a land bridge between Israel and Sharm el-Sheikh.

These and other matters have to be up-dated in view of developments since the last elections four years ago. They are expected to be the subject of Mrs. Meir's talks with Gen. Dayan whom she hopes to retain as Defense Minister.

Dayan has stated publicly that he would not serve in any government whose policies ran counter to his convictions, particularly on the matter of Israel's future borders.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

BREZHNEV KEEPS NIXON WAITING 90 MINS. WHILE DISCUSSING JEWISH ISSUE WITH SENS.

WASHINGTON, June 19 (JTA)--Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev this afternoon devoted a large part of his meeting with key members of the U.S. Congress to the Jewish question. The Soviet leader is reported to have recited at length figures and facts on Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to the 23 lawmakers whom he entertained at lunch at Blair House, the official residence for foreign Heads of State.

Brezhnev apparently regarded his meeting with the American legislators, some of whom vehemently support the Jackson amendment, as sufficiently important to keep President Nixon waiting for 90 minutes at the White House for their second round of talks.

Lawmakers emerging from the meeting appeared impressed with the Soviet leader's presentation. While those supporting the Jackson amendment made it clear that they were not abandoning their support, they indicated that they will have to reconsider the facts.

Those attending the luncheon were the 15 members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, six other Senators, including the Majority and the Minority leaders and two members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Some of the figures cited by Brezhnev were provided to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D. Minn.). According to Humphrey, Brezhnev said that as of Jan. 1, 1973, 68,000 Jews had left the Soviet Union out of a total Jewish population of 2,151,000.

Brezhnev said, according to Sen. Humphrey, that 61,000 applications for exit visas were filed by Jews since the beginning of 1972 and that of these 60,200 were granted. He said that 11,400 applications were filed since the beginning of 1973 of which 10,100 were granted. Humphrey said that Brezhnev told the Senators that 1300 applicants changed their minds about leaving Russia and that Soviet authorities have received 300 applications from former Soviet citizens who have left and now want to return.

Brezhnev also said, Humphrey reported, that 738 applicants were denied visas earlier this year but that 258 of them were granted visas just before he left for Washington.

Senators emerging from Blair House told reporters that the Soviet leader was not irritated by questions relating to Jewish emigration and replied to them in a straightforward manner. They said, Brezhnev told them he had told President Nixon that the education tax no longer applies except to young people who received Soviet government scholarships and have not yet worked.

LONDON TIMES SAYS GROUNDWORK LAID FOR TUNISIAN-ISRAELI TALKS

LONDON, June 19 (JTA)--President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia has succeeded in winning the tacit approval of most Arab states and of the Palestinian guerrilla leadership for his plan to initiate Middle East peace talks with Israel, the London Times reported here today. The Tunisian leader also sounded out American reaction to the plan before he made it public in interviews with two Italian newspapers last month, the report said.

The Times, quoting well-placed Tunisian sources, said Bourguiba has made his peace initiative the spearhead of his foreign policy. It added that secret contacts with the Israelis are expected to be held in Geneva where Bourguiba, his foreign minister and top aides now are.

Israel's initial reaction to the Bourguiba move was that it was not serious, although Premier Golda Meir said subsequently that she was willing to meet with any Arab leader to discuss peace. The casual manner in which the Tunisian leader announced his plan through the press belied months of groundwork that led up to it, the Times said.

According to the Times, Egyptian approval was won. Later Tunisian Foreign Minister Muhammad Masmoudi discussed the broad outlines of the plan with El Fatah leader Yassir Arafat during a visit to Beirut last month. While the Palestinian guerrilla movement brushed off the idea, its leadership is understood to have shown intense interest in it after prodding by King Faisal, of Saudi Arabia, who supports the Bourguiba move.

Tunisian Preconditions

One of the two preconditions set by Bourguiba for talks with the Israelis was recognition of the national aspirations of the Palestinians.

The other was the 1947 partition plan boundaries as a starting point for territorial talks. That is obviously unacceptable to Israel but Bourguiba is understood to be flexible on the point.

He is said to envisage a meeting between himself and Premier Golda Meir to begin with or, if that is not possible, talks on the foreign ministerial level. Once the first step has been taken, he expects to bring in the principal Arab parties -- Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians. Bourguiba envisages Tunisia playing a behind-the-scenes role during the talks.

One stumbling block to the initiative is the adamant attitude of Libya against any peace moves with Israel. Another is that Israel is not likely to accept Tunis as a mediating country because it is an Arab state committed to the Arab cause. Bourguiba, who has many Jewish friends, hopes this attitude can be overcome.

NEW YORK CHILD CARE AGENCIES CITED IN COURT

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA)--Six Jewish-sponsored child care agencies in New York City are among 77 cited in a suit filed in federal court here against New York City which was charged with operating a program of child welfare services which allegedly discriminates against children on the basis of religion and race.

The six agencies are the Hebrew Children's Home in the Bronx; Ohel Children's Home Fund of Brooklyn; the Malmonides Residential Center of Far Rockaway in Queens; and the Jewish Board of Guardians, the Jewish Child Care Association and the Louise Wise Services, all of New York

City and beneficiary agencies of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. The suit was filed by the New York Civil Liberties Union, which provided the names of the six Jewish agencies, and the Legal Aid Society.

The suit charged that "unconstitutional discrimination" existed in the aid program and that the alleged victims were 10,000 Black children, most of them Protestants. The suit said they are among the 28,000 city children who for such reasons as parental neglect and juvenile delinquency must be cared for outside their homes.

The suit also claimed that the basis of the aid program is a network of "voluntary child care agencies" on which the city relies to care for the children and that about 85 percent of the 28,000 children are placed in residential centers operated by the 77 agencies.

Suit Calls For New Plan

The suit charged that the overall plan was unconstitutional because "the city funds and relies upon voluntary agencies organized according to religion to fulfill its legal responsibility to provide services for children in need of care."

The result, the suit charged, was that "children are separated by religion in violation of the First Amendment, by race in violation of the 14th Amendment, and are subjected to cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Eighth Amendment."

The suit asked convening of a three-judge court to ban the statutes and practices for use and funding of the 77 agencies and to ban placement of children by race and religion and the placement of children in injurious and inappropriate institutions such as the New York State Training Schools. The suit also asked the court to order defendant city and state officials to submit a plan for child-care services prohibiting racial and religious discrimination in admission and discharge policies and practices.

Most of the agencies are organized on religious lines and give preference to the child whose religion matches that of the agency, in line with state law which requires the city to try to place children in agencies according to religion. The agencies have 20 days to file replies and no comment was accordingly forthcoming from the officials of the agencies.

CORRECTION

LONDON, June 19 (JTA)--Michael Korenblit, a defendant in the second Leningrad hijack trial, has not been released from imprisonment as was erroneously reported yesterday. Jewish sources in the Soviet Union said today that Korenblit who was sentenced to seven years in a strict regime labor camp remains incarcerated. Two of his co-defendants, Lev Korenblit and Shlomo Dresner, who received three-year sentences were released, as reported yesterday, and are now said to be seeking exit visas to go to Israel.

EEC EXAMINES ISRAELI EXPORTS

BRUSSELS, June 19 (JTA)--The agriculture ministers of the Common Market countries began a two-day meeting in Luxembourg today to study proposed tariff privileges on agricultural exports to be granted Mediterranean area countries including Israel.

A Common Market commission has recommended concessions on citrus fruits, vegetables and wines. Italy and France are expected to oppose any lowering of tariffs on wines. Israel, though a wine exporting country, is not directly affected by the controversy.

NEW YORK CEMETERY STRIKE - 3000 JEWISH BODIES UNBURIED

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA)--Rabbi Samuel Schrage, chairman of the Emergency Committee for Jewish Burial, estimated today that there are 3000 bodies of Jews remaining unburied because of the strike of Cemetery Workers and Green Attendants Union, Local 365. He issued an urgent appeal for more volunteers to help reduce the number of unburied bodies.

Rabbi Schrage told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he expected the strike, which was expanded on June 19 to all 47 cemeteries in the metropolitan area, including 13 Jewish cemeteries, to be a long one.

The local has agreed to allow volunteers to dig graves for the Jewish dead who are required by Jewish law to be interred within 24 hours of death. However, Rabbi Schrage said, the number of such volunteers, originally up to 100, has dropped to about 50. He urged would-be volunteers to call either 773-8483 or 774-0198, adding that those numbers are manned on a 24-hour basis.

He also disclosed that confusion had developed among families of dead Jews over the action by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in announcing that a health emergency now existed which, under a law passed by the last Legislature, requires the immediate start of negotiations, with mandated compulsory arbitration if negotiations fail.

Rabbi Schrage added that as soon as the health emergency order is signed, the local intends to go into State Supreme Court in Manhattan to seek a stay. He also said he had attended a meeting of the local last night and said it was clear to him that the union would not return to work under a court order.

He reported that both the local and the cemetery owners were completely cooperative in permitting the volunteers to dig the graves but that the shortage of volunteers had led to the piling up of bodies in garages and toolsheds on the grounds of the cemeteries. Rabbi Schrage called the situation "deplorable."

He said the confusion among bereaved families was based on the assumption by many of them that the governor's announcement meant an early resumption of burials.

He noted that the last strike in 1970 took place during the winter which meant few health hazards but that the current walkout comes in summer.

CULTURAL GAP STARTS IN THE CRADLE - FINDS HEBREW UNIVERSITY STUDY

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--The cultural gap between haves and have-nots--one of the most serious issues confronting Israeli society--may have its beginnings in the cradle according to research by a Hebrew University graduate student published here today.

A thesis by Susan Ela, who is seeking an MA in education, showed that the responses of infants as young as four months old differed according to the socio-economic class into which they were born. Miss Ela based her findings on a study of 80 infants aged 4-7 months from normal middle class homes, culturally disadvantaged homes and institutions.

The infants from the middle class homes had an ability to reach for and manipulate objects which the other infants lacked, Miss Ela reported. She said that "Through proper stimulation in

middle class homes where there are conscientious mothers who give toys to their children, decorate their rooms and talk to them, infants at four months are reaching out to objects presented to them.

"In environments where there is a paucity of such stimuli, such as institutions and disadvantaged homes, this behavior does not appear frequently at that age," she said.

Psychologists have been aware that cultural deprivation begins at an early age. But they have long believed that its effects were not noticeable until at least the age of 18 months.

AMERICAN RABBIS CALL FOR NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE JACKSON/VANIK BILL

ATLANTA, June 19 (JTA)--Protest over the treatment of Soviet Jewry dominated the opening ceremonies of the Central Conference of American Rabbis' (CCAR) 84th annual convention here at the Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel.

Rabbi David Polish of Evanston, Illinois, president of the association of Reform rabbis, asked that people everywhere support the Jackson/Vanik Bills "as the most effective means of assuring Soviet leaders of this nation's determination to stand by Soviet Jewry in its struggle."

Rabbi George B. Lieberman of Rockville Center, N.Y. said the Russians "are depending on us to grow weary of the problem," and called upon Jews and others to keep pressing for the freedom of Soviet Jews.

A letter sent by Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter to General Secretary of the Communist Party Leonid I. Brezhnev, who is presently visiting this country for the first time, was read at the conference.

Gov. Carter, in his letter, welcomed the Soviet leader to the U.S. and advised him that, "The Georgia General Assembly has adopted a resolution indicating its concern over the Soviet Union's refusal to honor the basic right of all people to leave their country. It is my opinion that if your government could be persuaded to honor this basic right, this would be a contribution to human rights and would go far in strengthening the economic, cultural and political relations between our two countries." Gov. Carter also sent a copy of his letter to President Nixon.

Reform Rabbis Asked To Join In

The keynote speakers at the CCAR convention were president Polish and vice-president Robert I. Kahn of Houston, both of whom criticized the Nixon Administration for "dismantling the tools of social peace." The Reform rabbis were asked to join with like-minded religious and civic groups to mount adequate public opinion supporting government programs and legislation for education, health, urban renewal, poverty projects, low and moderate-income housing and environmental protection.

Resolutions being placed before the CCAR convention by the justice and peace committee support the call for action by Rabbis Polish and Kahn. The rabbis will be debating and voting on the resolutions during the next few days.

The problem of mixed marriages, especially whether Reform rabbis should perform such ceremonies, will be a major topic of debate.

Jewish organizations in Mexico took extraordinary security precautions this week after two Jordanians were arrested. The two were carrying forged passports.