



# daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

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Vol. XL - Fifty-Sixth Year

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

No. 185

## THE HIGHEST TOTAL SO FAR: 23 IRAQI JEWS REPORTED MURDERED

PARIS, Sept. 25 (JTA)--At least 23 Jews were murdered by the Iraqi regime in the past year, the highest such total ever, the European office of the American Jewish Committee charged today in a report on Jews in Middle Eastern countries.

Fifteen Jewish men and three women arrested by Iraqi police and security forces during an eight-month period beginning Sept. 1972, never have been seen or heard from again and must be presumed dead, the AJ Committee affirmed.

Five more Jews, members of the Reuven Kashkush family, were machine-gunned to death in their home by a police unit, as part of Iraqi "vengeance" following the Israeli commando raid into Beirut last April. Still another Jew found murdered in his house in unexplained circumstances may have been yet another security forces victim, the AJ Committee reported.

## No Other Conclusion Can Be Reached

"Persistent refusal of Iraqi authorities to provide any information about the fate of the 18 persons arrested plus recent revelations by the highest Iraqi leaders of prison torture and killings in that country permit no other conclusion than that these Jews were put to death," according to the report which covers developments during the Jewish year 1972-1973.

The largest previous toll of Jewish deaths in any one year occurred when nine Jews were publicly hanged in Baghdad and Basra on alleged treason charges in Jan. 1969, and two others were executed by Iraq in prison the following Aug. Meanwhile, Syrian authorities continue to "play dumb" regarding the fate of Albert Elia, the secretary of the Jewish community of Beirut, known to have been kidnapped by Syrian security forces in Sept. 1971.

No more than 400 Jews still live in Iraq according to AJ Committee estimates. The Jewish community--once 120,000 strong, the largest in the Middle East--is at the brink of disintegration as Jews depart steadily when emigration is permitted. While passports and exit visas are at present being granted to some Jews, others are still being refused departure. Jewish communal life in Iraq is virtually at an end as has already been the case in Libya where there are only 30 Jews compared to 42,000 in 1945.

## UPPER VOLTA PREMIER SENDS WARM MESSAGE TO MRS. MEIR

JERUSALEM, Sept. 25 (JTA)--Upper Volta's Premier Gerard Kangro Quedraogo sent a warm message today to Premier Golda Meir pledging his "deep and genuine desire to maintain and to strengthen the friendly relations between our two countries." The message was delivered by Premier Quedraogo's political advisor, Lompone Kone, who ended a visit here which resulted in agreements for increased Israel aid for Volta agriculture and forestry. At Lod Airport, Kone said he is well pleased with his talks here, during which he met with Premier Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

A joint communique said that Eban and Kone had "Noted the cordiality and quality" of relations between the two states. Eban expressed "the feelings of identity of the people of Israel with that of Upper Volta--having suffered from

the severe drought with which the region was faced... and the deep sense of solidarity which elicits the desire to contribute within Israel's limited means to the development of Upper Volta's resources." Kone, in the communique expressed "the hope that peace, by means of talks and negotiations, would come to the Middle East."

## EFFORTS MADE TO BRING ALL-SOVIET JEWS NOW IN VIENNA TO ISRAEL BEFORE START OF ROSH HASHANA

TEL AVIV, Sept. 25 (JTA)--Jewish Agency and government officials are working overtime to bring all immigrants from the Soviet Union presently in Vienna to Israel before the start of the Rosh Hashana holiday tomorrow night. Special flights, including a chartered jumbo jet, began yesterday and will continue tomorrow.

About 250 immigrants arrived last night and another 250 landed this morning. They will spend the holidays at absorption centers or with family. The first immigrants due to arrive after the Jewish New Year are not Russians. Officials said that 180 newcomers from Latin America will arrive Saturday night at Haifa aboard the Israeli motorship Dan.

## NO INDICATION WHAT U.S. WILL DO ABOUT PLO OFFICE IN E. BERLIN

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 (JTA)--The U.S. government gave no indication today what course it will pursue over the establishment in East Berlin of a Palestine Liberation Organization office.

"We are aware of the situation" and "we are following the matter very closely," the State Department spokesman Paul Hare said in response to questions from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He had no immediate reply to whether the U.S. is consulting with the Soviet, French and British governments over the situation. The Big Four, in signing the Berlin Pact, had agreed on elimination of tension and "the prevention of complications."

When a West German correspondent asked Hare why the U.S. is following the situation "closely," Hare replied "because of our interest in that matter." He did not elaborate.

Heinz Galinski, head of the West Berlin Jewish community, has personally appealed to Erich Honecker, the Communist Party head in East Germany, to reconsider providing the Arab terrorists with a base in East Berlin. "Every German government must bear moral and political responsibility to ward off attacks on those who suffered from the criminal actions of earlier German regimes," Galinski said.

## Stay Out Of Russia's Internal Affairs: GROMYKO ISSUES WARNING TO CRITICS OF SOVIET POLICIES TOWARD DISSIDENTS

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 25 (JTA)--Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko warned critics of Soviet policies toward dissidents and Jews to keep their hands off Russia's internal affairs. In a particularly sharp speech today to the General Assembly, he also warned that war could break out in the Middle East "at any moment" and reiterated his country's support for the Arab states which "only want to retrieve what was seized from them by force." Israeli Ambassador, Yosef Tekoah, replied to Gromyko at a press conference. (See separate story.)

Gromyko devoted a large portion of his speech

to what he termed as "noisy propaganda campaigns" in the West and "blackmail," a reference to efforts in the U.S. Congress to withhold most-favored nation trade status from the Soviet Union unless it eases restrictions on dissidents and Jews and others wishing to emigrate.

"Sometimes things reach the point when attempts are made to arrogate the right to instruct others as to who should resolve matters of emigration from this or that country and how, and in what capacity and within what time limit and where, specifically," the Soviet diplomat said. "In so doing, they do not scruple to heap praise on those who represent no one and who are—willingly or thoughtlessly—nothing more than blind instruments operated by the forces opposed to international detente.

"The Soviet Union," Gromyko said, "vigorously rejects that approach and condemns it. We shall allow nobody to interfere in our internal affairs." He warned: "It is no secret that there are some who would like to try to impose their own domestic practices upon others.... Internal practices, internal laws, constitute the line on the threshold of each state at which others must stop."

#### Mideast Problem Soluble.... If Israel Withdraws

On the Middle East, Gromyko said "The Soviet Union is convinced that the problem is solvable. There is a basis for this, and it is constituted in the well-known decisions of the Security Council... (but) the refusal of the aggressor to accept a settlement is becoming ever more challenging."

Continuing, Gromyko declared that "everything must be done to ensure that both in Israel, and in those countries and circles which patronize its present policy it should be finally understood that a more sober approach is necessary and that they really take the path of solving the problem." He said the situation could be settled on the basis of a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories, and respect for the rights of all states and peoples in the region, including the Palestine Arabs.

#### Moscow Angered Over U.S. News Accounts

U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger reportedly discussed the question of Soviet Jews and dissidents when he met with Gromyko at dinner last night.

Meanwhile, the State Department announced yesterday that protests were made there and in Moscow over the detention of an American news photographer, Roger Leddington, and the confiscation of film he took of the Jewish activist, Arkady Shpilberg, who was demonstrating outside Communist Party headquarters to protest the denial of an exit visa. The State Department indicated that the protests were not in writing but were delivered orally at a relatively low diplomatic level.

A report from Moscow today quoted the visiting head of the U.S. Information Agency, James Keogh, as saying that Soviet officials were dissatisfied with American news reporting on Soviet internal matters. Keogh said that Soviet authorities accused American newsmen of over-emphasizing negative factors in their reports of the dissident issue and emigration practices.

Members of the "Friends of Arkady Shpilberg Committee" demonstrated in front of the UN today while Gromyko was addressing the General Assembly. The demonstration, sponsored by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, included members of the Student

Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Washington Heights-Inwood Council on Soviet Jewry.

#### TEKOAH: GROMYKO'S WORDS ARE HOLLOW

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 25 (JTA)--Ambassador Yosef Tekoah said today that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's remarks to the General Assembly on the need for peace, detente and coexistence "have a hollow ring" in light of Soviet policies in the Middle East and its treatment of Jews seeking to emigrate.

The Israeli UN representative spoke in reply to questions by the press after Gromyko's address. Tekoah observed that Gromyko "rightly emphasized that detente has been achieved everywhere by discussion and arduous negotiations, but on the Middle East suggested that Israel accept the Arab diktat, disregarding the Security Council's call for the establishment of secure and recognized boundaries."

Tekoah declared: "Only when the Soviet Union stops encouraging and actively assisting Arab belligerency and joins those who are calling for the initiation of a process of negotiation between Israel and the Arab states, will it have made a positive contribution to the issue of peace in the region."

Commenting on Gromyko's warning to critics to keep hands off Soviet internal affairs, the Israeli envoy said: "There is a striking disparity between Mr. Gromyko's reference to respect for human rights and freedoms and his government's conduct at a time when Soviet Jews continue to be harassed, their basic rights continue to be impaired by Soviet authorities and the Foreign Minister declares, in contradiction to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that the right to leave a country is not a matter of concern to the United Nations and world public opinion."

#### PINCUS FOUNDATION WILL HAVE A CAPITAL FUND OF \$5 MILLION

NEW YORK, Sept. 25 (JTA)--The Louis Pincus Foundation for Jewish Education, named for the late Jewish Agency chairman, will have a capital fund of \$5 million, it was disclosed today by Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, acting chairman of the World Conference of Jewish Organizations (COJO).

In supplementing earlier reports on the establishment of the foundation, Mrs. Jacobson said that income from the \$5 million fund would be used to provide urgently needed Jewish educational services in various countries around the world.

The Joint Distribution Committee, which is not a member of COJO, will participate in the work of the foundation and will contribute toward its capital along with the government of Israel, the World Zionist Organization and others.

#### SYLVIA ZALMANSON SENDS GREETINGS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 25 (JTA)--A Rosh Hashana greeting was received here today from Sylvia Zalmanson, the 33-year-old Leningrad trial defendant who is serving a 10-year sentence at the Potma prison camp. In her cable she said: "In spite of the distance from my dears, my husband, relatives and friends, I am encouraged and continue my life through all these people of good will who support me as other prisoners. This assistance helps me pass the long years I am to pass in prison. I send best wishes to Israel and the whole Jewish nation a Happy New Year."

Some 50 activists in the Soviet Union, including Arkady Shpilberg, also sent New Year's greetings in a letter to President Ephraim Katzir and to the people of Israel. The letter arrived after reports that Shpilberg was arrested Sunday in Moscow.

# KISSINGER TELLS ARABS AT LUNCHEON THAT THE U.S. IS READY TO ASSIST IN QUEST FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST By Yitzhak Rabi, JTA UN Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 25 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, exchanging toasts with representatives of 13 Arab states and the Arab League at a luncheon which he hosted here today, declared that the U.S. is ready to assist in the quest for peace in the Middle East and will keep "open attitudes" but cautioned that none of the parties should look to the U.S. for miracles. Five Arab states boycotted the 90-minute luncheon at the U.S. Mission which was closed to the press.

The nature of Dr. Kissinger's toast and the response by Arab League Secretary General Mohammed Riad were related to the press by Robert McCloskey, former chief spokesman of the State Department, who served as Kissinger's press liaison today.

McCloskey said the Secretary of State meant that the U.S. was not interested in imposed solutions for the Mideast conflict when he said it could perform no miracles. He stressed, in reply to questions, that there is no Kissinger plan for the Middle East.

Arab participants in the luncheon said that no proposals were brought up. The Arabs, nevertheless, appeared pleased that one of Dr. Kissinger's first official acts after taking office was to open a dialogue with them. But they emphasized the occasion's social aspects rather than any political significance.

## U.S. Sensitive To Arab Concern

Dr. Kissinger said in his toast that the U.S. understands Arab concern and knows that from the Arab point of view the situation in the Middle East is unacceptable, McCloskey said. Dr. Kissinger told the Arabs further that what is needed is to find ways to change the presently unacceptable situation to one which the Arabs can live with.

McCloskey said that Dr. Kissinger added that for its part, the U.S. is ready to assist in solving the problem and always valued its relations with the Arab governments. McCloskey quoted Dr. Kissinger as saying: "We want to promote progress toward peace. We will show understanding and hope you will do the same. We will keep open attitudes as we proceed."

Riad, in his response, McCloskey reported, observed that relations between the U.S. and the Arabs were traditionally good until the Arabs concluded that the U.S. supports only Israel. Since that time, relations between the governments have deteriorated, he said. Riad added that the Arabs sought peace but to achieve it Israel must withdraw from all the territories it occupies and the rights of the Palestinian people must be guaranteed. He charged that Israel still has designs to annex Arab territory.

"We must continue the search for peace. If we failed once, it doesn't mean we should not try again," Riad was quoted as saying. He warned that if peace does not come, the area could be inflamed in war once again.

The Kissinger luncheon was boycotted by five Arab states that had been invited--Syria, Iraq, Libya, Algeria and South Yemen. Of the 13 states that attended, only three--Lebanon, Bahrain and the Yemeni Arab Republic--were represented by their foreign ministers, although the foreign ministers of all had been invited.

## Luncheon Termed "Delightful," "Entertaining"

The other participants--Egypt, Jordan,

Kuwait, Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates--sent their permanent UN representatives. In addition to Dr. Kissinger and McCloskey who is the U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus, the American officials attending included Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco, and James Atkins, newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

The Arab representatives emerging from the luncheon used words like "delightful" and "entertaining" to describe it. Ambassador Abdel Meguid of Egypt said it was an occasion for the Arab diplomats to meet with each other and with Dr. Kissinger. The Lebanese Foreign Minister called it "a wonderful lunch" and said he looked forward to further meetings with the Secretary of State. Riad told reporters that the talk at the lunch was about peace and justice, adding that the question now is how to define justice.

## ISRAEL RAPPED FOR RECOGNIZING JUNTA

PARIS, Sept. 25 (JTA)--The Union of Jewish Students in France today called on "all progressive and democratic Jews" to express their "indignation" at the Israeli government's decision to recognize the Chilean military junta. Calling the recognition "unspeakable," the Union said Israel, by its action, "hasn't even the excuse of trying to assure the security of the Chilean Jewish community."

Israel today became the 24th nation to recognize Chile under the new military junta. The Israeli Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem received a formal note yesterday from the junta informing it of the change in government. Israel replied to this note which, according to accepted diplomatic procedure, was tantamount to recognition. Formal recognition, Israel explained yesterday, was not necessary since the junta professes to be the continuation of the government in Chile.

## SYNAGOGUES CLOSED SYMBOLICALLY

NEW YORK, Sept. 25 (JTA)--Thousands of synagogues in the Greater New York area were symbolically closed today by a "decree" posted on the door during the High Holy Day period. Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Manhattan was the first to be shut down this morning "by an order of the Soviet government." The "decree" was sent out to more than 1500 synagogues in the Metropolitan New York area.

In ceremonies on the eve of Rosh Hashana, Rabbi William Berkowitz, spiritual leader of the congregation and president of the New York Board of Rabbis, and Stanley H. Lowell, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, will affix a poster to the door of the synagogue, announcing that the holiday services were banned.

The event, he said, will serve as a reminder to those entering the synagogue of the unchecked religious discrimination in the USSR against its three million Jewish citizens. The result of this Soviet policy is that the majority of Jews in the USSR are unable to attend the New Year or any other religious services.

The poster reads: "No Services on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement that climaxes the Jewish High Holy Days.) You can ignore this order. Soviet Jews can't." Noting that since 1917 the Soviet regime has closed 99 percent of the synagogues--more than 3000 have been boarded up, knocked down or desecrated--and that there are only 60 left, the poster states: "How many more shall disappear...?" The poster urged that the New Year be one "of freedom and redemption for three million Soviet Jews. Now, more than ever, they're depending on you!"

**RABBIS URGE REAFFIRMATION OF****TRADITIONAL JEWISH VALUES IN NEW YEAR**

NEW YORK, Sept. 25 (JTA)--Rabbis in this country urged Jews to usher in the New Year by rededicating themselves to the traditions and spiritual values of Judaism, by mobilizing resources to aid Jews everywhere who are faced with spiritual or physical oppression, and by being in the forefront in the struggle for freedom and justice for all.

Rabbi Irwin M. Blank, president of the Synagogue Council of America, expressed the hope that the New Year "will bring the leadership of the nations of the world closer to the realization that human problems can only be solved in humane ways if man is to stop destroying his fellow human beings."

He said, "We pray for our brethren in the Soviet Union and for all men who yearn to live free from oppression....Our prayers are with the poor and the hungry who live in the midst of affluence and plenty. As religious people, we cannot abide by this injustice. Since governments are inevitably corruptible, we pray that people will never give up their right to challenge authority and to oppose authoritarianism. We pray for the peace of the world."

**Preserve Torah Judaism**

Rabbi David Hollander, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, said: "To the Jews in America...the message is that the deep concern it has shown for the Jews in Russia and in Arab countries and for the security of the State of Israel must be paralleled by an equally deep concern for the preservation of Torah Judaism... Let us preserve the integrity of the synagogue by rejecting the efforts of the Conservative and Reform clergy, many of whom have placed a religious mask upon the process of assimilation and intermarriage."

Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, observed that the chief threat to Jewish survival in America "remains spiritual rather than physical." Internationally, he noted, Israel is still endangered as Arab nations continue their hostilities and the Jews in the Soviet Union continue to face spiritual genocide.

Rabbi Berkowitz stated that in the coming year the New York Board of Rabbis "shall continue to unite the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbinates in the true spirit of the oneness of the people of Israel. We shall strive to galvanize the resources of American Jewry for the fulfillment of their responsibilities to fellow Jews all over the world. Creative Jewish survival must be our primary objective."

Rabbi Robert I. Kahn, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, said: "While continuing to build Jewish life in the diaspora through the family, the synagogue and our communal institutions, we must remain ever vigilant to protect the rights of Israel....We welcome the positive attitude of our government toward Israel and pray that the pragmatism of politics and economics will not alter this course. We must, however, continue the campaign to educate both legislators and businessmen, Christian clergymen and neighbors and all people of good will towards a comprehensive understanding of Israel's rights and needs."

**Alert To Dangers Facing Latin American Jews**

Rabbi Joseph Karasick, chairman of the American Section, World Jewish Congress, called upon Jews to be alert, in their High Holy Day prayers, to the constant political and economic dangers facing Latin American Jews. "North American Jewish communities must join with our South American brethren in helping them maintain strong religious, educational and cultural institutions."

He warned that "while we must always help Israel, Soviet Jews and our Jewish life here, we cannot turn our backs on the crisis on the South American continent. Rabbi Karasick expressed the belief that the overthrow of the Allende government in Chile and the election of Juan Peron as President of Argentina "demands an even more alert watch."

Harry Gutmann, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said that "while we must always be alert on behalf of Israel, Soviet Jews and universal causes, this year should mark the period when Jews once again become Jews." He noted that "too many of us have hidden our Jewishness in the sea of democratic assimilationism. We must again practice and live our Jewish faith."

**JEWES OFFER TO SEND RABBI TORAH SCROLL TO LENINGRAD JEWS ON HIGH HOLY DAYS**

CLEVELAND, Sept. 25 (JTA)--The Jewish community here has offered to send one of its own rabbis and a Torah scroll to the Soviet Union to assist Leningrad Jews in celebrating the High Holy Days.

Concern has been expressed by the Jewish community because there is no one to serve the Leningrad Jews during the High Holy Days because Chaim Lubanov, Leningrad's Chief Rabbi died recently and left no successor and because 11 of the 12 Torah scrolls in the synagogue have disappeared.

A letter to Anatoly Dobrynin, Soviet Ambassador to the United States, was sent by Robert Silverman, chairman of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, offering "the services of one of our own rabbis to lead the Leningrad congregation" for all or part of the High Holy Days period from Sept. 27 through Oct. 19. Silverman also asked Rep. Charles A. Vanik, co-sponsor of the Mills-Vanik amendment, to use "the prominence of your office (to) expedite the Soviet authorities' attention to our request."

(In Washington, the Soviet Embassy's counselor, Alexander P. Yefstafeyev, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that if the letter was mailed "it was mailed. That's all." He said he knew nothing about the letter but would ask Dobrynin about it. However, he added, there would be no Embassy comment about the letter. This no comment attitude is the Embassy's official position over the past three years to refuse to enter public discussion on letters and petitions it receives on Soviet-Jewry issues.)

The House Ways and Means Committee will vote tomorrow afternoon on the Mills-Vanik legislation, a source close to the Committee told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. The Committee had been tentatively scheduled to vote on the legislation several times over the past month but had put off the showdown under Administration pressures for an alternative measure that would soften the impact on the Soviet Union. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is unlikely to appear before the Committee since he is at the United Nations.