



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036
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Vol. XLI - 57th Year

Tuesday, February 19, 1974

No. 34

U.S. NOBEL LAUREATES, ARTISTS, WRITERS, PROTEST SYRIA'S TREATMENT OF POWS, DEMAND RELEASE OF LIST

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Fifteen American Nobel Laureates and other academicians and prominent figures in the world of arts and letters sent statements of concern today to the International Conference for the Liberation of Israeli Prisoners of War in Syria which opened today in Brussels. The conference, initiated by the International Committee of Concern, is being held at the Hilton Hotel in Brussels. (See separate story Page 3.)

Statements were sent to Brussels by actors Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton; playwright Arthur Miller; and authors James Michener and William Styron. The statements by the academicians and Nobel Prize winners declared:

"We protest against the actions of the government of Syria in regard to the Israeli prisoners of war under its custody. More than three months after the Middle East cease-fire Syria continues to violate both international law and international morality by withholding the list of Israeli prisoners of war in Syrian captivity and not allowing Red Cross representatives to visit them.

"We call upon the government of Syria to remove this obstacle on the road to a possible peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict. We join the millions of men and women of good will throughout the world in requesting the Syrian government to submit a list of its Israeli prisoners of war and to allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit these prisoners."

The 15 Nobel Laureates were: Kenneth Arrow, Konrad Bloch, Simon Kuznets and Wassily W. Leontief, all of Harvard University; Julius Axelrod and Marshall W. Nirenberg of the National Institutes of Health; Carl F. Cori and Paul Samuelson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Hans A. Bethe, Cornell University; Max Delbruck, California Institute of Technology; Robert W. Holley, Salk Institute for Biological Studies; Arthur Kornberg, Stanford University; Emilio G. Segre, University of California, Berkeley; Harold C. Urey, University of California, La Jolla; and Eugene W. Lamb, Yale University. The statement was also signed by Henry Rosovsky, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University; and Jerome Wiesner, president of MIT.

Practices Reminiscent Of The Barbaric

The Burtons' statement said: "We are deeply concerned over the Syrian government's refusal to provide a list of the Israeli prisoners of war which it is holding and its denial of Red Cross requests to visit these prisoners.... Syria's attempt to use these prisoners as 'political hostages' is a cruel and inhuman violation of their internationally accepted rights and should be deplored by all men and women who believe in human ideals, regardless of their political viewpoint."

Arthur Miller noted: "For at least 300 years, and in the Roman period as well, the treatment of war prisoners has been taken as a measure of a nation's degree of civilization. A reversion

to practices reminiscent of the barbaric cannot be justified either by ideological claims or strategic ones. Whatever his or her political position, everyone laying claim to a human ideal must stand appalled at the Syrian government's refusal."

James Michener observed: "Asplendid first step" toward resolution of the Middle East conflict "could be a declaration by Syria stating the number, names and condition of all prisoners held by her. The nations of the world would applaud such a gesture. All people would hail this as an honorable act. The way would then be open for the negotiation of other crucial questions, and peace would be closer. I pray that the leaders of Syria will take this step, for in common humanity they can do no less."

The statement sent to Brussels by William Styron said: "Many of us consider ourselves dispassionate observers of the Middle East conflict in which it has been possible for certain political and ideological aspirations of the Arab nations to make a legitimate claim on our sympathy. These outrageous acts on the part of Syria do far worse than seriously erode that sympathy. They stand in themselves as a manifestation of barbarism that must be utterly condemned by all people."

SHARP UPSWING OF ANTI-SEMITIC HARASSMENT OF ITALIAN JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (JTA)--An investigation by the American Jewish Committee's European Office has revealed a sharp upswing in anti-Semitic harassment of Italian Jews by groups calling themselves Anti-Zionist Committees or the Anti-Zionist Documentation Center. The campaign has taken the form of the distribution of lists of Jews through the mail to Italian cities, inciting the non-Jewish population to make Jews pay for "the genocide perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinians."

The AJCommittee stated that the completeness of the lists of Jewish names indicated that the anti-Jewish groups were engaged in "constant surveillance and updating." In other instances, the AJCommittee said, the lists have been sent directly to Jews who are addressed as "the accomplices of assassins." An excerpt reads: "In solidarity with the struggle of the Arab people, a contribution to the common cause of anti-imperialism, we publish a short list of Zionist personalities operating in Italy in the fields of politics and journalism. They are blood relatives of the Israeli pillagers, accomplices of their plunderers and their crimes."

The attack by mail on Jews in Ferrara has been especially virulent, Morris H. Bergreen, chairman of the AJCommittee's Foreign Affairs Commission, said: "First on the list is the synagogue, next the rabbi and the president of the Jewish community. There follows an alphabetical list of 105 persons, which would seem to include every Jewish man, woman and child in Ferrara, inasmuch as the total Jewish population in the city is estimated at approximately 120."

CABINET ADOPTS RECORD IL 36 B BUDGET

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA)--The Cabinet approved yesterday a record budget of more than IL 36 billion for fiscal 1974-75 after nearly six hours of debate during which Finance Minister

Pinhas Sapir promised there would be no new taxes. The proposed budget contains IL 14.5 billion for defense needs--less than the IL 16 billion in the current fiscal budget which was swollen by Yom Kippur War needs.

Sapir said the only tax this year would be an added value tax which was decided upon some time ago. The measure, which is controversial because such a tax is considered regressive, was necessitated in part by Israel's desire to move closer economically to the European Common Market. Sapir said the burden would be offset by a decrease in direct taxation--probably abandonment of the seven percent compulsory loan which has been levied since 1971.

The Cabinet approved the proposed budget without dissent. But three ministers abstained: Deputy Premier and Education Minister Yigal Alon; Police Minister Shlomo Hillel; and Housing Minister Zeev Sharef. A political note was injected afterwards when supporters of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan criticized Alon's recommendation that the defense budget be cut to free more money for education. Alon's proposal was not put to a vote which reportedly was the reason why he abstained.

The defense budget for the next fiscal year was drafted by a small ministerial group that included Sapir and Dayan, presided over by Premier Golda Meir. Sapir said there was no time to submit the entire budget to the Knesset before the March 31 deadline and he would therefore present an interim three-month budget proportionate to the whole.

ARSON DAMAGES JEWISH BOOKSTORE IN OLD CITY; SEEN AS REPRISAL ACT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA)--A Jewish bookstore selling religious books and other materials was set on fire Saturday shortly after midnight. No one was hurt and there were only minor damages in the arson, apparently a reprisal for the arson in three Christian institutions in West Jerusalem. The bookstore is located in the Moslem quarter in the Old City, a five minute walk to the Western Wall.

According to Jerusalem police the arsonist broke the store's window through a decorated iron gate in front of the store, and after spilling kerosine through the door, threw a match into the store. The place was set afire, but a passer by who noticed the blaze quickly alerted firemen. The damage was relatively small, except for soot and ashes which covered the walls, floors and ceiling. Police arrested two suspects whose identity and nationality was not revealed. This is the first time that there has been an attempt to damage a Jewish store in the Old City selling religious articles.

Mayor Teddy Kollek denounced the arson. "I hope that once the police find out who are the arsonists in this last case," he said, "we will be spared of burning of religious books in Jerusalem." Pastor Robert Lindsay, head of the Baptist Center in West Jerusalem which was one of the places set on fire last week, also expressed his regret at this last case of arson. The city and the Religious Ministry already promised the owner of the Jewish bookstore to cover the expenses caused by the damage.

DR. HORACE M. KALLEN, PHILOSOPHER AND ZIONIST, DIES AT AGE 91

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Dr. Horace M. Kallen, philosopher, educator, staunch liberal and long-time Zionist died Saturday in Palm

Beach, Fla. while on vacation. He was 91 years old. Dr. Kallen became a Zionist in 1902 when, as he was about to cast off his Jewish identity, a Harvard professor showed him how the Old Testament had affected the Puritan mind and traced the role of Hebraic tradition in the development of the American character.

Dr. Kallen, a pragmatist, pluralist philosopher and fiery teacher was one of the founders of the New School for Social Research, where he was named emeritus research professor of social philosophy in 1969. He continued to give occasional courses including one last fall.

Born in Berenstadt, Germany, the son of an Orthodox rabbi, he was taken to Boston at the age of five. Dr. Kallen graduated magna cum laude in 1903 from Harvard where he had been an assistant to George Santayana and the selected disciple of William James. He received a Ph.D. degree from Harvard but was rejected for a regular faculty appointment because he was not in the habit of speaking discreetly. After being dismissed from Princeton and the University of Wisconsin for his dissident social and philosophical views, Dr. Kallen found shelter in the broad tolerance of the New School at its founding in 1919. He was dean of its Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science from 1944 to 1946.

In his Jewish activities, Dr. Kallen had been a member of the executive board of the American Association for Jewish Education, a member of the American Jewish Congress, a chairman of the academic council of YIVO. Among his numerous books was "Zionism and World Politics" in 1924.

3 RED ARMY JEWISH VETERANS DENOUNCE SOLZHENITSYN'S EXPULSION

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Three extensively decorated Red Army veterans--all of them Jews from Minsk--have condemned the expulsion of Soviet author and Nobel Laureate Alexander Solzhenitsyn as "a manifestation of Stalinism in our time." Those words were contained in a telegram sent to Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny by Naum Alshansky, Yefim Davidovich and Lev Ovsicher. A copy of the text was obtained by the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews which released it here today.

The statement said: "We vigorously condemn the expulsion from the country of the great Russian writer, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, fearless fighter against Stalin's crimes; fighter for liberty, for democracy, for the rights of man. The exile of Solzhenitsyn is a manifestation of Stalinism in our time. By such an abominable and shameful action, you have condemned yourself for a longer time than his exile might last. You have condemned yourself forever. You have expelled from this country the honor and the conscience of Russia." The three veterans hold between them 43 orders and medals awarded by the Red Army.

Meanwhile, in New York, Judah J. Shapiro, president, and Jacob Katzman, executive vice-president of the Labor Zionist Alliance, recalled "the criminal execution of Yiddish writers in the USSR some 20 years ago" and said, "We are thankful that Solzhenitsyn has been spared from death or the horrors of being imprisoned again." They noted, however, that "the forcible expulsion from one's native land of one seeking the free expression of his opinion, must be repugnant to all who cherish human liberty and the freedom of the human spirit." The act of expulsion, Shapiro and Katzman added is similar to the denial of the right of free emigration to those who desire it.

CALL MOUNTED FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION OF FATE OF POWs

BRUSSELS, Feb. 18 (JTA)--The International Conference for the Liberation of the Israeli Prisoners of War in Syria today called for an international investigation on the fate of the POWs and appealed to the International Red Cross Committee to intervene at once to secure their release. Two of the conference's organizers, French philosopher and writer Simone de Beauvoir and League for the Rights of Man president Daniel Mayer, later told a press conference that the participants had no political motivations and had acted strictly out of humanitarian considerations.

Simone de Beauvoir, usually associated with extreme leftist positions, said "It is inadmissible to transform prisoners of war into political hostages." The conference met here today behind closed doors. It was called by a committee which included Ms. de Beauvoir, musician-composer Leonard Bernstein (U.S.), Nobel Prize winner Prof. Rene Cassin (France), author Andre Schwartz-Bart (Switzerland), writer James A. Michener (U.S.), and Lady Jennie Lee (U.K.).

The parents of four Israeli POWs held in Syria described their anguish and suffering as they have not even been officially informed that their sons are still alive. The mothers of the POWs appealed "to the mothers of Belgium and the rest of the world" to help alleviate this situation by writing Syrian ambassadors to obtain the POWs' release. Among the dozens of messages received by the conference was one from an Italian Communist Senator, Umberto Terracini, and from former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France.

The resolution adopted expressed the participants' "anguish in the face of the moral tortures inflicted upon the men's families"; called for an international investigation on the fate of the POWs; and appealed to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva and all other international organizations "to intervene at once in Damascus so as to try and obtain the men's release." Ms. de Beauvoir told the press conference that she had asked the Syrian Ambassador in Paris to permit her to meet the Israeli POWs in Syria but had not received his agreement. She reiterated her request for permission to meet the men.

OFF-THE-RECORD DAYAN INTERVIEW WITH ISRAELI EDITORS REVEALS HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT WAR'S OUTCOME

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18 (JTA)--On the third day of the Yom Kippur War, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told Israeli newspaper editors at an off-the-record meeting that events in Sinai proved that Israel no longer enjoyed decisive military superiority over the Arabs, lacked the power to throw the Egyptians back across the Suez Canal and might have to give up large parts of the Sinai peninsula, including possibly Sharm el-Sheikh. Dayan made public the transcript of his remarks which was published in Israeli newspapers over the weekend.

While his assessment of the military situation in Sinai on Oct. 9 proved overly pessimistic, his remarks were highlighted by Arab news media today as evidence that the Oct. war altered Israel's attitude, especially as it concerned military superiority over the Arabs. The event that formed the background of Dayan's frank appraisal to the editors was the Egyptian success in breaching the Barlev line on the

Suez Canal.

"The line of strongholds along the canal does not exist for us anymore," Dayan said. "We don't have the strength to throw the Egyptians to the other side." He said that the line had been evacuated "partly in an orderly fashion and partly not," and that Israeli forces would have to take up new lines in that third of the Sinai closest to the canal. He said forces were delegated to defend southern Sinai but Sharm el-Sheikh might have to be abandoned. This, he said, would be "a very hard blow" but "we will manage."

Halo Of Superiority Shattered

Dayan's words--which the Arab press played up today--included the following: "This (situation) has many implications. Two of them are obvious: it revealed to the entire world that we are not stronger than the Egyptians. The halo of superiority, the political and military principle that Israel is stronger than the Arabs and that if they dare to start a war they would be defeated, has not been proved here, one way or another. We will have to tell the people the truth...."

Dayan said he planned to appear on television that night to give the public the true facts "in a more carefully worded style" because "we have to live with the true facts of our life with our own people, with the American public, with the world and with the Arabs. We won't gain anything from trying to cover up the truth." He did not make the broadcast, however, because he was called to resolve urgent military matters.

His assessment of the situation on the Syrian front was more optimistic and was borne out by subsequent events. "I believe, and hope that we can bring Syria to a situation where it will in fact cease firing and will not have effective fire power," he said. He predicted--correctly, it turned out--that Jordan and Iraq would not open a separate eastern front.

PHONES OF MANY JEWISH ACTIVISTS DISCONNECTED; HUNGER STRIKE CONTINUES

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (JTA)--As the hunger strike of three Soviet Jews in Moscow entered into its fourth day today the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported that most of the phones of Jewish activists in Moscow have been disconnected. According to the SSSJ, the hunger strikers issued a statement today declaring, "By cutting off conversation with the outside world the KGB plans to isolate us and minimize the meaning of our hunger strike." The statement appealed "to people who sympathize with us to demand connection with the outside world." The SSSJ said it obtained this statement by calling a Soviet Jew in Moscow whose phone was abruptly disconnected as he was reading a statement to the Soviet Jewry group.

Last Friday, David Azbel, a professor of technical sciences, Vitaly Rubin, an authority on ancient China, and Vladimir Galatsky, an artist, began their hunger strike in Azbel's apartment as "an act of despair and protest" against the Soviet Union's failure to grant them exit visas, according to the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. Benjamin Gorochof, a script-writer and film director, was also due to participate in the hunger strike. According to the SSSJ, Gorochof is not participating because he and his wife, Sophia, received verbal assurances from Soviet authorities that their visas will be granted.

GENEVA (JTA)--The International Red Cross has denied a Bar Ilan University Senate charge that it was an "accessory" to the Syrian mistreatment of Israeli POWs. It stressed it was making every effort on behalf of the POWs.

BEAME, GIBSON CALL FOR RENEWAL OF BLACK-JEWISH COOPERATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Mayor Abraham Beame of New York and Mayor Kenneth Gibson of Newark called last night for an end to inter-group "confrontation" and a renewal of Black-Jewish cooperation in obtaining federal assistance for the nation's ailing cities. Beame, New York's first Jewish Mayor, told 500 delegates attending the American Jewish Congress national convention banquet at the Roosevelt Hotel here that "the politics of confrontation and conflict are no longer applicable. I believe that more and more officials and community leaders will be engaging in a politics of conciliation and agreement," he said, adding: "What will be missing from the new coalition will be the old need to find a scapegoat."

Beame voiced confidence about the future of American cities. He said he was "optimistic" after his recent talks with President Nixon and Presidential aides Leonard Garment and James Falk about the prospects for increased federal aid to New York for narcotics, transportation and housing programs. Noting that "We are entering a new age of cooperation between the cities and the federal government, and between the cities and the states," Beame declared: "The sooner we see that, the sooner will Black and white groups, labor and management, Protestant and Catholic and Jewish, old and young, and rich and middle-income and poor groups work together for the common good of all."

Gibson, Newark's first Black Mayor, said that "as long as we point the finger at each other, the longer the true culprits can continue their devilish business. I am here to join with the American Jewish Congress in emphasizing the need for constructive, interdependent and empathetic relations between the Black and Jewish communities," he told the banquet audience.

The Newark Mayor warned, however, that "There are always self-styled leaders waiting in the wings to fan the sparks of distrust, prejudice, bigotry, harmful generalizations and violent confrontations until they become socially damaging flames." These "negative social phenomena," Gibson said, "are created by unreal fears and a false sense of being threatened." Gibson asked: "Does social and economic well being of the Black community honestly threaten the quality of life in the Jewish community? Does the Jewish community present an actual threat to Black people? My answer to both these questions is an emphatic No!"

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS RAP SENATE'S FAILURE TO PASS GENOCIDE TREATY

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (JTA)--While declaring appreciation to the U.S. government and Congress for its aid and support of Israel, the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims in an all-day conference yesterday said it was "appalled" at the Senate's failure to ratify the Genocide Convention. The several hundred delegates, Jewish survivors of the holocaust who met at the New York Hilton, also declared in its resolution that the Senate should pass the treaty because "it is in accord with the basic rights of American democracy."

Eli Zborowski, president of the Survivors' Federation, said that by adopting the treaty the U.S. would put its moral and legal stamp of approval on a law that would make wiping out a people an international crime. An attempt to

pass the treaty this year failed because of a filibuster. The survivors also demanded that governments, including the U.S., bring Nazi criminals "who enjoy a free and secure life in many countries" to trial.

Rep. Ogden R. Reid (D,NY) told the conference that the U.S. government must show that Israel has "defensible borders" and "we have to provide Israel with necessary military and economic assistance to defend itself and deter any aggression. There can be no detente unless the Jews and other minorities are permitted to leave the Soviet Union," Reid added. He said that if there should be any peace agreement with Syria, it should be made clear that Syria should not only return the Israeli POWs, but also permit the Jewish population of Syria (about 4000) which live in intolerable conditions and persecution, to leave the country.

Solomon Zynstein, chairman of the conference, said that the one-day session was called because the survivors believe "the world has shown the same indifference to the fundamental rights of Israel to live in peace and freedom as the world showed in World War II to the murder of innocent Jews by the Nazis."

Zborowski said that "political and cultural leaders seem to already have forgotten the holocaust" and again "are indifferent to the plight of Jews. From this conference we will let go forth our plea to all people of good will, 'do not sacrifice the Jew' for whatever motive or reason. The Jew must no longer be expendable." He also said survivors "see no difference between the Hitler Nazis and the Black September movement, both seek to destroy the Jewish people by killing innocent people."

In other resolutions, the group called on "men of good will everywhere to help the thousands of helpless Jews in the Arab countries to emigrate"; protested the Soviet Union's discriminatory policy against Jews in Russia and called for the USSR to free the Jews who want to emigrate; declared "we will not rest until studies of the holocaust will become an integral part of Jewish education at every level"; and asserted "it would stand by Israel and support her."

The Federation called on the organized Jewish community and its institutions "to join with us in the establishment of a Remembrance Center which will be dedicated to the strengthening of the awareness of the holocaust. The Center will also serve as a stimulus to further the education of Jewish youth in their studies of their heritage." Declaring that they too "were victims of inhumanity" the survivors said they view gravely the inhuman acts of Syria against the Israeli POWs and called "on humanity not to remain silent in this violation of international law."

GHETTO LIBERATION COMMEMORATED

BUDAPEST, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Seven top Communist Party officials, along with members of the Jewish community, attended a ceremony several days ago commemorating the Russian liberation of Jews from the Budapest "ghetto" in World War II. In what some observers called a rare happening in Communist countries, the party officials accompanied the group to the synagogue of Budapest, where the ceremony ended. Released when the Red Army arrived, Jews had been confined to the downtown Budapest "ghetto" and were going to be put on trains and deported to German camps.

LONDON (JTA)--Mylvyn Benjamin, vice-chairman of British Herut, has been named Liberal candidate for Barrow-in-Furness, one of the shipbuilding centers in Britain.