



daily news bulletin

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FAMILIES OF ISRAELI POWs IN SYRIA RECEIVE FIRST LETTERS

TEL AVIV, March 26 (JTA)--The families of the 65 Israeli prisoners of war in Syria received their first letters last night. The letters, written in Hebrew on Red Cross forms, were brought from Damascus by a Red Cross representative yesterday and were immediately delivered to the addressees' homes by couriers from the Army Manpower Division despite the late hour.

They were the second communications received by the POW families from their sons. Last month, the Red Cross delivered only forms on which each prisoner had signed his name. Last night it was letters. They were brief. But each prisoner said his condition was satisfactory. Wounded prisoners said they were confident they would recover and soon be home.

The POWs' families, though overjoyed by the letters, are becoming increasingly restive over the delay in affecting a POW exchange with Syria. Relatives of prisoners joined with the families of soldiers missing on the Syrian front in a rally today to demand that a POW exchange be conducted immediately irrespective of disengagement negotiations with Syria.

They demanded further that wounded prisoners be returned home forthwith and that the bodies of 15 Israeli soldiers who died in prison, according to the Syrian Ministry of War, be returned immediately for burial. The families are also asking that matzos and other Passover foods be delivered to the POWs so that they can have some sort of seder during Passover next month.

1 KILLED IN DRUZE VILLAGE HIT BY SYRIAN SHELLING

TEL AVIV, March 26 (JTA)--Syrian shells rained down on the Druze village of Harfa today, killing one inhabitant, the second to die there since Saturday as a result of Syrian bombardments. The village of 800 is located in the northern section of the Golan Heights enclave captured by Israel in the Yom Kippur War. Today was the 15th consecutive day of shooting on the Syrian front.

Syrian gunners opened fire this morning with artillery and tanks at Israeli positions in the enclave. There were no casualties and no Israeli return fire at first. But the Syrian shelling was resumed on a more intensive scale in the early afternoon employing artillery, tank guns, and Soviet-built "Sagger" anti-tank missiles. Israeli forces returned the fire with long-range artillery and tank guns. Golan Heights settlers were confined to their shelters today from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. During yesterday's fire exchanges, an American-made "Tau" anti-tank missile scored a direct hit on a Syrian tank, a military spokesman reported.

BLACK SEPTEMBER IN ARGENTINA

NEW YORK, March 26 (JTA)--Argentine federal police have confirmed the arrest of Dan Karmi Reinsensdtat, a 30-year-old German national, who was found training youths for terrorist action. According to reliable sources Reinsensdtat was a combat instructor for the Black September movement who was trained in specialized camps in East Germany.

According to the Buenos Aires newspaper, "Mayoria," Reinsensdtat was working with a French citizen, identified as Gerard Claude Ileron, who was also recently arrested in Cordoba. Both men have been transferred to Buenos Aires where they are being interrogated by security officials, the newspaper stated on March 12.

KISSINGER TELLS SOVIET THAT U.S. IS NOT TRYING TO UNDERCUT THEIR MIDEAST ROLE

WASHINGTON, March 26 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger discussed the Middle East with Soviet leaders in Moscow for 3 1/2 hours today, it was reported here. His meeting was with Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. Kissinger was accompanied by Alfred Atherton, Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern affairs. Atherton did not participate in yesterday's talks between Kissinger and the Kremlin leaders which dealt with disarmament problems, the report said.

Kissinger reportedly assured the Russians that the U.S. is not trying to undercut the Soviet position in the Middle East by its diplomatic initiatives to effect disengagement between Israel and its neighbors. He reportedly told Brezhnev that the U.S. regards the Soviet role as indispensable to achieve a Middle East peace. The Russians were said to be irked by what they consider Washington's concentration on disengagement rather than on achieving an overall settlement predicated on Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory.

TV PROGRAMS BLASTED FOR HAVING TOO MUCH MURDER, VIOLENCE

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA)--Israeli ministers, debating the merits and defects of the nation's radio and television shows, rapped the television media for showing too many programs dealing with murder and violence. Some of the Cabinet ministers complained that too much time was devoted to fringe groups and not enough to the main political movements. Another complaint by the ministers was that television stressed the negative aspects of Israeli society and thereby lowered morale.

The discussion about the merits and defects of Israel's quasi-public Broadcasting Authority during the Cabinet meeting was occasioned by the presentation of the Broadcast Authority's new budget and the fact that Israel has a new broadcasting chief. He is Shimon Peres, the former Minister of Transport, who heads the newly established Information Ministry in the new Cabinet. He takes over responsibility for broadcasting from Deputy Premier and Education Minister Yigal Alon.

The religious ministers demanded an end to Sabbath morning television which was introduced during the Yom Kippur War but no decision was made on that point. All the ministers said they would watch with interest for changes in TV now that a new minister is in control.

VATICAN OFFICIAL SAYS JEWISH-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE HAS NOT SLOWED DOWN

NEW YORK, March 26 (JTA)--A leading Vatican official declared today, "I do not believe the Jewish-Christian dialogue has slowed down. On the contrary, it is very much alive and well." In

his first appearance before a Jewish audience. The Most Reverend Jean Jadot, Apostolic Delegate in the United States, said that an "apparent regression" in Catholic-Jewish relations should not be seen as alarming. Rather, it is an indication "that a new stage of more sober and serious facing up of problems has begun."

The Apostolic Delegate made his remarks in an address to 400 persons at a dinner of the Synagogue Council of America at the Essex House. The Council is the coordinating body for the national rabbinical and synagogal organizations of Conservative, Reform and Orthodox Judaism in the United States. Commenting on the significance of the Apostolic Delegate's appearance before a Jewish audience, Rabbi Irwin M. Blank, president of the Council said that it was evident that "the process which the late and much beloved Pope John began in opening up discourse between the faith communities continues under Pope Paul."

Referring to a "troubled past" which has marked the history of Catholic-Jewish relations, Bishop Jadot cited "the heavy debt that lies on the Christian side in coming to terms with our past alienation. The struggle against anti-Semitism is not over," the Apostolic Delegate declared. "It merits our constant vigilance and should retain a first priority on our common agenda."

In his address to the dinner guests, Rabbi Blank described a series of formal consultations with representatives of the Vatican which the Synagogue Council of America has participated in. He said that these consultations were responsible for a recent statement by a Vatican spokesman that the Roman Catholic Church no longer advocates the internationalization of Jerusalem. According to Rabbi Blank, the Vatican's earlier support for the internationalization of the Holy City was a major source of tension between the Roman Catholic Church and world Jewry.

Consultations with representatives of the Vatican, he noted, have been carried on by the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, of which the Synagogue Council of America serves as international secretariat and coordinator. The other participants in this committee are World Jewish Congress, the Israel Interfaith Committee, American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Rabbi Blank stated that in a communication to the recently-held Conference of Islamic Countries in Lahore, Pakistan he had offered to join with religious representatives of Islam and of the Christian churches in an international conference on Jerusalem.

SAPIR, ZANBAR IN CONFLICT OVER ISRAEL'S NATIONAL BUDGET

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA)--A serious conflict of opinion has developed between Israel's two top fiscal officers--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir and Moshe Zanbar, Governor of the Bank of Israel--over the record national budget Sapir submitted to the Knesset a week ago. Zanbar says it's inflationary. Sapir denies this and claims that Zanbar himself had a hand in drafting the budget. Observers say the conflict has reached a point where the two "can no longer cooperate."

Zanbar was Sapir's top aide in the Finance Ministry before he was named to head Israel's central reserve bank two years ago. Since then, their differences over economic matters have widened to a point where their conflict has reached a personal level, associates of the two men say. This could lead to a serious breakdown of the nation's economic machinery inasmuch as the Governor of the Bank of Israel serves as eco-

nomical advisor to the government.

Last week Zanbar warned on a television interview that Israel's foreign currency reserves would decline to a dangerous low of \$850 million in 1974 and urged the government to cut the national budget by IL 1.5 billion. Sapir charged that Zanbar was sowing panic. The Finance Ministry issued a statement noting that Zanbar helped prepare the new budget and had in fact approved the Ministry's policy of pump-priming--feeding money into the economy that had turned sluggish after the Yom Kippur War. It said that Zanbar's change of position was "a complete turnabout" and claimed that the drop in foreign currency reserves would not be as sharp as he had predicted.

Zanbar retorted with a statement of his own. "The budget's framework was prepared two months ago," he said, "but the Bank of Israel reacted Monday morning. Economic activities and the consumption of goods have returned to normal. We now have to act drastically against inflation and feeding money into the economy is superfluous."

Some economic officials believe the breach between Zanbar and Sapir is beyond healing and that one of them will have to go if the Bank of Israel and the Treasury are to function smoothly together. Inasmuch as Sapir is a major power within the government, the feeling here is that Zanbar may soon have to resign.

SAPIR TO SET PACE FOR BOND EFFORT

NEW YORK, March 26 (JTA)--Following Israel's adoption of record budgets for the new fiscal year beginning April 1, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir will come here to dramatize the role of the \$1 Billion Israel Bond campaign in enabling Israel to proceed with vital economic projects to speed the country's economic recovery from the Yom Kippur War and to create jobs for new immigrants.

Sapir will tour major cities in the U.S. and Canada over a period of three weeks. He will begin his speaking tour for Israel Bonds on April 3 in Rochester. From there he will go on to Chicago, April 4; Milwaukee and Los Angeles, the weekend of April 5; Baltimore, April 9; Miami, April 10; Newark, April 15; Boston, April 16, and Toronto, April 17. In addition, he will address several Bond meetings in New York.

Sapir will confer with leaders in the Jewish community and in the business world at various types of group meetings as well as conferences on the personal level in order to promote Israel Bond purchases in the higher brackets. In this connection, a special effort will be made to enroll individuals as members of the Israel Prime Minister's Club which has an "admission fee" of a Bond subscription of a minimum of \$25,000.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The appointment of Mrs. Max Schenk as chairman of the 26th Anniversary Celebration of Israel's Independence, in New York City, has been announced by Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation. Mrs. Schenk will host the anniversary festivity which will be held at Avery Fisher (Philharmonic) Hall on Wednesday evening, April 24. It will highlight the AZF's commemoration of Israel's 26th birthday. Mrs. Schenk is chairman of the AZF executive committee and the former national president of Hadassah.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--Sen. Edward Kennedy (D.Mass.) is going to the Soviet Union next month on a private visit but hopes to meet with Kremlin leaders to discuss a variety of U.S.-Soviet issues, including the emigration of Russian Jews.

DIPLOMATS, SPECIALISTS AT UN PREDICT INCREASE IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

NEW YORK, March 26 (JTA)—An increase in international terrorism is forecast by diplomats at the United Nations and by specialists in extremist forms of political and class warfare. Their prediction is based on several factors, including the relatively low cost and high effectiveness of terrorist acts and the emergence of a Palestinian state as one of the main ingredients of a Middle East peace settlement, the United Nations Association of the U.S. reported in an article in its monthly magazine, "The Inter Dependent."

"Palestine terrorists are credited with having awakened world opinion to the cause (of a Palestinian state) just as Israeli terrorists helped to convince the United Nations in 1948 to create a state for their coreligionists," the article said. It listed among other elements leading to an upsurge of terrorism the expectations of African liberation movements for Arab support in return for the African nations' abandonment of Israel; world-wide inflation; and the massive swing against the Left in South America.

According to the article, the U.S. will renew its efforts for anti-terrorist statutes at the UN only if and when there is permanent peace in the Middle East. "For the moment, neither African nor Arab states will allow any effective action to be taken," The Inter Dependent said.

The article cited statistics compiled by an eminent specialist, Brian Jenkins of Santa Monica, Calif., showing that in the six years ending Dec. 31, 1973, the casualty toll in all acts of international terrorism was 268 dead and 571 wounded. The cost in measurable destruction in the same period was \$163 million plus \$32 million paid in ransom to terrorists in addition to millions more spent on counter-terrorist measures. "Yet only three Arab terrorists are held in Europe; none has been severely punished," the article said.

RIEGNER: ASSEMBLY CANCELLATION PROMPTED BY 'THE MOST COGENT ADVICE'

LONDON, March 26 (JTA)—In a statement issued here today, Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner, Secretary-General of the World Jewish Congress, described as "complete misrepresentations" reports which have appeared in some Jewish publications in Europe regarding the circumstances surrounding the cancellation of the Plenary Assembly scheduled to be held in The Hague at the end of April. "It is correct," Dr. Riegner said, "that the Dutch government did not request that the Assembly be cancelled, and it is also true that had the Congress decided to proceed with the meeting, the Dutch security authorities would have given the maximum assistance."

However, Dr. Riegner added, "both the Dutch and the Israel security authorities, who were fully consulted, advised that in the present tense political atmosphere, an Assembly of such magnitude was from a security point of view unmanageable and beyond protection." He noted that Arab pressures on The Netherlands had recently increased, and that for the past three weeks Holland has been holding the two Arab hijackers who set a British Airways VC-10 on fire at Schiphol Airport, and that this made her an obvious target for terrorist action.

"It should be obvious," Dr. Riegner said, "that after an investment of so much time, effort, and money in the preparation of the Plenary Assembly, the WJC would have decided on cancellation only on the most cogent advice of all authorities consulted, and that while the decision to cancel

might have caused regret to these authorities, it certainly could not have come as a surprise to them or have met with their disapproval." Dr. Riegner explained that the security problem had become aggravated by the unexpectedly large number of delegates. This meant that they would have had to be spread over many hotels not only in The Hague but also in Rotterdam.

HARASSMENT OF ZEITLIN ENDS

WASHINGTON, March 26 (JTA)—The Philippine government has stepped away from further harassment of Arnold Zeitlin, the chief of the Associated Press bureau in Manila, but the anti-Jewish slur directed against him in a letter Feb. 20 signed by Philippine Foreign Secretary Carlos Romulo has not been retracted from the official record nor has any public apology for it been made to the journalist who is Jewish, it was learned here.

In the letter last month to the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Zeitlin was described as "suspected of being a Jewish journalist" and the letter claimed his dispatches in Feb. on fighting between Moslem rebels and Filipino government troops were false.

American sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the matter was "unfortunately handled" and that Romulo, now about 78, probably was unaware of the slur when he signed the letter. The Philippines, the sources noted, have about three million Moslems and fewer than 500 Jews. The country also depends on the Middle East for its oil. Therefore, they said, the letter making Zeitlin the scapegoat was an easy way to obscure the fighting and please the Arab oil producers.

The matter, has been quietly dropped, the sources added, by means of a memorandum to foreign news services in Manila from Philippine Information Secretary Francisco Tatad and the chairman of the Philippines Media Advisory Council, Primitivo Mijares. The memorandum said that the Philippine policy is that "international wire services and foreign journalists shall have unimpeded freedom in the performance of their work" and "all inquiries and investigations" being conducted by the Council were being "immediately discontinued."

The memorandum did not mention Zeitlin although Mijares had previously accused him of trying to "alienate the Philippine government and people from the Arab world." Zeitlin, the only American correspondent in the Philippines, refused to appear at a hearing before the council on the charges. His dispatches on the fighting in Feb. in Jolo were never questioned by serious journalists and he is continuing with his duties in Manila. (By Joseph Polakoff)

TEL AVIV (JTA)—Israeli postal authorities are honoring The Netherlands by stamping all incoming and outgoing mail with a special postmark commemorating the 33rd anniversary of a general strike in Amsterdam protesting the Nazis' deportation of Dutch Jews. The Education Ministry also issued a special booklet on the strike. Another act of recognition of Dutch friendship has been the registration of Holland in the Jewish National Fund's Golden Book for which IL 30,000 has already been collected in Israel.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Jewish National Fund has laid out five oasis-like picnic sites along the Arava Road which cuts through the Negev to Eilat. The latest site is a 30-dunam park in a grove near the famous "Solomon's Pillars" north of Eilat.

EAST SIDE ELDERLY JEWS FIGHT TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR A KOSHER LUNCH PROGRAM

By David Friedman, JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK, March 26 (JTA)--Some 100 elderly Jews on Manhattan's Lower East Side are waging what is apparently a hopeless fight to obtain federal funds from City Hall for a kosher lunch program. But the group, which meets at the Educational Alliance on East Broadway, one of the city's oldest settlement houses, has vowed not to give up. Although many of the people involved are in their 70's and 80's, some suffering from the infirmities and disabilities that plague the old, they recently braved cold and windy weather to picket City Hall and other municipal buildings. Their demonstrations began last Nov. during the administration of Mayor John V. Lindsay and are continuing now that Mayor Abraham D. Beame is in office.

Gloria Rosenbaum, coordinator of adult services for the Alliance, says the program would provide a hot kosher lunch five days a week for 175 people. It would be open to the elderly Jews and non-Jews in the area. Ms. Rosenbaum said that the Alliance feels the program is important and that once the elderly come in for lunch they would also be able to benefit from the comprehensive services offered by the settlement house.

The Alliance would provide these people with the type of nutritional meal they would otherwise not have, Ms. Rosenbaum stressed. Most of the elderly are widows or widowers and live alone and are victims of what she called the "bread and butter syndrome." Ms. Rosenbaum explained that this syndrome affects the elderly, most of whom have raised families, but now living alone do not know how, or lack the desire, to cook for just one person. So they eat just a slice of bread or a roll and butter or just warm up some soup. The program would also provide hot lunches in the home for people who are bedridden or cannot leave their houses for some other reason.

What particularly irks the Educational Alliance is that they feel they were promised the funds by the federal government some two years ago. This was when Dr. Arthur Flemming, U.S. Commissioner on Aging, visited the East Broadway building and, according to Alliance officials, promised them they would get funds for such a program.

Told To Forget About Applying

Then last summer the Older American's Act was passed by Congress providing \$100 million for food programs for the elderly of which \$4.1 million was given to New York City. The funds are administered through the city, and when Alliance officials who thought they would be in line for the program first broached the subject last Nov. they were told not even to bother applying, according to Ms. Rosenbaum. The Alliance nevertheless applied along with some 200 other organizations of which 55 were approved for the flat \$64,000 grant. But some additional funds were available and the Alliance thought it would be on the top of the list to get approval. But apparently it isn't.

Allice Brophy, head of the Mayor's Office on the Aging, said that all of the groups which have applied are probably deserving. "There are 250,000 elderly living below the subsistence level in New York. How do you choose?" she asked. But she said the Alliance could not be chosen because there are already two lunch programs in

the area. "There is none in the Rockaways where 40 percent of the people are over 65," she said.

But Ms. Rosenbaum stressed that the other two programs on the Lower East Side are non-kosher programs. "These people cannot eat non-kosher food," she said. "People who eat non-kosher can eat kosher food." She noted that the lunch program as outlined in the Older American's Act stresses that the meals should take in the cultural habits of the people involved. And this would require kosher meals under this category, she said.

There is one other aspect of the program which was placed eloquently by the elderly themselves who meet every other week to plan their strategy. Many of them have been Alliance members for nearly 40 years. "The Educational Alliance is the center of our area," one said. "We are lonely, and a lunch program would help us to be together, to cut down on our loneliness." Another woman in her seventies said she lived on the fourth floor of a walk-up and stayed at the Alliance all day since she could not go home for lunch and have to walk up the stairs more than once a day.

Ms. Rosenbaum said these people, now living on Social Security, are either immigrants or children of immigrants who lived on the Lower East Side all their lives. Many have children but they do not want to leave the neighborhood they love and always lived in. She said that the Alliance knows that the \$64,000 will not be enough, especially for kosher food. But she said the Alliance feels the program is so important that it is willing to provide the additional funds, if it can get the federal funds as a basis.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Chief Rabbi of Israel, will be arriving here April 21 as a guest of the Sephardic community and the American Sephardi Federation. During his stay he will visit major Jewish communities, synagogues and yeshivot where he will discuss halacha and meet with rabbinical and lay leaders of the Jewish community. While here he will address a major dinner of the United Jewish Appeal.

BONN (JTA)--Fulda, West Germany, has donated DM 50,000 to the Kol Torah Rabbi School, formerly in the city, and now in Jerusalem, for extension work. A Fulda spokesman said the grant was not reparation, but was intended to underline the town's connection with Kol Torah. The Fulda rabbi school was closed by the Nazis in 1939, and the last of the school's heads, Rabbi Kunstadt, took it to Jerusalem. Today, many of the rabbi novices at Kol Torah are descendants of former Jewish citizens of Fulda.

LONDON (JTA)--Ian Mikardo, 66, immediate past-chairman of the British Labor Party and Labor member of Parliament, has been elected chairman of the Parliamentary Labor Party (the Labor faction in Parliament, and now of great importance because Labor is in government). Mikardo is on the left of the party, and he defeated a candidate from the right of the party, Arthur Bottomley, by 99-85 votes. Mikardo is a life-long Zionist, and an inactive member of the Poale Zion. His time and his great abilities are devoted to the Labor Party.

PARIS (JTA)--A special religious service was celebrated Saturday in synagogues throughout France in memory of the four Jewish women killed in Damascus recently. In celebrating the special service, French Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan declared that the French Jewish community "will accept as its own the mourning of their families."
