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ISRAELIS READY ELABORATE WELCOME FOR NIXON GROUP

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)—Israeli and American officials are working feverishly on the most elaborate preparations in the nation's history for the 25-hour visit of President Nixon this Sunday. The first of more than a dozen U.S. government transport planes have already landed bringing tons of communications equipment, bullet-proof cars and other paraphernalia for the President's visit.

A team of 50 American technicians were occupied today installing telephone hook-ups at the King David Hotel where the Nixon entourage will occupy three entire floors. Local news media are making much of the fact that the famed "Hot Line" to Moscow and the awesome telephone by which the President can order a nuclear war will be located in Israel's capital, if only for one day.

The most intensive preparations are going on at Ben Gurion Airport which will be converted into a private airport for the Nixon party hours before and after the scheduled arrival Sunday and departure Monday. American and Israeli personnel are directing the air traffic planning operation that will bar all commercial flights from Israel's international air terminal during the crucial hours. Regular police, border police, secret police, CIA and U.S. secret service men are already patrolling every inch of the airport and the route Nixon's motorcade will follow to Jerusalem.

Children To Greet President

Nixon is to be greeted by flag-waving school children at the entrance to Jerusalem. He will be given a State Dinner by President Ephraim Katzir Sunday night in the Chagall Hall of the Knesset which will be attended by 350 Israeli guests. The 136 newsmen accompanying the President's party and Israeli journalists will be allowed to watch over closed circuit television in an adjoining room.

Political preparations are also underway. The Cabinet is scheduled to meet at the end of the week to review the practical and political aspects of the Nixon visit. It is expected that while in Israel, Nixon will formalize long-term U.S. economic and military aid.

(President Nixon arrived in Salzburg last night and conferred this morning with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. He flies to Cairo, his first stop in the Middle East, tomorrow. When Kreisky called on Nixon at Klesheim Palace, the government guesthouse, the President recalled his stop-over in Salzburg on the way to his first Moscow summit meeting in 1972 which he said contributed to world peace. He expressed hope for a similar success on his trip to four Arab states and Israel, saying that "every nation in the world has a stake in this journey.")

PILOT BELIEVED TORTURED BY SYRIANS TO BE BURIED

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)—Avi Lanir, a downed Israeli pilot who, according to all available evidence, was tortured to death by his Syrian captors, will be buried here tomorrow. His body was returned from Syria following the signing of the final disengagement accords in Geneva.

Lanir, a graduate of the Haifa Technion and the

father of two children, bailed out over Syrian territory Oct. 13 when his plane was shot down by a ground-to-air missile during a dogfight with Syrian MIGs. Israeli forces nearby witnessed his landing and capture by the Syrians before they could rescue him. He was seen walking with his captors indicating that he was in good physical condition.

But when Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger arrived from Damascus two months ago with the first list of Israeli prisoners in Syrian hands, Lanir's name was missing. Israeli POWs who returned from Syria last week reported that he was alive at least a month after his capture. One returning pilot said he talked to Lanir in prison. It is therefore clear to Israeli authorities that Lanir died in Syrian hands, probably as a result of torture.

JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY TO ASK NIXON'S HELP FOR SYRIAN, SOVIET JEWS

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)—The Jewish Agency's General Assembly which convenes here next week, will call on President Nixon when he is in Israel Sunday to intervene directly on behalf of Russian and Syrian Jewry when he goes to Moscow for his third summit meeting with Soviet leaders June 27. The appeal to Nixon was announced today by Leon Dulzin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, who declared that the Soviet government bears sole responsibility for the sharp decline in Jewish emigration from the USSR this year.

There were no fewer Jews wishing to leave the Soviet Union this year than last year, Dulzin said, but the Moscow government will not let them leave. He said that 135,000 Russian Jews have applied for exit visas but insisted that many more would leave if given the chance. "We are confident that hundreds of thousands of Jews would emigrate to Israel if they were only permitted," Dulzin said. He reported that during the first five months of 1974, only 8507 Jews arrived in Israel from Russia compared to 12,481 during the same period last year. According to Dulzin, only about four percent of Jews who get out of Russia go to countries other than Israel.

Dulzin admitted that overall immigration has declined by 30 percent so far this year. While aliya from the USSR depends entirely on the Soviet government, immigration from Western countries is held down by other factors—chiefly the security situation and absorption problems of which the shortage of housing is the most urgent, Dulzin said. Total immigration between Jan.-May, 1974 was down to 14,300 from 20,480 in the same period last year, he reported.

He said the security situation has eased but the housing shortage remains. "We have the money, but we don't have the facilities," Dulzin said, noting that the Jewish Agency is short some 10,000 housing units for immigrants already in the country. In the next few weeks, Jewish Agency leaders will meet with the new Cabinet to iron out differences with the Ministry of Absorption, he said. Responsibility for building immigrant housing is expected to be shifted from the Ministry to the Jewish Agency.

Dulzin said the Jewish Agency's Assembly will be asked to approve a \$710 million budget. He said

the world-wide fund-raising target of the United Jewish Appeal and Keren Hayesod is \$1.25 billion the same as last year. Dulzin said that some 50,000 volunteers throughout the world were busy collecting the money. More than half of them are young people "and to some extent they do a better job than the older generation," he said. He said the UJA and KH have collected IL 1 billion since the Oct. war. (By Gil Sedan)

PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE URGES KISSINGER TO INTERCEDE IN TRIAL OF TWO JEWS IN SYRIA

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was urged today to intercede with Syrian government authorities in the closed trial of two Jewish youths in Damascus facing "trumped-up" charges of murder.

In a cablegram to Dr. Kissinger in Cairo, Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, asked that the trial of Yosif Shalouah and Azur Zalta, which began last week, be opened to neutral observers and to the world press to prevent "a terrible miscarriage of justice."

"The lives of two innocent Jewish youths are at stake," Rabbi Miller said in his message, adding "These two young men have been active in Jewish community affairs in Syria. One was a brother-in-law of one of the four Jewish girls they are charged with murdering."

"It is inconceivable that they are in any way guilty of the crime of which they are accused but they will surely be found guilty if the trial remains closed," Rabbi Miller said. "For this reason, we respectfully urge that you intercede with Syrian government authorities so that this trial will not be conducted in secret."

The two men are charged with the murder of Eva Saad, 18, and three Zalbek sisters, Laura, 22; Toni, 23; and Farah, 24. The young women were found raped and slain in a cave near the Lebanese border in March. On March 14, the two Jewish youths and two other men were reported by the Syrian Minister of the Interior, Ali Zaza, to have confessed to the crime.

EEC TO TALK TRADE WITH ISRAEL, ARABS

BONN, June 11 (JTA)--The European Economic Community will engage in a dialogue with Israel and the Arab countries on economic, industrial and energy cooperation, it was indicated today at the close of a two-day meeting of the nine Common Market Foreign Ministers here. West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told reporters that the Israeli government has already been informed and the EEC is waiting for suggestions from Israel on what form cooperation with Europe could take. Foreign Office officials said that assistance for Israel would differ from that for the Arab nations because Israel is not a developing country and therefore the scale of cooperation would not be the same.

The EEC ministers gave the go-ahead yesterday for long-term European-Arab talks and promised to keep Israel informed of their progress. Genscher, who is president of the EEC Council of Ministers and Jean Sauvagnargues, of France, who succeeds him July 1, will tour the Middle East to sound out Arab feelings on the talks. Unofficial reports, meanwhile, indicated that the Arabs are prepared to lift the oil embargo imposed on The Netherlands last Oct. because of Holland's alleged pro-Israel sympathies in the Yom Kippur War.

LABORITES SEE NRP RETURN

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)--Labor Party cir-

cles have expressed renewed optimism that the National Religious Party will soon join Premier Yitzhak Rabin's coalition government on the basis of a mutually acceptable compromise on the Who is a Jew issue. The NRP would, first, have to obtain if not the sanction at least the non-opposition of Israel's Chief Rabbinate and the blessings of influential Orthodox rabbis abroad.

Former Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, now visiting the U.S., has reportedly met with Rabbi Joseph Soloveyitchik of Boston on the issue and the Labor Party may find out when he returns this weekend whether a compromise is possible. (Rabbi Soloveyitchik, who wields considerable influence in Orthodox circles in the U.S. and Israel told Israeli correspondents yesterday that he was not mixing in the dispute between the NRP and the Israeli Chief Rabbinate over joining the Rabin government. He also warned against the use of his name in controversial issues in Israel without his specific written permission.)

According to talk in the Knesset lobbies, the compromise that would allow the NRP to join the government is one that was raised during the last weeks of the Golda Meir regime. The Orthodox establishment is demanding amendment of the Law of Return to specify that only conversions carried out in accordance with halacha (religious law) are valid in Israel. By Orthodox interpretation, only Orthodox rabbis are qualified to perform halachic conversions. The Labor Party is now rumored to have proposed to the NRP that within a year's time it would support a private member's bill in the Knesset specifying conversion as "carried out among the people of Israel through the generations."

Labor's coalition partners, Mapam, the Independent Liberals and the Civil Rights Party would not be required to support the private measure and, the Laborites hope, would not actively oppose it. The NRP could be confident that with Labor support and some backing from Likud, the new formula would be adopted by the Knesset by a comfortable margin, Labor sources say. NRP leaders for their part, remain non-committal, at least in public.

APPEALS MADE FOR BULGARIAN JEW SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR SPYING

LONDON, June 11 (JTA)--Humanitarian organizations and friends of Heinrich Nathan Speter are working against time to try to save the life of the 53-year-old Bulgarian Jewish economist and former United Nations employee who was sentenced to death by a firing squad in Sofia for allegedly spying for an unnamed country. Reports from the Bulgarian capital said an appeal has been entered against the sentence which was handed down June 1. The latest reports from Sofia said the sentence has not been carried out.

Amnesty International and the International League for the Rights of Man have reportedly intervened with Bulgarian authorities to spare Speter. (At the UN in New York, the staff union held an emergency meeting last week and sent a cable to Sofia on behalf of Speter. UN officials were also reported to have interceded.)

Speter, son of a well-known Jewish physician in Sofia, was described as a brilliant statistician and economist. He served Bulgaria for six years in the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) which is headquartered in Vienna. He was recalled from his post in 1972 for undisclosed reasons. Some circles believed that his unconcealed disillusionment with the Communist regime branded him a political dissident and made him a target for retribution.

REP. HOLTZMAN SAYS INS CONFIRMS IT DID NOT PROBE NAZIS THOROUGHLY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA)--Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) declared yesterday that the reply from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to her charges "confirms" her analysis that the INS has "failed to conduct a thorough, result-oriented investigation" of alleged Nazi war criminals living in the United States.

"It appears," she asserted in a letter to INS Commissioner Leonard Chapman "that whatever additional action INS has taken was not the result of a more vigorous and systematic investigation but was solely in reaction to my initial inquiries or in response to them." She reiterated her demands for a full and competent investigation of the alleged criminals.

Ms. Holtzman had alleged that 60 reported war criminals are in the U.S. with little or no federal effort to apprehend them. INS, she said, had allowed 73 of them to take refuge in this country following World War II and of that number 13 had died. They were charged with the killings of tens of thousands of innocent persons most of them Jews.

Chapman replied that her allegations were based on a "misunderstanding" of his agency's authority and are "without foundation." However Chapman acknowledged that INS is investigating 37 persons "who comprise our current Nazi war criminals list." In his reply, Chapman cited a U.S. Supreme Court decision which he said supported the view that "there is no authority to deport an alien solely because his activities are considered offensive or because he is purportedly a war criminal."

Chapman also reported that the alleged statement attributed to a former Lithuanian prelate forbidding church support to Jews in jeopardy "does not indicate in any way that he was involved in war crimes or war atrocities." In the case of another on the list who was alleged to have murdered a Jewish school teacher, that person was reported in Chapman's reply to have died in 1964 in Cicero, Ill. Chapman did not explain why that person who Ms. Holtzman said was wanted by the West German government hadn't been deported prior to 1964.

Pointing out that Commissioner Chapman "confirms that INS has never contacted West Germany or (in the last 15 years) any other country for the purpose of deporting or extraditing Andrija Artukovic," Ms. Holtzman said that Artukovic, the Croatian Minister of Interior under the Nazis, had been under a deportation order for more than 20 years.

Ms. Holtzman also noted that Chapman said no extradition treaties exist with Iron Curtain countries. "In fact," she said, "there are treaties in force with Poland, Yugoslavia, Rumania and Hungary. Something is clearly awry with INS investigating procedures if, as the INS memorandum shows, it took six months to discover that Joseph Matukas had been dead for ten years, she said.

Pointing out that INS claims it cannot contact the Soviet Union for information on individuals from the Baltic countries because the U.S. does not recognize the Soviet Union's takeover of them, Ms. Holtzman posed the question to INS "How then does it explain handing over the Lithuanian seaman, Simas Kurdika, to the Soviet Union?" She said that her assertion that INS has not yet directly contacted official or documen-

tary sources in Israel is not "challenged" and that it is "only now" that INS is making "efforts to establish liaison" with two government sources in Israel.

JEWISH 'ONENESS' EXPRESSED

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)--"This Jewish Agency Assembly is being held at a time when American Jewry is particularly interested in showing that it feels a sense of oneness with the people of Israel....We are determined to share in the events of the past eight months...." Paul Zuckerman, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, said arriving here today for the Jewish Agency General Assembly's opening next week.

Zuckerman said there would be 89 UJA representatives among the assembly delegates "hoping with the rest of the delegates to...contribute their resources and technological experience to improve the quality of life in Israel." Zuckerman said that since Yom Kippur some 4000 people had come on UJA missions "paying their own way and knowing that they will be asked to show their support...on the spot..."

BOLSHOI FANS THREATEN REPRISALS AGAINST JEWISH ARTISTS IN LONDON

LONDON, June 11 (JTA)--Supporters of the Bolshoi Ballet's tour of Britain threatened today to take reprisals against Jewish artists appearing in London if the Bolshoi's opening night performance is disrupted. The threat by Bolshoi fans was directed at groups protesting the treatment of Soviet Jews who said they had tickets to the premier performance at the Coliseum Theater tomorrow night and would create chaos.

One Bolshoi supporter said "If there are any incidents inside, we are going to take action. We will go to every performance given by Jewish artists from Rubinstein down and interrupt their concerts."

Members of the Corps de Ballet who arrived at the heavily guarded theater for their first rehearsal last night were greeted by scores of demonstrators dressed in prison garb and carrying food they said represented the "starvation diet" of Jewish "prisoners of conscience" in Soviet forced labor camps. The demonstrators were members of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, one of several groups protesting the Bolshoi's six-week British tour which opens at the Coliseum tomorrow.

GERMANS FREE TWO PALESTINIANS

BONN, June 11 (JTA)--There was little public or official reaction in West Germany to yesterday's release of two Palestinian terrorists from a West Berlin jail prior to the World Cup Soccer Championships which begin June 13. The two men, Ali Salem, 33, and Mohammed Zaher, 18, were given long sentences in April for plotting bomb attacks on Israeli offices in the city. (In London, the Zionist Federation issued a statement strongly criticizing the Federal German Republic's decision to release two terrorists.

"The rule of law is rendered meaningless and impotent when even the threat of terror is sufficient to extort concessions from democratically elected governments," the statement said.)

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Veteran Neturei Karta leader Rabbi Amram Blau has given a letter addressed to President Nixon to the U.S. Consulate here in which he requested the President to arrange for some sort of international protection for the holy places and Orthodox quarters of the city of Jerusalem. Blau left it to Nixon to decide which form of protectorate would be the most suitable.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**U.S. PAVES ROAD TO GENEVA**

By Edwin Eytan

GENEVA, June 11 (JTA)--June will have been a crucial month in the possible settlement of the Middle East conflict according to Geneva diplomatic sources. It marked the first negotiated agreement between Israel and Syria since 1949, the first extensive trip by an American president to that area and will climax in the Moscow meeting between the American President and the First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

This major offensive launched by the United States with the approval of all the interested parties, including the Soviet Union, marked the last basic stage leading up to the reconvention of the Geneva peace conference sometime next winter.

American sources in Geneva say that the next phase will be another possible trip by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to the Middle East to prepare the conference background and to try and straighten out the Palestinian question and above all its representation at the peace talks.

All this has been made possible by the modest ceremony which took place last week here. Syria and Israel had to find a modus vivendi to stop the fighting on the Golan and thus, for the first time since the October war, stop all military activities between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Both Sides Wanted Accord

Both sides seemed aware of the crucial nature of their talks and both seemed eager to try and conclude the disengagement talks successfully. It was the first Arab-Israeli negotiations ever completed without the slightest incident or difficulty. As the head of the United Nations troop force, Lt. General Ensio Sillasvuo said at the ceremony, "Both sides were prepared to make concessions to ensure the success of the talks."

In spite of the agreement reached between Jerusalem and Damascus during Kissinger's shuttles between the two capitals, a major issue remained to be settled. Namely, what subjects were to be raised first at the inception of the talks. For Israel, the basic issue remained the repatriation of the remaining POWs - for Syria, Israel's withdrawal from the territories agreed upon in the Kissinger accord.

At the first session, while the two delegations met in camera, the subject of the timetable was raised. United Nations officials later confessed that for them it was "the moment of truth" - the issue on which the talks could either flounder or sail on. At Sillasvuo's suggestion, both sides readily agreed to deal with the two subjects simultaneously, devoting part of the time at each session to the subjects raised by both sides. Within three days, instead of the five actually foreseen by the Kissinger agreement, full agreement was reached on all issues: the exchange of POWs, the search for dead bodies and Israel's withdrawal.

The comparative ease with which the agreement was reached, clearly indicated that both sides, including extremist Syria, were prepared to make concessions in order to prepare the ground for the major peace confrontation.

Superpowers Present

The disengagement talks were also marked by the presence in the council chamber of the American and Soviet delegations. For the first time in the workings of a military working group

the representatives of the two co-chairmen, Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and Vladimir Vinogradov, were present. No side raised objections as it was clear that this was in application of the secret agreement reached on April 29 when Kissinger and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met in Geneva on the eve of the Secretary's tour of the Middle East.

The major disengagement lesson learned by all the participants thus seems to be that for the first time the two superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, intend to supervise the peace process and that their detente process is reaching the Middle East.

Nixon's forthcoming trip to Moscow will probably aim at reaching some basic agreement on the Middle East - the last remaining crisis zone in the world. For Nixon, it would mean a diplomatic victory which could slow down the impeachment process - for Brezhnev, a recognition of Soviet interests in the area, the lessening of the dangers of a possible confrontation with the U.S. and a new lease to the detente between Washington and Moscow.

In Geneva, conference circles for the first time optimistically predict that the peace conference will reconvene some time next winter. No one can even guess, however, what its chances of success are. Only time, or history will tell.

HADASSAH REFUTES N.O.W. ON VOLUNTEERISM

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--"Money cannot buy what a volunteer gives to many movements and institutions," Rose E. Matzkin, national president of Hadassah, the country's largest women's volunteer organization said yesterday. She was replying to a resolution opposing volunteerism adopted by the National Organization of Women (NOW).

Addressing a national Hadassah membership rally at the New York Hilton Hotel, Mrs. Matzkin said: "Even if the various health, education and social service agencies were adequately funded to provide for sufficient paid staff, the volunteer worker and the private voluntary organization would still be necessary."

Mrs. Matzkin, who describes herself as a "professional volunteer," explained that Hadassah's officers and department chairmen are all full-time unpaid workers. "Because Hadassah is run by volunteers, 96 cents of every dollar contributed goes directly to support our services which include the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center--the largest medical complex in the Middle East; the largest contribution to Youth Aliyah for its 200 children's villages and day centers; and a variety of rehabilitative and educational services in Israel and the U.S.," she said.

ATTENDED WORLD SEPHARDI MEETING

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--For the first time, a seven-member delegation from the American Sephardi Federation (ASF), the all-embracing organization of Sephardic Jewry in the United States, participated in the recent World Sephardi Federation meeting in Geneva, where plans for activating world Sephardic Jewry to help Israel and Jews in Arab lands were adopted.

It was announced at Geneva that a \$100 million fund to help Israel's Oriental Jewish families solve their housing, education and welfare problems and to train social workers is to be set up by the government, the Jewish Agency and the World Sephardi Federation.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Yeshiva University will send a 15-member team of faculty, students and alumni to Australia and New Zealand to provide Jewish youths with Jewish education programs.