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OLIM TO BE RESTRICTED IN PURCHASE OF IMPORTED GOODS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16 (JTA)--A customs regulation limiting the privilege of new immigrants to purchase imported goods, has been re-instated as part of the government's new economic measures designed to save foreign currency. The measure had been in effect previously but was suspended in 1970. It ends foreign currency grants to importers who supply foreign-made goods to immigrants without the payment of customs duties.

Immigrants from the Soviet Union will be affected inasmuch as most of them arrive in Israel without foreign currency and almost always without Western currencies. They will now have to purchase Israel-made products if they wish to enjoy customs privileges. Immigrants who bring foreign currency with them or goods purchased abroad before their arrival in Israel will continue to be exempt from customs duties. A restriction imposed earlier this year, however, limits the duty-free goods immigrants may bring into the country to those purchased in their country of origin.

Encourages Olim To Adopt Immigrant Status

In a related development, the Interior Minister has proposed measures to encourage settlers to adopt new immigrant status immediately upon arrival in Israel instead of temporary resident status. The proposals, contained in a memorandum which the Ministry presented to the Cabinet, would improve the privileges of new immigrants in relation to those enjoyed by temporary residents.

Newcomers to Israel are offered a choice between the two classifications and are granted similar privileges regardless of which they choose. But immigrants are required to do military service after two years in the country while temporary residents may postpone military duty until they assume immigrant status, usually four years after their arrival.

The Interior Ministry proposed a four-year grace period for both classifications. It also suggested that new immigrants receive the full measure of privileges on arrival but would withhold some of them from temporary residents until they applied for citizenship.

The Ministry proposed that the passports of Israelis living abroad should not be extended if they fail to return home for compulsory military service. The army has made a similar proposal.

SEAMEN GO OUT ON STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Israeli seamen went on strike at 6 p.m. today after rejecting appeals by Histadrut and the government to stay on the job while their pay claims were under negotiations. The strike, called because of the reduction in foreign currency allowances resulting from the recent devaluation of the Israeli Pound, prevented the sailing of 11 ships today; five were tied up at Haifa, and three each at Ashdod and Eilat. Ships arriving tomorrow are expected to be affected.

Zim and other shipping lines claimed that they were merely obeying the law when they paid the foreign currency portion of seamen's wages at the present rate of exchange which is one Pound sterling for each IL 14. The seamen demand the pre-devaluation rate of one Pound sterling for IL 1. Transport Minister Gad Yaacobi said the government would not negotiate under the threat of a strike or sanctions.

STEVENSON SAYS DESPITE NEW PLO STATUS, ARAB MODERATES PREDOMINATE By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Sen. Adlai Stevenson (D.Ill.) said in Chicago last night that "despite the new status conferred upon the Palestine Liberation Organization at the Arab summit meeting in Rabat, Arab moderates still have the upper hand" and, if peace efforts are supported by the American people, peace will come to the Middle East because "the elements of a settlement are there to be put together by wise, persevering and moderate men."

Stevenson spoke at an Israel Bond dinner honoring him as "Man of the Year." A transcript of his prepared remarks was made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. He expressed "some hope that the PLO may now be subjected to new restraints and moderating influences" now that it has status to lose "by irresponsible demands and violent tactics." He asserted that "the Soviets appear to be exercising a chastening influence--and we should bear in mind that Arab moderates are by no means enthusiastic about the prospect of a Palestinian state ruled by Yasser Arafat."

While apparently leaning towards establishment of a Palestinian state as a neighbor of Israel, Stevenson said that the U.S. should not "accept the PLO as spokesman or agent for the Palestinians" or "pressure Israel to do so, for until the PLO renounces terrorism and acknowledges Israel's right to exist, Israel has nothing to negotiate with the PLO." He added, however, that "history--even recent history--has taught us that today's impossibilities can become tomorrow's possibilities."

Urges Rabin's Policy Be Supported

Stevenson stressed that "this is a time to sustain and support" Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's leadership. He is guided not by dreams of conquest or revenge, but by a clearer perception of reality. A pre-emptive strike by Israel, he knows, would be followed by an oil embargo against all the major oil consuming nations. Such a strike, however much disguised, would forfeit U.S. support for Israel and cause world depression."

The Senator added that Rabin "is wisely speaking of flexibility, of talks rather than war, of the political process rather than a pre-emptive strike. He needs and deserves our support against those immoderates, who like Samson, would bring down the Temple upon our heads."

URGE PROBE OF NURSING HOMES

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Rabbi Balfour Brickner, director of the New York Federation of

Reform Synagogues, called on Governor-elect Hugh Carey today to launch a state-wide investigation of corruption and illegal practices in the operation of nursing and old-aged homes in New York City and state, "even if this means the indictment of Jews." In a statement issued today, Rabbi Brickner said he was "appalled by evidence that Jews are involved and that even a rabbi appears to be a leader in this criminal effort at the expense of the aged.... There is no room in the Jewish community for such despicable persons."

Currently under investigation for possible fraud in the use of medicare funds and other alleged illegal activities are the nursing homes owned by Rabbi Bernard Bergman and members of his family. Bergman, now reportedly in Israel, is an Orthodox Jew and a former president of the Religious Zionist Organization of America.

Rabbi Brickner recommended that Carey utilize "the forces of religion in helping the aged." He suggested the establishment of non-profit nursing and old-aged homes operated by inter-religious groups and financed with government funds along the lines of low-income housing projects. (See related story P.3)

PROTESTS ISSUED AGAINST LEVIEV DEATH SENTENCE; JEWISH LEADERS URGE SOVIETS TO COMMUTE SENTENCE IMMEDIATELY

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, appealed yesterday to President Nikolai Podgorny of the Soviet Union, to commute the death sentence imposed last week on Mikhail Leviev, a Moscow Jew charged with economic crimes. In a similar action, Kings County District Attorney, Eugene Gold, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, cabled Soviet officials here and in Moscow to urge that the "inhumane" death sentence against Leviev be commuted immediately.

The actions came in response to an urgent appeal from Sophia Leviev, whose husband Mikhail, 56, was sentenced to death Dec. 8 by the Moscow Municipal Court on charges of "economic crimes" and for so-called "anti-Soviet activity." Originally from Bukhara, the Leviev family received permission to emigrate to Israel in 1972. However, only a few days before their scheduled departure, Leviev was detained by Soviet police, and a two-and-a-half-year investigation by Soviet authorities ensued, leading to the trial last week. He was accused of "fraud and embezzlement."

Dr. Goldmann's cable, sent from New York to Podgorny, stated: "Mr. President, on behalf of the World Jewish Congress representing affiliated communities in 65 countries, I respectfully appeal to you to commute the death sentence imposed by the Moscow court on Mikhail Leviev. Such a humanitarian gesture would be a source of encouragement to all who seek to promote détente and better understanding among nations."

Reminiscent Of Earlier Trials

Gold declared that "this harsh sentence is reminiscent of the infamous economic trials in the early 1960's, when many Jews were sentenced to death for alleged economic crimes." He warned that "the Leviev case could be the start of a new series of trials that would be part of the USSR's unremitting campaign to intimidate and terrify would-be applicants for exit visas."

Gold urged that Leviev's death sentence be commuted in wires to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin and to Soviet Procurator Rudenko in

Moscow. Rudenko is the counterpart to the U.S. Attorney General. Thousands of telegrams from throughout the Metropolitan area have been sent by Conference member agencies, urging U.S. officials to intervene on behalf of Leviev. Leviev had been working in a government store until 1971, when he initially applied for a visa to emigrate, Gold States. The two-year investigation, he pointed out, is highly irregular, as Soviet law states that the limit for such proves is nine months.

Commenting on the trial, Stanley H. Lowell, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, urged "strenuous reaction in response to what is virtually a reversion to judicial barbarism. This latest instance of flagrant violation of the spirit of détente is particularly heinous in the magnitude of the punishment meted out, and casts doubt on the seriousness of the agreements that are being worked out at this very moment." Lowell also noted that in holding Leviev for a two-year investigation period "the Soviet Union violated its own constitutional norms and denied the defendant due process of law."

In a separate action, 15 members of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry demonstrated yesterday in front of the office of Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, in protest against the death sentence.

FIRST JEWISH MAYOR ELECTED IN OTTAWA; OTHER JEWISH CANDIDATES WIN IN VARIOUS CANADIAN CITIES

TORONTO, Dec. 16 (JTA)--A Jew was elected Mayor of Ottawa, Canada's capital, for the first time in the municipal elections. He is Lorry Greenberg, a 40-year-old businessman, who defeated three opponents earlier this month. Greenberg has been an alderman and a member of the city's Board of Control. Since serving in municipal government, Greenberg said City Hall has respected his wish not to hold meetings on Friday nights and Saturdays. He also does not work on the High Holy Days.

In the Montreal suburb of Hampstead, Irving L. Adessky, a 40-year-old businessman, became the first Jewish Mayor of the residential suburb in the town's first contested mayoral election.

Other Jewish candidates were re-elected in Canadian municipal elections. Muni Evers, a 59-year-old pharmacist, was re-elected to a fourth consecutive two-year term as Mayor of New Westminster, a suburb of Vancouver. His father, Myer Averbach, was a long-time secretary of the Canadian Jewish Congress in Winnipeg.

In the Toronto suburb of North York, Joseph Markin, a 27-year-old lawyer, was elected to the Board of Control on his first political try. Markin, who was born in Austria and brought to Canada at the age of one, told reporters he owed his victory to his hobby of studying the Talmud which he does almost daily. Mel Lastman, a millionaire owner of a chain of retail appliance stores, was re-elected Mayor of North York, and Philip White, a pharmacist, was re-elected Mayor of the Borough of York. Both boroughs are part of Metropolitan Toronto. Various Jewish aldermen, controllers and Board of Education trustees—in all 16—were returned in the boroughs and Toronto.

U.S. MUM ON FAHMY'S DEMAND

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Robert Anderson said today that the U.S. government is in "quiet diplomacy" on the Middle East problems and he would therefore not comment on Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy's demands that Israel freeze its population and ban immigration for 50 years.

Asked whether Egyptian President Anwar Sadat

is dropping his visit to Washington, Anderson said he knew of no change in the plans but would not give details. Sadat had been invited to Washington by President Nixon when the former chief executive was in Cairo last spring. Sadat is to meet in Cairo with Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev on Jan. 14 amid signs that Egypt is warming up again towards Moscow and cooling towards Washington primarily over the possibilities that Brezhnev will provide Egypt with arms and a nuclear reactor while the U.S. pledge of a reactor is uncertain of fulfillment.

BOELL, IONESCO, BELLOW, CALL FOR WORLDWIDE BOYCOTT OF UNESCO

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Three internationally-known writers today called for a worldwide boycott of UNESCO until the organization reverses its anti-Israel resolutions. The call was made by Heinrich Boell, Saul Bellow and Eugene Ionesco at separate press conferences as the 39th PEN (Poets, Essayists, Novelists) Congress opened here.

Boell, a holder of the Nobel Prize for Literature, said a large group of West German writers had adopted a resolution urging a boycott of UNESCO in conjunction with a similar call by French writers. Bellow, calling the UNESCO action stupid and ignorant, said, "I think the United States should withdraw its financial support and, in fact, I think the United Nations should move to Uganda." Bellow said if the UN did so, "many of the so-called Third World delegates would not have so far to travel and would be deprived of the life in New York which they adore."

Ionesco said UNESCO's action was "incomprehensible, especially against a country that has done so much for culture and knowledge and could do so much more for the benefit of the entire world."

Rabin Assails Fahmy's Statement

At today's opening session of the week-long convention, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin called Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy's demand for a 50-year ban on immigration to Israel absurd and warned that it could "disturb prospects for peace, if that is what Egypt wants." Rabin declared that "nothing, however, can possibly dissuade Israel from its historic human mission of national ingathering. For this, Israel was reborn. It is the lifeblood of our homecoming nation. It is what Israel is all about."

The convention, whose theme is "Cultural Heritage and Creativeness in the Literature of Our Times," was to have been held in Dec. 1973, but was postponed for a year because of the Yom Kippur War.

AJ CONGRESS URGES 'BLUE RIBBON' COMMITTEE TO PROBE NURSING HOMES

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress has urged Governor-elect Hugh Carey to impanel a "blue ribbon" state investigative commission to probe alleged "corruption and mismanagement of nursing homes and the resulting degradation of aged and infirm patients. In a letter to New York's next Governor, released today, Naomi Levine, executive director of the AJ Congress, referred to a study of proprietary nursing homes which the AJ Congress issued last July along with recommended reforms.

The letter stressed the need for "strong laws to protect the patients in nursing homes...effective

enforcement of the laws that already exist" and the "need to bring to justice those who have misused government funds and victimized the aged and infirm."

The letter urged Carey "to appoint a blue ribbon Moreland Act investigative commission...to undertake a major investigation of the nursing homes in this state." Under the Moreland Act--Section 6 of the Executive Law of New York State--such a panel would have the power to subpoena witnesses, take testimony under oath and require the production of books and papers.

The AJ Congress study of nursing home care in New York State found that "thousands of patients suffer from indifferent treatment and disregard of their human needs; that medical services they receive are perfunctory, the nursing care criminal, the personal attention often non-existent, and that government agencies are almost lackadaisical in their supervision, despite their heavy financial involvement."

EX-IM BANK LOANS TO-USSR FACE SEVERAL HURDLES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA)--The Senate, after having twice refused to shut off debate, moved today towards recommitting the Export-Import Bank funding legislation to the Senate-House Conference Committee. The legislation carries a ceiling of \$300 million in loans to the Soviet government over the next four years as a monitor of its emigration practices which are contained in the Trade Reform Bill.

Proponents of the Ex-Im Bank measure failed to achieve a two-thirds majority of Senators present on Saturday by a 49-35 margin, and today threatened to stop debate but lost again by a 54-34 vote. Liberals and conservatives were on both sides of the cloture motions. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had asked for a free hand in dealing with loans to the Soviet Union to improve his diplomatic position, but a majority in the Senate insists on a ceiling. This majority forced the Senate-House Conference Committee to adopt the ceiling although the House conferees had objected.

The bill, which calls for increasing the Ex-Im Bank's lending authority from \$20 billion to \$25 billion over the next four years, faces a double hurdle of tough floor fights when it comes out of committee and time for enactment before the current Congress adjourns.

After the second cloture move lost, Sen. Frank Church (D, Idaho) offered a measure that could give Congress authority to approve government loans of more than \$25 million to the Soviet Union. With barely a week left before the expected adjournment of Congress, a frenzied drive to get the bank, trade, and foreign aid legislation completed will be underway in both Houses in the next three days.

The trade bill with the Jackson/Mills-Vanik Amendment on Soviet trade and emigration is in conference and may emerge for a vote in the next day or two. The foreign aid authorization measure also is expected to emerge for a vote soon, and then both Houses will move toward an appropriation measure to provide the funding for the authorizations.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Gen. Ariel Sharon, the Yom Kippur War hero and leader of Likud, resigned his Knesset seat Sunday to assume a senior command position in the army reserve. He said his action was prompted by the deteriorating political situation in the Mideast and the likelihood that Israel will face a new war in the near future.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

VIENNA (JTA)—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) might shift its headquarters from here to another European city, Austrian political sources said this weekend. A two-day meeting of the OPEC's oil ministers had to be interrupted twice when anonymous phone callers threatened to blow up the building in downtown Vienna, police reported. The ministers transferred their meeting to the Imperial Hotel when police closed the building housing the OPEC headquarters to search for suspected bombs. This inconvenience caused anger among the ministers who claimed that security measures have been inadequate and that the Austrian government has refused to grant them diplomatic privileges.

NEW YORK (JTA)—Glenn Richter, national coordinator of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, and Morey Schapira, coordinator for the New England SSSJ, reported that "there is not one iota of change in the anti-Jewish policies of the USSR since the announced Jackson Amendment 'agreement.'" The two, who just returned from a week of intensive discussions with activist leaders in Moscow and Leningrad, said they found the activists "extremely concerned about the Jackson Amendment and urged concerned Americans to do all they can to insure implementation by Congress. A major concern of the activists, Richter and Schapira said, was the desperate condition of the POCs."

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The Israeli government announced Saturday night the retirement of Joseph Harmalin, the director of its counter-intelligence service for the past 11 years. His successor took over Sunday. By law, the names of the counter-intelligence director, and the head of the secret service, are not allowed to be published while they are in office.

MONTREAL (JTA)—Judy La Marsh, a former Canadian Minister of Health and Welfare, who returned a few days ago from a tour of Israel with the Hadassah-WIZO National Executive, said she would like to settle in Israel as a teacher or even as a dish washer in a kibbutz. Ms. La Marsh, who is now a columnist for the Toronto Star, said in a television interview that she had been inspired "by the collective feeling of Israelis in building their tiny country and I would like to be a part of this process myself."

CARACAS (JTA)—Some 250 prominent Venezuelans from all walks of life have signed a declaration criticizing recent UNESCO measures to exclude Israel from many of the agency's activities. The statement, which was addressed to the UNESCO director, and appeared in all of Caracas' major dailies, contained the signatures of, among others, Marcos Falcon Briceño, advisor to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez; Virginia Betancourt, daughter of former President Romulo Betancourt; and Rafael Jose Neri, the Communist rector of the Central University, Venezuela's main institution of higher learning.

COPENHAGEN (JTA)—The famed Jewish refugee ship, Saint Laurence, which was the temporary home of 2000 Jewish refugees during 1969-70, may soon become a floating hotel in an Arab country. The ship, docked in Copenhagen's harbor since 1967, became famous during the great refugee movement from Poland beginning in 1969. Polish Jews coming to Denmark lived aboard the

ship while awaiting immigration. Negotiations are now under way to sell the ship to Arab interests and remove it to the Persian Gulf harbor of Abu Dhabi. The ship was originally a pleasure ship, launched nearly 50 years ago, from Canadian shores.

NEW YORK (JTA)—Fifth Avenue was a pedestrian mall Sunday, and with many strollers on the famed street the Lubavitcher Youth Movement set up two trucks to demonstrate the lighting of the Chanukah menorah and passed out candles to Jewish men and boys. The purpose, according to a spokesman, was to inform Jews that even if they didn't light candles during the first seven nights of Chanukah they could still do it Sunday night, the eighth and last day of the holiday. "They could jump on the bandwagon and illuminate the world by illuminating the Chanukah menorah," he said.

PARIS (JTA)—Several hundred intellectuals, headed by 19 Nobel Prize winners, published a letter in Le Monde Saturday stating they would refuse to collaborate with UNESCO following the agency's adoption of anti-Israel resolutions. The signatories included Nobel Prize winners Kenneth Arrow, Owen Chamberlain and Paul Flory; film directors Francois Truffaut, Alain Resnais and Jacques Tati; authors Mary McCarthy, Saul Bellow, and Philip Roth; and actors Yves Montaud, Simone Signoret, Jeanne Moreau and Francoise Fabian.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)—Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has sent a letter to the Yiddish poet, Wolf Pasmanik, thanking him for his "inspiring poem" which was dedicated to the UN chief executive. The poem, "Peace is my Dream," was written in Yiddish with an English translation in a parallel column. The poem said, in part: "Peace is my dream.../I dream it under stars/ My peace...that peace/May it be accomplished/ From near and afar." Waldheim wrote to Pasmanik, "This most thoughtful gesture is very warmly appreciated." Pasmanik has had several books of poems published and is active in various poetry circles in New York and other cities.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—Some 300 demonstrators assembled Saturday night in front of the Soviet Embassy in The Hague to call for the release of Jewish POCs in the Soviet Union. The demonstrators, who were carrying torches and portraits of 35 imprisoned Jews, tried to hand over a petition to Soviet diplomats but were turned back. Several Dutch parliamentarians participated in the demonstration as well as in the one-hour vigils held for the past few days in front of the Embassy building.

PHILADELPHIA (JTA)—The Philadelphia AFL-CIO several days ago adopted a resolution endorsing the statement on the Palestine Liberation Organization adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council in Washington last month. The statement described as an outrage the UN General Assembly decision to give the PLO observer status and criticized the Assembly for inviting the PLO to participate in the debate on the Palestine issue. The Philadelphia resolution also declared that "the Palestinians never chose this band of murderers (the PLO) whose avowed aim is the destruction of Israel as a sovereign nation to represent them in the first place."