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LEVIEV'S APPEAL DISMISSED

LONDON, Dec. 30 (JTA)—Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported today that the Supreme Court of the Belorussian Republic dismissed the appeal of Mikhail Leviev, a Moscow Jew accused of alleged economic crimes, and confirmed the death sentence passed on him by the Moscow City Court. Sophia Leviev, Mikhail's wife, was reported to be distraught because President Nikolai Podgorniy, in response to her appeal for clemency, said the case would be reopened and a new investigation started thereby temporarily staying the death sentence. Podgorniy's letter was received by her several days ago. Leviev's lawyer, Semion Arye, has now appealed to the Supreme Court of the Soviet Union.

156 COMPLAINTS LODGED BY ISRAEL AGAINST EGYPT, SYRIA FOR VIOLATING DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30 (JTA)—Israel has lodged 156 complaints of alleged disengagement violations by Egypt and Syria since the disengagement accords were signed earlier this year, it was learned today. According to a senior source, a total of 93 complaints were made against Syria and 63 against Egypt.

Most of the complaints, especially those concerning Syrian actions, involved the introduction of more weapons than allowed into the limited armaments zones or the introduction of weapon types not permitted in the zones, the source said.

The Egyptians were credited with making sincere efforts to observe the disengagement agreements they signed with Israel last March 1 and in every case so far, unauthorized weapons have been withdrawn from the limited forces zone following Israel's complaints. The same was not true of the Syrians who signed the disengagement accords on June 1.

According to the source, Egyptian authorities are under heavy pressure from former inhabitants of the Suez Canal zone to rehabilitate the canal-side towns and villages. Only 50 percent of the civilian population that was forced to leave the canal zone after the Six-Day War and the war of attrition has been able to return to date, the source reported. Port Said, at the Mediterranean end of the canal, and Ismailia, at its center point are in better condition than Suez on the Gulf of Suez where the petrochemical industries and oil refineries have yet to be reconstructed, the source said.

U.S. JEWISH LEADERS SAY AMERICA WILL HONOR COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA)—The head of a group of 25 visiting American Jewish leaders reported last night that the mood in the United States toward Israel was still positive but there are clouds on the horizon. That was the assessment given reporters by Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations when the Conference delegation arrived at Ben Gurion Airport for a four-day visit which will include meetings with top government and Jewish Agency officials.

Rabbi Miller would not elaborate on his re-

mark except to say that clouds "were part of American life which affects relationships beyond the borders of the U.S." He said that as far as he knew, the U.S. was honoring its commitments toward Israel including the shipment of arms.

He warned, however, that American economic troubles might make it more difficult to continue aid to Israel on the scale that has prevailed up to now. But despite problems affecting American-Israeli relations, American Jewish leaders who met recently with President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger were assured that the U.S. would honor its commitments to Israel without "ifs, ands or buts," Rabbi Miller said.

The delegation was received by Premier Yitzhak Rabin shortly after their arrival at a reception attended by the entire Cabinet, officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Jewish Agency. Rabin greeted his guests in a double-breasted blue blazer worn over a plaster cast that was applied to his right shoulder after he broke his collar bone in a bathroom accident last Friday. The Premier shook hands with his left hand but did not appear to be in pain. Today the delegation toured an Air Force base.

INTERIOR MINISTRY SAYS BERGMAN HAS NOT APPLIED FOR IMMIGRANT STATUS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA)—An Interior Ministry spokesman said today that Rabbi Bernard Bergman of New York has not applied for immigrant status. He issued the statement in response to a request from Rep. Edward I. Koch (D.N.Y.) to Interior Minister Yosef Burg that Israeli citizenship be withheld from Bergman pending the outcome of investigations into alleged scandals in the operation of nursing and old-age homes owned by Bergman and his wife in New York State. The spokesman said the Interior Ministry has not dealt with the Bergman matter in any way.

Bergman, a leader of the World Mizrahi movement, has been subpoenaed to appear at a joint Senate-State hearing in New York on Jan. 7 to testify about alleged fraud involving Medicaid funds. The hearing stems from months of investigations into homes owned by Bergman and others in which Medicaid funds intended for patient care and related activities were allegedly misappropriated for personal use. Bergman, who owns a luxury apartment in Jerusalem, arrived in Israel with his wife last month. They left a few weeks later and are reported to be in Vienna.

U.S. HOPES MIDEAST PROGRESS STILL POSSIBLE DESPITE BREZHNEV'S POSTPONEMENT OF MIDEAST VISIT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (JTA)—The State Department had no comment today on the sudden postponement of Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev's visit to Cairo and two other Arab capitals scheduled for next month. Asked about its possible effects on the progress of Middle East peace negotiations, Department spokesman Paul Hare said that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has consistently felt, and has stated publicly, that progress was still possible by following his step-by-step approach to a Middle East settlement.

Hare said that after Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon's visit to Washington earlier this

month it was felt that there would be further negotiations in the Middle East and that has not changed. He also said he had no knowledge of any change in reported plans for a return visit to Washington by Allon, possibly next month.

Hare had no comment on a report today by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson that Kissinger had angrily blamed Israel for lack of progress toward peace at a secret White House foreign policy briefing for Congressional leaders recently.

(There was no official comment from Israel today on the postponement of Brezhnev's Middle East trip. Unofficial sources in Jerusalem indicated, however, that if the postponement reflected new differences between Egypt and the Soviet Union, it was good for Israel and the West. See separate story.)

The postponement was announced today simultaneously by the official Egyptian Middle East News Agency in Cairo and by Tass, the official Soviet news agency, in Moscow. The Tass announcement said the postponement was by mutual agreement and that "a new mutually acceptable time for the visit will be decided later."

Rift Between Moscow, Cairo Seen

Brezhnev was to have arrived in Cairo Jan. 13 and to have gone on to Damascus and Baghdad. The extension of his visit to Syria and Iraq, arranged after his trip to Egypt was announced, is believed to have been intended as a gesture of reassurance to the governments of those countries whose policies have been closer to Russia's than have been the policies of the Egyptian government.

Observers here in fact believe the postponement may have been due to new differences arising between Moscow and Cairo. The announcement was made two days after the arrival in Moscow of Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy and Minister of War Gen. Mohammed Abdel Gamassi. They were reportedly sent to the Soviet capital by President Anwar Sadat in response to an urgent message from Brezhnev on Dec. 26. The two high ranking Egyptian government officials were believed to have gone to Moscow to make final arrangements for Brezhnev's Cairo visit and to negotiate new Soviet arms deliveries to Egypt.

Some observers here believe that the arms negotiations ran into difficulties over terms. They suggested that Soviet leaders may have insisted that Egypt accept a new influx of Soviet advisors and technicians along with the weapons systems it seeks.

Sadat's ouster of some 20,000 Soviet advisors and military personnel from Egypt in 1972 led to a cooling of relations between Cairo and Moscow which the planned Brezhnev visit was expected to thaw. It also led to a rapprochement between Egypt and the United States, culminated by the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries this year.

Sadat's Views Disturb Moscow

Some sources said today that Moscow was disturbed by signs that Sadat still retains hope that the step-by-step diplomacy which U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has pursued in the Middle East to the exclusion of Russia, can bring about a satisfactory settlement.

The Kremlin also feels that Sadat has not been sufficiently forceful in his support for reconvening the Geneva peace conference, a major objective of Soviet diplomacy in the Middle East. Given the Russian misgivings, the postponement

of Brezhnev's visit, apparently on Soviet initiative, could be seen as a warning to Sadat not to rely on American peace efforts to achieve a settlement without Soviet cooperation, the sources said.

BREZHNEV'S 'HEALTH CONDITION' DISCOUNTED AS REASON FOR VISIT DELAY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA)—Observers here discounted today the theory that Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev's visit to the Mideast was cancelled due to his "health condition." The observers expressed the view that the cancellation of the trip was due to political differences between the Soviet Union and Egypt. They believe that the stumbling block in the talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy and War Minister Abdel Gamassi was probably the reconvening of the Geneva peace conference since Egypt is apparently not ready to abandon U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's step-by-step approach.

Observers now expect Kissinger to increase the pace toward a resumption of the negotiations directed to lead eventually to another interim agreement. At the same time, officials here rejected a report attributed to syndicated columnist Jack Anderson which said Kissinger complained of Israeli inflexibility in the Golan Heights which caused the present stalemate.

The officials noted that both during Foreign Minister Yigal Allon's recent Washington visit and afterwards there was no mention of a possible retreat from the Golan at this stage of the talks. However, observers here recalled that there has been continued concern over the possibility which had been referred to in the past over an Egyptian demand to link all agreements with Israel to both herself and Syria.

THOUSANDS ATTEND BENNY FUNERAL

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 30 (JTA)—Benny Kubelsky who was born in Waukegan, Ill., the son of Jewish immigrants from Russia who owned a saloon, and became world famous as Jack Benny, the stingiest man in the world, was buried yesterday in Hillside Memorial Park in Culver City. The self-styled skinnif and perennially 39-year-old, died Thursday night of inoperable cancer in his Beverly Hills home. He was 80. More than 2000 Hollywood celebrities and fans turned out for the funeral service. Rabbi Edgar Magnin of Wilshire Boulevard Temple officiated.

A show business institution, Mr. Benny carved out a reputation in vaudeville, radio, motion pictures and television. His humor was not that of the sharp repartee or one-line jokes or even prolonged comedy situations, but rather his "Mona Lisa" smile, his long drawn out "Hm-m-m-m," his deadpan delivery, his tightfisted way with money, and his scratchy and off-key violin playing. In a telegram to the comedian's wife, Mary Livingstone (Sadie Marks), President Ford summed up the feeling of millions: "If laughter is the music of the soul, Jack and his violin and his good humor have made life better for all men."

Despite his self-styled image as a tightwad, Mr. Benny was generous with his money in real life and was a contributor to many causes, including Jewish and Israeli causes. He made a trip to Israel in the early 1970s where he appeared at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv at a concert sponsored by the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel. He also toured the country visiting hospitals and army camps. He had visited Palestine briefly during World War II as part of the Overseas Armed Forces.

80 WORLD FAMOUS ARTISTS WITHDRAW FROM PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO By Yitzhak Rabin

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (JTA)—Eighty world renowned personalities in the fields of music, dance, and opera signed a petition today declaring that they "refuse to participate" and "disassociate" themselves from the activities of UNESCO. "Our withdrawal will continue until UNESCO rescinds its politicizing resolution directed against Israel," they said in their petition which was in the form of a letter to Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, UNESCO's Director General in Paris.

The action of protest against UNESCO's anti-Israel resolutions was announced in a press conference on the stage of Carnegie Hall, with many of the artists attending personally, among them Leonard Bernstein, Arthur Rubinstein and Isaac Stern. Today's meeting was organized by the Musician's Committee of Concern for UNESCO, jointly chaired by Bernstein, Stern and other musicians. In explaining their decision to disassociate themselves from UNESCO activities, the artists said:

"UNESCO has utterly discredited itself in the eyes of musicians and dancers the world over by its recent political actions. According to its constitution UNESCO's aim is to promote cultural collaboration among the nations. This aim is ill served, to say the least, by assigning one nation—Israel to a pariah status.

"Contrary to the report of UNESCO's own fact-finding committee on excavations in Jerusalem, the General Conference of UNESCO has condemned Israel unjustly, thereby weakening the universal respect for justice."

Continuing, the artists said: "Contrary to your (M'Bow) own report, the General Conference has misrepresented Israel's encouragement of cultural growth in such areas as the West Bank, thus crippling the search for truth. Contrary to UNESCO's constitution, the General Conference has acted as a political tool, thus ignoring its professed aim of promoting the rule of law."

Last month in Paris UNESCO decided to cut off Israel's cultural allocation for 1975 and also passed a resolution denying Israel's request to join the European regional group of UNESCO. Stern, addressing the meeting said, "We are here to express our outrage" against UNESCO's politicized decisions which are "perversion from its own charter." He emphasized, however, that the action was taken against UNESCO and not against UNICEF, which has suffered because people confuse the two names.

Bernstein, who introduced the artists and called on them to sign the letter, said that the worst aspect of UNESCO's resolutions was that it was a "harbinger of worse things to come." The "eliminating culturally," he said, is the beginning of "eliminating physically." He said that he and his friends came to "protest and scream" because "screaming is what has to be done."

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Rubinstein said, regarding the anti-Israel resolutions of UNESCO: "They bowed down to oil. They sell the blood of Israel for oil." Among those who signed the petition were: Marian Anderson, David Bar-Ilan, Pierre Boulez, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Vladimir Horowitz, Zubin Mehta, Valery and Galina Panov, Giorgio Tozzi and Richard Tucker.

HISTADRUT FUND RAISES \$605,000

MIAMI BEACH, Dec. 30 (JTA)—Simcha Dinits, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, urged American Jews last night "not to sink into despair" over Israel's future. He spoke to 1000 persons attending a "Salute to Israeli Veterans" at the Fontainebleau Hotel at which \$605,000 was raised for the Histadrut Mortgage Fund.

Dinits reaffirmed Israel's willingness to advance step-by-step toward peace coupled with a readiness to hit back if attacked. He stressed that if Egypt wants peace then Israel "will be a very willing partner," but if Egypt is heading for war "it is unlikely that Israel will make concessions." He asserted that Israel "will not trade principles for expediency."

Commenting on news reports that the Soviet Union has reaffirmed its support for the Arabs, Dinits said Soviet friendship for the Arabs "is their own business. But if they mean to arm the Arabs with the most modern and sophisticated weapons at a time when so many Arab countries are for the destruction of Israel that is a concern to us."

Dr. Sol Stein, president of the Israel Histadrut Foundation, announced that the contributions toward the 9.5 percent Histadrut annuity trust would help finance mortgages for Israeli army veterans and newlyweds seeking homes. He said an additional \$400,000 was secured during December, bringing this month's income past the \$1 million mark.

Dr. Leon Kronish, spiritual leader of Temple Beth Shalom here and national board chairman of the Foundation, pointed out that "world inflation and the high cost of defense continues to increase the Israeli trade deficit which in 1974 was \$3 billion. Long-term commitments to the Histadrut Foundation create capital funds which in years to come will offset the huge debts."

ISRAEL INVESTMENT CLUBS FORMED

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (JTA)—The Zionist Organization of America has announced a program to form Israel Investment Clubs throughout the U.S. to help bring in an urgently needed transfusion of investment capital to Israel. In making the announcement, Dr. Joseph P. Sternstein, president of the ZOA, said that through these clubs, ZOA members personally will be able to assist in Israel's economic development by periodic investments in Israeli securities and equities.

Dr. Sternstein has appointed Bernard Rosenberg of College Park, Md. as national chairman of ZOA Israel Investment Clubs, and has announced that Leumi Securities Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank Leumi, Tel Aviv, will assist the ZOA in the formation of Israel Investment Clubs throughout the U.S. ZOA leaders explained that the clubs would bring to Israel security investment for general industrial expansion, particularly in export industries which earn hard currency.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—EI Al maintenance workers whose slowdown caused the airline to ground its 13 jets Dec. 26, appealed to the International Airline Workers Union in London and to other unions Monday not to provide EI Al with foreign crews. A spokesman for the maintenance workers claimed they had assurances of support from fellow workers abroad.

BONN (JTA)—A dozen young Arabs will be trained as policemen in West Germany. They will start a three-year course soon under the aegis of the police authorities in Baden-Wuerttemberg.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

BUENOS AIRES (JTA)—The Police Chief of the Rio Negro province, Benigno Mario Ardanaz, has repudiated a report that he recently appended a venomous anti-Semitic attack on Jews to an "order of the day" and also denied that he has resigned. In a cable to DAIA, the representative body of Argentine Jewry, he stated that the anti-Semitic declaration had been maliciously attributed to him. He added that such expressions do not tally with the spirit and actions of the Rio Negro police or its chief. Ardanaz had reportedly called for a fight against Jews, Zionism and Communism. The diatribe brought a strong protest from DAIA to the police chief who admitted he signed the supplement to the order of the day.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—The Organization of Latin Americans in Israel adopted a resolution stating that the only reply to Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy's demand that aliya be frozen for 50 years is massive aliya. The organization, representing some 50,000 Latin American Jews living in Israel, called for "a massive, immediate and unconditional aliya to Israel to strengthen Israel spiritually, politically, economically and in the field of security."

NEW YORK (JTA)—King Faisal of Saudi Arabia has been selected as Time magazine's Man of the Year for 1974. "A principal factor" in making this choice, according to Time, was the monarch's role in quadrupling the price of oil and who "now holds more power than any other leader to lower them or raise them anew. Both in his own right and as a symbol of the other newly powerful potentates of oil, Saudi Arabia's King Faisal is the Man of the Year." Last week, People, a weekly magazine published by Time-Life, named Yasir Arafat as one of the 25 "most intriguing" people of 1974.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Greek Catholic Archbishop Hillarion Capucci ended his partial hunger strike on Christmas Day, Israeli prison officials reported. The cleric began his hunger strike Dec. 13 in an effort to gain a pardon after being sentenced to 12 years in prison on charges of gun-running for Palestinian terrorists. Israeli prison commissioner Arye Nir reported earlier that the Archbishop was refusing solid food but was taking a glass of concentrated liquid nourishment twice a day. He began eating solid foods again Dec. 25.

TORONTO (JTA)—The town of Orillia, Ontario, home of the Canadian humorist the late Stephen Leacock and model for his "Tales of Marioposa," now has a Jewish Mayor. He is 56-year-old Frank Dolcourt, a local retail clothier who won 5400 votes against 1600 votes for his nearest opponent. Orillia, 83 miles north of Toronto, has 22,000 inhabitants of which only eight families are Jewish.

BONN (JTA)—Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said here that West Germany will retain its "balanced policy" in the Middle East in 1975 by continuing to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people as well as the necessity of recognized and secure boundaries for Israel. He stated that Bonn's foreign policy priority in 1975 would be the unification of Western Europe. Nothing would be more dangerous, he stated in an interview with West German Radio, than if European development were to be retarded because of financial burdens arising from the oil and energy

crisis.

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA)—Dr. Israel Klabin, head of the multi-millionaire Klabin family, who owns various industrial enterprises in Brazil including the largest paper mill in the country, said that the Arab decision last week to blacklist his firms is "an intolerable interference into the business of a Brazilian firm." Klabin, who was reacting to a report from Beirut, said his firms had never done business with Arab countries. An Arab boycott has also been instituted against two non-Jewish firms that produce soft drinks because their trade marks contain symbols looking like the Star of David. The two firms "Brahma" and "Antartica," have never done business with foreign countries.

NEW YORK (JTA)—One hundred and twenty-two American Jewish university students are spending their winter vacation learning about the land and people of Israel as participants in a 10-day study mission that ends January 2 sponsored by the United Jewish Appeal. It was announced by Frank R. Lautenberg, UJA general chairman. The group, which includes a Black Jew from Kent State University in Ohio, the editor of the Harvard University "Crimson," and large delegations from colleges in Los Angeles, Philadelphia and New York City areas, is the largest student mission in UJA history, Lautenberg said. Most participants are leaders in UJA campus campaigns.

COPENHAGEN (JTA)—It is more than likely that the last three prisoners involved in the murder of Ahmed Boushicki in Lillehammer in 1973 may receive a pardon shortly after New Year, Norwegian sources said Saturday. Once a pardon is granted they would have to leave Norway as soon as possible. The three, who are serving sentences from 6 1/2 to 9 years, are Sylvia Rafael, Dan Erbel and Avraham Gemmer. Two others who were arrested with them and convicted of espionage and complicity in the murder of the Moroccan national, have already been released. All had been alleged to have been Israeli agents.

BONN (JTA)—About 3000 former Nazis will go on trial by 1980 for crimes involving murder, the "Jewish Press Service" in Dusseldorf reported Monday. Since the war, 77,820 cases have been opened against alleged Nazi criminals. Some 6375 persons have been sentenced.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—About 80 teachers and principals from the U.S., Britain, France, Italy, Denmark, Finland and Switzerland arrived in Israel several days ago to participate in a two-week seminar organized by the World Zionist Organization. All the participants are engaged in Jewish education in their countries. The guests will visit schools and yeshivot throughout the country and will confer with their counterparts, students, professors and Education Ministry supervisors on problems of religious education.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—An Israeli firm has developed a portable air raid shelter which it says costs IL 32,000, half the price of conventional concrete shelters. The shelter consists of a metal cylinder that can hold 18 persons and contains water supplies, sanitary facilities and ventilating devices. It can be placed in specially dug trenches and can be moved from one site to another, the manufacturer says.