



SOVIET GOVERNMENT CANCELS TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE U. S.

American Lawmakers Surprised, Jewish Leaders Dismayed, Israelis Pledge Continued Efforts

LAWMAKERS REACT CAUTIOUSLY; HOPE USSR WILL CHANGE ITS MIND

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Key Senate and House members today expressed surprise and most reserved immediate comment on the Soviet government's repudiation of its 1972 trade agreement with the United States and its refusal to accept conditions based on recently adopted American laws. Senator Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.), who initiated and led the Senate in imposing restrictions on trade benefits and credits to the Soviet Union unless it modified its emigration practices toward Soviet Jews and others, said he would issue a statement, possibly late today.

Others, like Senator Russell Long (D.La.), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee which heard Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger say on Dec. 3, that the compromise he had reached with Senators Jackson, Abe Ribicoff (D.Conn.) and Jacob K. Javits (R.N.Y.) was satisfactory to him, indicated through aides that they felt the Soviets also had agreed to the compromise arrangements.

Rep. Charles A. Vanik (D.Ohio), who led the emigration phase of the trade legislation in the House, said that he regretted the Soviet action and hoped the Soviet government would change its mind. "We can in no way force credits or most favored nation treatment on any nation," Vanik said in a brief statement.

Closed Door Meeting Set

Senators noted that they would reserve comments since Kissinger, who announced the Soviet nullification of the trade agreement last night, will appear Friday morning before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee behind closed doors. This session originally was booked a week ago to discuss world affairs in general but it now appeared the Soviet act would be high on the agenda.

Some Senators and Representatives advocated caution and no denunciation of the Soviet government, Kissinger or the Congress which virtually was unanimous in adopting both the trade law with its Jackson-Vanik amendment, and the Export-Import Bank law that puts a ceiling of \$300 million in credits to the Soviet government over the next four years.

The Soviets had expected to get some \$8 billion from the United States to develop its Siberian gas and oil fields. The Export-Import Bank restrictions, plus the 18-month trial period for Soviet emigration practices in the trade bill appeared to be the fundamental basis for the Soviet repudiation, but some felt there was more to it.

Kremlin Power Struggle A Factor

"We ought to sit back and wait before we talk too much," one moderate Senator said, asking that his name not be used since he would appear to be violating his own advice. "The Kremlin apparently is engaged in a bitter back yard quarrel. Between Oct. 18 when the Kissinger-Jackson compromise was announced and Dec. 18 when the letter to Kissinger from Soviet Foreign Minister

Andrei Gromyko made known strong Soviet displeasure over the legislation; something happened, it seems, within the Kremlin leadership."

Continuing, the Senator said, "We don't know if the Soviets are making a change in leadership. If so, the denunciation of the trade agreement may be symptomatic of that since new leaders in the Soviet system always attack the last leadership on some major element. Usually the new leaders go back to the previous position. But it may be that the present leadership acted this way to blunt the opposition's attack. We should know what is taking place within a few days."

Kissinger Seeks Unified Approach

Kissinger himself appeared to wish for a unified approach by Congress and the Administration on the issue with the Soviet government and its bearing on detente. "As far as the Administration is concerned," Kissinger told reporters, "it will pursue the objectives in a spirit of cooperation with the Congress." He said he would seek the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's "advice as to the steps that in their judgement might be desirable in promoting the cause and the purposes which we all share."

Kissinger cautioned that there is "no point in reviewing the debate of recent months" and that "we want to make clear that there was no disagreement as to objectives." He also said that "we have no reason to believe that the rejection of the provisions of the trade bill has implications beyond those that have been communicated to us" by the Soviet government, and that "should it herald a period of intensified pressure" then the "United States would resist with great determination and as a united people."

Kissinger added, "We do not expect that to happen, however, and as far as the United States is concerned, we will continue to pursue the policy of relaxation of tensions, and of improving or seeking to improve relationships, leading towards a stable peace."

Role Of Ex-Im Bank Ceiling

While the prepared statement Kissinger read to the reporters and of which the Soviet government was aware seemed to stress the Soviet objections to the trade bill and the old objection of "domestic interference," the Secretary in his responses to reporters' questions put much more emphasis on the money factor in the Soviet considerations.

At one point Kissinger observed that "since the exchange of letters (between him and the three Senators), there have been many public statements that were difficult for the Soviet Union to accept, and the decision with respect to the Export-Import Bank ceiling was undoubtedly an important factor in leading to this turn of events." In another passage, he said that after the passage of the trade act and the Ex-Im legislation, the Soviet Union "made clear in a number of ways" including public comments, its displeasure with the legislation.

"I think what may have happened," Kissinger said near the close of his news conference, "is when the Soviet Union looked at the totality of what

it had to gain from this trading relationship as against the intrusions in its domestic affairs, it drew the balance sheet of which we have the result today. But they have never disavowed the assurances or the statements in my letter."

Future Of Jewish Emigration

As for the future of Soviet Jewish emigration as a result of the repudiations, Kissinger said, "We have been given no official communication." He said, "I would not want to speculate" when he was asked if he thought the number of emigrants would decline. "The United States has made clear before that we favored the widest possible emigration, and we did so privately. And, for a time, not ineffectively."

Kissinger recalled that he had "stated explicitly that if any claim were made that this (the agreement on emigration) was a government to government transaction, and if any assertions were made that assurances had been extended, that those would be repudiated by the Soviet government." In this connection, Kissinger immediately added that there "were a number of reasons that led to the Soviet decision" and that "the purpose of my remarks was not to put the blame anywhere, but in order to put the debate behind us and to turn us towards the future."

PLEDGE CONTINUED AID FOR SOVIET JEWS

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Israeli officials remained discreetly silent today following the announcement of the abrogation of the U.S.-USSR trade pact, but the World-Zionist Organization Executive, the Absorption Ministry and Information Minister Aharon Yariv pledged to continue efforts to aid Soviet Jews in their efforts to emigrate and to settle in Israel. The WZO Executive declared today that despite the "hardships and tribulations" the struggle for Soviet Jewish aliya would continue "with added vigor."

In a statement issued in Jerusalem in the name of Executive chairman Pinhas Sapir (who was consulted by phone in London), the Executive appealed to Soviet Jews themselves to "be strong and of good courage.... The entire Jewish nation is with you in your struggle.... With united force, with great faith, and with supreme devotion we will triumph ultimately and the gates will be thrown wide open...." The statement added that "tribulations and tribulations will only unite and strengthen the Jewish people all the more firmly in their tough struggle for Soviet Jewry's rights...."

The struggle for Soviet aliya had seen great days of achievement, as well as dark days of despair, the statement recalled. "In recent months we have been gravely concerned at the decline in the number of Jews permitted to leave the USSR, and at the refusals, the arrests and the harassments of Jews whose only crime is their desire to leave for their homeland...." The announcement of the agreement abrogation, the statement continued, increased this concern and worry. The agreement had held out great hope--through the Jackson Amendment--"for tens of thousands of would-be immigrants."

Moves To Absorb Olim Continue

Absorption Minister Shlomo Rosen said today that the Absorption Ministry will continue its preparations to absorb some 60,000 Jews from all over the world during 1975, despite the "bitter news" from the USSR and its implications for aliya. Although Rosen described the Russian

move as one of the "lowest" points in the flux of detente, he expressed the hope that the Soviets would eventually reconsider their move, because, he said, they need detente as much as the West does. Ultimately, he said, the scope of aliya will continue to depend on the absorption efforts.

Information Minister Aharon Yariv reacted in the Knesset to the Soviet move. He admitted the move may affect negatively the immigration of Soviet Jews. He called on the Jewish people to stand on guard, watch the developments closely, and be ready to stubbornly increase the campaign for free exit from the USSR, "a campaign that had already brought important results."

JEWS LEADERS DISMAYED

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Jewish communal leaders reacted today with dismay over the cancellation of the trade pact. A joint meeting was held for almost three hours at 515 Park Avenue where leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry assessed the latest development. At the end of the meeting, Rabbi Israel Miller, Conference chairman, and Stanley Lowell, NCSJ chairman, issued a joint statement. It said:

"The action of the Soviet Union in repudiating its 1972 trade agreement with the United States is a regrettable development. The limitation of the amount of American credits in the Export-Import Bank authorization, the shorter duration of the 1974 Trade Act and possible political considerations inside the Kremlin may be significant factors in this reversal of Soviet policy."

"Whatever the reasons, we share the sentiment of the great majority of Americans in supporting improved relations and an easing of tensions between our country and the Soviet Union. One measure of that sentiment is the expression by the Congress, as contained in the trade bill signed by the President, of our nation's commitment toward the extension of human rights among countries with which our country trades. We reiterate our support of that commitment."

"Finally, and most importantly, we express and reaffirm our pledge of support to our fellow Jews in the Soviet Union in their heroic struggle to be free. Their courage has inspired our efforts in their behalf. Those efforts will now be intensified. We continue to call on the Soviet Union to abide by its own constitutional provisions, international treaty obligations and public pronouncements, and the harassment of its Jewish citizens and permit the emigration of all who seek to leave."

Persecution Of Jews Seen

The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry said that the USSR would have had only to adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and live up to its own constitution, in accepting the Trade Reform Act. However, said Malcolm Hoenlein, conference executive director, "even this was apparently too high a price to pay, since it would have meant the removal of barriers to free emigration and an end to the oppressive treatment of Jews seeking exit visas." He said that by the abrogation action, the Soviet Union had indicated its determination to persist in a policy of persecution of Jews in the USSR.

He added that the nullification was "further proof of the moral insensitivity of the Soviet Union." He added that "we must be alert to the possibility of a wave of repression" against Soviet Jews.

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, called the nullification the

"latest example of Soviet insensitivity to human rights and disregard of world opinion." He said he remained hopeful that the Ford Administration and Congress would continue the search for dealing with the issue in ways "appropriate to American national interests and the cause of world peace and human freedom."

Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, president of the (Reform) Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, said the abrogation could point to a hardening of Soviet policies both toward Jews in Russia and the achievement of a settlement in the Middle East. He said that U.S.-Soviet detente, however desirable, must never be at the expense of human rights or the right of Israel to survive. He said he felt the Jewish issue was being used by the Kremlin leaders as a "red herring" and that at stake was the Soviet "refusal to consider human rights for its own citizens."

Changes In Kremlin Leadership Seen

In a report from Vienna, Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Center, called the abrogation an indication of impending major changes in the Soviet leadership. The Nazi-hunter said the indicated change in Soviet policy would lead to a return to the cold war.

Declaring there were "strong forces within the Soviet leadership opposed to the detente policy of Soviet Communist Party head Leonid I. Brezhnev," Wiesenthal said Brezhnev's illness "seems to have strengthened their position. The trade agreement cancellation can be considered an open affront to Brezhnev." He suggested also that Arab pressures and Soviet efforts to regain positions the USSR previously held in the Middle East might also have induced the Soviet Union to cancel the 1972 agreement.

Meanwhile, the Soviet government, according to reports from Moscow, expressed hope that normal commercial ties could still be established between the United States and Russia. Acknowledgement of the nullification of the 1972 trade agreement and the hope for normal commercial ties was reported today by the Soviet news agency Tass, hours after Kissinger issued his statement in Washington last night.

BOMB THREAT DISRUPTS MEETING HELD TO PROTEST UNESCO ACTIONS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA)--A bomb threat forced participants in a protest meeting against UNESCO at the Shubert Theater today to evacuate the theater and to hold the meeting outside in freezing weather. According to the police, a telephoned bomb threat was received by CBS network from an unidentified caller. The police arrived at the theater as the meeting was about to begin and ordered the more than 100 theater personalities to leave the hall. No bomb was found.

The meeting then took place in Shubert Alley, adjacent to the theater, with many celebrities and representatives of various theater unions and guilds in the United States. The meeting and the press conference was sponsored by Actors Equity and other theatrical groups with Writers and Artists for Peace in the Mideast. Theodore Bikel, who addressed the meeting, said it had been called to protest UNESCO's anti-Israel resolutions. "American theater says to UNESCO 'clean your house,'" he said. UNESCO passed several anti-Israel resolutions recently depriving Israel of aid and excluding Israel from any regional UNESCO grouping.

Actress Julie Harris read the declaration of protest against UNESCO which said, in part:

"We of the American theater--actors and technicians, dramatists, producers, managers, musicians, singers, dancers, publicists, stagehands, scenic designers, directors and choreographers--add our voices, some 120,000 of them, to those which have already been raised in protest against the capricious actions of UNESCO's General Conference. We pledge--individually and collectively--to withhold our services and our cooperation from any event sponsored by or connected with UNESCO until that body recognizes Israel's right to be included in the family of nations once more."

Among the personalities who signed the protest statement were: Joanne Woodward, Sandy Dennis, Hal Prince, Neil Simon, Agnes DeMille, Clive Barnes, Gwen Verdon, E.G. Marshall, Alvin Alley, Abe Burrows, Maureen Stapleton, Stephen Sondheim, Cleavon Little, Murray Schisgal, Estelle Parsons, Virginia Capers, Garson Kanin, Ruth Gordon, Richard Barr, Joseph Papp, Cy Coleman, Henry Denker and Paddy Chayefsky.

TWO JEWISH LAWYERS EXPECTED TO BE NAMED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL POST

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (JTA)--For the first time in American history, two Jewish lawyers in the near future are expected to be given the post successively of Attorney General of the United States. President Ford formally announced yesterday that he would nominate Edward H. Levi, president of the University of Chicago since 1968, to be Attorney General in succession to former Ohio Senator William B. Saxbe who has been named Ambassador to India.

In the contingency that Saxbe's nomination will be approved by the Senate prior to Levi's, which is most likely, the rank of Acting Attorney General will be conferred upon Lawrence Silberman, the present Deputy Attorney General, the White House said.

Silberman, who at 38 became the second youngest person ever to be named to the second highest post in the Justice Department, has been asked by President Ford to continue as Deputy when Levi becomes Attorney General, the White House also announced.

Silberman at 34 became the nation's youngest Under-Secretary of Labor in history. He became Deputy Attorney General last March. He is a graduate of Dartmouth and Harvard Law School. He is a member of the American Jewish Committee and lives with his wife, the former Rosalie Gauli and three children in Bethesda, Md. He was born in York, Ohio.

Dr. Levi, who was dean of the University of Chicago Law School from 1950 to 1962, before becoming the university's provost for six years, was born in Chicago June 26, 1911. He is a graduate of Chicago and Yale Universities. Dr. Levi is the son of Elsa Hirsch and Gerson B. Levi. He and his wife, formerly Kate Sulzberger Hecht, have three sons. Among honorary degrees conferred upon Dr. Levi are those from Hebrew Union College, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Brandeis University. The White House said he has "no known" political affiliations.

8 ISRAELI SOLDIERS INJURED DURING SEARCH FOR ARAB TERRORISTS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Several Israeli army units crossed into Lebanon last night in a search for Arab terrorists for the third time in the past four days. Eight Israeli soldiers were slightly injured in the operation when hand grenades were thrown at them from a house in Shuba village. The

search action began immediately after darkness came. One unit which entered Shuba and began a house-to-house search came under fire. The soldiers assaulted the houses from which the shooting came and demolished them. Another unit blew up a culvert on a road north of Shuba to hamper the movement of terrorists in the area.

The grenade incident took place when the soldiers heard loud voices of women from one of the Shuba houses and called on the inhabitants to come out. When they did, the Israelis approached them and, at that moment, hand grenades were thrown at the soldiers and the women, injuring the eight soldiers. Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur watched the operations from an advance command post in northern Israel.

Smaller Israeli units blocked the roads near Shuba and others served as cover to the main Israeli force, the heaviest yet against "Fatahland." Observers at vantage points said many of the villagers were fleeing northward from Shuba, pulling carts with household articles with them. Peres said today in Haifa that Israeli operations in Lebanon were planned with maximum care to hit the terrorists and exert pressure on Lebanon to control them without undermining the delicate political balance in Lebanon.

Military officials reported today that during the clash last night, five Lebanese citizens--a father, three sons and an elderly villager--were stopped at a road-block on the route to Shuba and removed to prevent them from being caught in the cross-fire. The five were taken to Israel by the soldiers after the operation and will be released soon to return to Lebanon.

MRS. MEIR IN HOSPITAL FOR OPERATION TO REMOVE CATARACT FROM HER EYE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Former Premier Golda Meir entered Hadassah Hospital today for an operation today to remove a cataract from her eye. The operation was to take place in the hospital by a team headed by the eye department director Prof. Hannan Saubermann. Mrs. Meir is expected to leave the hospital within a few days. However, the total recovery from the operation usually takes several weeks. Mrs. Meir was hospitalized today after she complained in recent months about a worsening of her sight. Her general physical condition was reported as "very good."

JACKSON SAYS SOVIET ACTION WILL NOT DIMINISH EFFORTS FOR FREEDOM

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.), noting that the Soviet Union's repudiation of the 1972 trade agreement was "a disappointing development," declared today, "We in the Congress remain committed to the view that a broadening of trade relations must be accompanied by progress in the area of human rights. We shall not diminish our efforts to help those who seek freedom." He also said that "with or without a trade agreement we have a right to expect the Soviet Union to honor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Jackson said he did not know why the Soviets have chosen to "scuttle" the agreement. But he said the compromise of Oct. 18 which "was freely entered into by all concerned, appears to have lost its appeal to the Soviets only when it became apparent that the Congress would not approve government credits for multi-billion dollar development programs in the Soviet Union."

Jackson said that since the Oct. 18 exchange

of correspondence between Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and himself the assurances contained were reaffirmed by Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev in Vladivostok, and Kissinger in Washington. "At no time have we been informed by the Administration to which the assurances were made that they have been withdrawn," he said.

Sen. Clifford P. Case (R.NJ) issued a statement saying that the Soviet action reflected a struggle for control within the Soviet leadership and was not related to any U.S. action since the USSR had accepted the trade bill. He noted that the U.S. "cannot base its own foreign policy objectives on the shifts and turns of Soviet domestic politics," and therefore it would be "unwise and imprudent for any Congressional action on trade with the Soviet Union at this time."

FORD URGES INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (JTA)--President Ford, in his State of the Union address, stated, in part: "In recent years under the stress of the Vietnam war legislative restrictions on the President's capability to execute foreign and military decisions have proliferated. If our foreign policy is to be successful, we cannot rigidly restrict in legislation the ability of the President to act. The conduct of negotiations is ill-suited to such limitations. For my part, I pledge this Administration will act in the closest consultations with the Congress as we face delicate situations and troubled times throughout the world."

Departing from his prepared text at this point, Ford interpolated: "Legislative restriction intended for the best motives and purposes can have the opposite result as we have seen most recently with the Soviet Union." Returning to the text, he said:

"International cooperation is a vital fact of our lives today. This is not a moment for the American people to turn inward. More than ever before our own well-being depends on American determination and leadership in the world. America's commitment to international security has sustained the safety of allies and friends in many areas--in the Middle East, in Europe, in Asia. Our turning away would unleash new instabilities and dangers around the globe which would, in turn, threaten our own security."

TEKOAHC CRITICIZES WALDHEIM

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoaah today sharply criticized Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's statement yesterday expressing doubt there would be a third extension of the UN peace-keeping troops mandate in the Mideast. Saying he was replying to questions from the press, Tekoaah declared:

"If the United Nations would not have deteriorated as it has in recent years its Secretary General would not have made such unhelpful comments. The Secretary General should be urging the parties to live up to their obligations under the military separation and cease-fire agreements of which the continued presence of the United Nations is an indispensable part. He should not anticipate in a matter of fact way Egyptian and Syrian violations of the agreement by refusal to prolong the UNEF (United Nations Emergency Force) and UNDOF (United Nations Disengagement Observer Force) mandates."

AMSTERDAM (JTA)--Amsterdam's airport tightened security measures Wednesday in response to the Orly terrorist attack on an El Al plane Monday.