



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

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Vol. XLII - 58th Year

Thursday, February 20, 1975

No. 35

U.S., RUMANIA NEGOTIATING COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 (JTA)--The State Department has confirmed that the United States and Rumania are negotiating a commercial agreement in accordance with the Trade Reform Act of 1974 that includes the Jackson-Vanik amendments relating U.S. trade benefits to the emigration practices of Communist bloc countries. According to the provisions of the trade law, President Ford must report to Congress on the trading partner's compliance with the emigration provisions and either House may reject the agreement if not satisfied.

State Department spokesman Robert Funseth said yesterday that the negotiations are "proceeding satisfactorily." The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed that they are taking place in Bucharest where the American negotiating team is headed by U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes. Funseth said he did not know when the agreement will be completed but "understood" that negotiations began Jan. 15. He said he did not know of negotiations with any other Communist country being conducted under the 1974 Trade Act.

The JTA learned from other U.S. sources that the terms of the trade agreement with Rumania have been completed and that the talks now concern assurances from the Rumanian government regarding emigration. According to these sources, emigration from Rumania falls into two categories. One concerns approximately 650 Rumanians related to American citizens or holding dual citizenship--the largest number of such persons in any Communist bloc country. The second category concerns Rumanian Jews who want to emigrate to Israel.

Emigration Described As 'Up And Down'

American sources described Rumania's record on Jewish emigration as "up and down." Rumania is the only Communist bloc country that maintains diplomatic and trade relations with Israel. A sizeable flow of Soviet Jews passed through Rumania enroute to Israel until the Yom Kippur War. That channel was closed and has not been reopened, the sources said. The emigration of Rumanian Jews to Israel has ebbed and flowed, but was never entirely halted.

One source said Jews were leaving Rumania all the time. Another source said there have been periods of up to several months when no Jews left Rumania. There are presently fewer than 90,000 Jews in that country, the U.S. sources said. They described the Rumanian Jewish community as an aging one with a low rate of natural increase. There were 100,000 Jews in Rumania at the time of the Six-Day War in 1967. Of the 10,000 who left since then, most emigrated to Israel between 1967 and 1973.

NEW EGYPTIAN CONDITIONS FOR GENEVA TALKS INDICATE BELIEF THAT SUCH A MEETING NOW WOULD BE PREMATURE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Government sources said here today that the new conditions

demanding by Egypt for renewal of the Geneva Middle East peace conference indicated that Egypt, like Israel, believes that such a meeting now would be premature. The conditions, stated yesterday by Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, in Cairo were that Egyptian attendance would be contingent on replacement of all weapons lost in the October war and agreement that the Palestine Liberation Organization was invited to participate. Israeli officials have said repeatedly Israel would not meet with the PLO.

Fahmy said in his statement that the Soviet Union had resumed shipments of weapons to Egypt and the Israeli sources said the arms condition might be a pressure tactic on the Soviets for a speed-up in supply of weapons. The assumption was, according to the speculation here, that the Soviet Union would step up the pace of arms deliveries because it has consistently sought to transfer negotiations to the Geneva conference where it is a co-sponsor.

The sources here suggested another possible reason for the Fahmy conditions was that Egypt wanted to explain to the more militant Arab states, particularly Syria, why Egypt for the time being prefers to go along with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's step-by-step approach. Although President Anwar Sadat has said repeatedly it would not end its state of war with Israel unilaterally, Syria remains suspicious of Kissinger's efforts to mediate between Egypt and Israel and recently urged that the Geneva conference be reconvened early in March.

PERES CALLS FOR 'PRACTICAL ZIONISM'

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres said last night that Jerusalem must be surrounded with a chain of settlements and Jewish industrial enterprises. He said such projects were a top priority and a manifestation of "practical Zionism" in Israel. "Instead of the inhibited, apologetic Zionism of excuses for Israel's actions, our Zionism must start to be one of uplift, of building and development and immigrant absorption," Peres told a meeting of the Jerusalem Economic Club.

He emphasized the need to step up development work in Galilee and the Rafah salient. But he stressed the importance of bolstering the capital with surrounding settlements and industrial zones, especially in light of Arab settlements and developments in Jerusalem's environs. He said an important step in that direction was the projected Ma'aleh Ha'Adumim industrial zone and workers' residences on the Jerusalem-Jericho road and the IL 60 million investment by Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. in a plant in the Jerusalem district.

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE WILL COORDINATE EFFORTS TO COUNTER ARAB PROPAGANDA IN THE U.S.

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA)--The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations will establish a central body to coordinate efforts to counter Arab propaganda in the United States. This was announced today by Rabbi Israel Miller, Conference chairman. Expressing concern over intensified Arab propaganda here, which according to Rabbi Miller, is "much more subtle and

clever" than it used to be, he said that the new central body would include Jewish organizations and individuals alike in order to have a unified approach in dealing with the Arab propaganda. Rabbi Miller said that the Presidents Conference is requesting the State Department and the City of New York to deny official diplomatic recognition to any representative or office of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which is supposed to arrive here for the next UN General Assembly.

Rabbi Miller disclosed that he met last week with John Scali, the United States Ambassador to the UN, and discussed with him the question of the PLO treatment on the part of the U.S. According to Rabbi Miller, the questions raised were the granting of a diplomatic status and diplomatic immunity to the PLO, the intention of the PLO to create a semi-governmental agency in the United States, and the request by the PLO to be listed in the UN Directory.

Rabbi Miller added that Scali was "very sympathetic in terms of his recommendation that the United States government will take a strict stand" on the PLO issue. He also disclosed that the Presidents Conference requested a meeting with Mayor Abraham Beame of New York to discuss the PLO and to tell the Mayor that "the American Jewish community is unanimous in its feeling that the PLO be not accorded any official diplomatic status when its leaders come to New York as UN observers."

Turning to the Middle East issue, Rabbi Miller said that the Presidents Conference will be requesting a meeting with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger very soon to discuss his recent exploratory mission to the Middle East. He also declared that the American Jewish community "will stand behind whatever steps the Israeli government will or will not take in the next steps of negotiation" with the Arabs.

Efforts On Behalf Of Syrian Jews

Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Presidents Conference, who opened the press conference, announced that the Presidents Conference was intensifying its efforts on behalf of the 4500 Jews in Syria. He reported that more than 1000 communities throughout the country have reported their intention of observing this weekend as a Shabbat of Remembrance to call attention to the plight of Syrian Jewry.

The Presidents Conference also opened a campaign to collect about one million signatures on a petition to be presented to President Ford asking him to intervene personally to urge the President of Syria, Hafez Assad, to insure the human rights of Syrian Jews and to bring the Syrian government to permit their emigration. Hellman also disclosed that apart from Israel, several other countries have already expressed their willingness to accept Syrian Jews.

JEWISH CEMETERY DAMAGED

BERNE, Feb. 19 (JTA)--The Jewish cemetery here was heavily damaged yesterday during a night-time attack, police said. An investigation is under way to learn the identity of the persons who tore up tombstones and littered the cemetery with debris. This is the second time in recent months that anti-Semitic feeling has been manifest in Berne. The first incident was the painting of anti-Jewish slogans on the walls of Jewish-owned homes.

MUST PROVE THEY'RE NOT JEWISH

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Tourists apply-

ing for visas to some Arab countries have been asked for notarized statements that they are not Jews, according to Dutch Labor Parliamentarian Heinz Roethof. He has presented a written question to the Dutch Foreign Ministry asking for an investigation to center on whether the countries involved signed the 1966 International Anti-Racist Convention and to determine whether notaries are allowed by the Dutch constitution to notarize statements of this nature.

ISRAEL EXCLUDED FROM ECOLOGICAL CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN NEXT MAY By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Israel has protested its exclusion from an international conservationist conference to be held in Teheran next May. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) failed to invite or even to notify the three Israeli conservationist agencies that are officially members of the body and attended its meetings in prior years. The subjects on the agenda of the Teheran meeting include arid zones and the coral formations in the Red Sea, subjects to which Israel can contribute and about which it is anxious to learn more.

The Israeli bodies that are members of IUCN are the Nature Conservation Society, which is non-governmental; and two governmental agencies, the Natural Reserves Authority and the Environmental Protection Service. Azarya Allon, secretary of the Nature Conservation Society, cabled his group's protest to the secretary of the IUCN, Girardo Bowdowsky, who is a Latin American Jew. The cable noted that the failure to invite Israel to the Teheran meeting was contrary to the non-political nature and spirit of the IUCN.

Israeli conservationists learned of the forthcoming meeting only by chance from circulars published at IUCN headquarters in Switzerland. The circulars contained a list of invited countries from which Israel was missing.

ISRAEL TO EMBARK ON MAJOR OIL EXPLORATION, DRILLING OPERATIONS

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Israel will invest large sums of money in an all-out attempt to find oil at both inland and off-shore drilling sites, according to discussions before the Knesset's Economic Committee last night. The effort will also include a major re-organization of oil exploration and drilling operations, possibly in conjunction with foreign interests. The committee is considering the amelioration of Israel's overall energy problems, including the development of nuclear energy sources.

Igal Horwitz, chairman of the Economic Committee, was sharply critical of the pace of oil prospecting in Israel. He urged that drilling projects should be accelerated at sites pinpointed by oil geologists. He also claimed that the possibilities for collaboration with foreign companies and foreign investments in oil searches have not been sufficiently exploited.

Dr. Eli Rosenberg, a geological consultant, said that so far 151 drillings have been carried out in Israel at a total cost of some IL 300 million, including \$40 million invested by foreign companies. But he said, compared to the widespread drilling operations carried out in other countries, Israel's efforts to date have been meager and therefore the results so far were not encouraging.

Responding to Horwitz's complaint that not enough initiative has been shown in planning and

organizing the search for oil, Israel Lior, who is in charge of oil prospecting for the government, outlined a re-organization plan. He said a roof organization will be established to administer overall prospecting and to set work and purchasing priorities. He said the purchase of drilling equipment will total over IL 100 million in the coming year.

Program Of Several Years' Duration

A separate organization will deal with oil prospecting, field work and drilling operations. At the present stage, the Lapidot Co. will operate as a drilling contractor only while the Oil Prospecting & Investment Co. and Netiv Neft Ltd. will devote themselves to the search for new wells, Lior said.

He noted that plans called for drilling in various parts of the country and off-shore under a program of several years' duration. He said negotiations were proceeding with foreign interests in connection with these plans. Lior cited the difficulty of obtaining drilling equipment because of widespread drilling operations all over the world. He said that deep drilling equipment was especially hard to find and was extremely expensive.

ISRAEL CAUTIOUS ABOUT REPORTS THAT U.S. IS CONSIDERING GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL AS PART OF SETTLEMENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Israeli officials reacted cautiously today to reports that the United States was studying guarantees to Israel, possibly even a formal defense pact, in connection with a second-stage Israeli-Egyptian agreement in Sinai.

The officials indicated that they viewed a U.S. commitment as an additional strengthening factor behind such an agreement but insisted that the central plank of any settlement with Egypt must be mutual commitments exchanged directly between Israel and Egypt. The officials stressed that the matter of U.S. guarantees did not come up in last week's talks here between Israeli leaders and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

The officials were responding to reports that U.S. State Department military and legal experts have begun a serious study of possible guarantees to Israel. Sources accompanying Kissinger on his current European visit were said to have received that information from a senior U.S. official aboard Kissinger's plane enroute from Zurich to Paris. According to these sources, the study was ordered by Kissinger, apparently in anticipation of a second-stage agreement between Israel and Egypt that is expected to come under negotiation when Kissinger returns to the Middle East next month.

The officials said that since no formal communications between Washington and Jerusalem have been held on this issue, Israeli diplomats would not react to the reports in their talks with State Department officials preparatory to Kissinger's return trip. They suggested, however, that the matter of guarantees may well come up while Kissinger is here next month.

Foreign Ministry sources recalled that Foreign Minister Yigal Allon had warned in Dec. 1973, when he was Deputy Premier in the Meir government, that Israel should not dismiss out of hand the idea of U.S. guarantees but at the same time should use caution in reacting to it.

During the talks with Kissinger here last week the Israeli negotiators insisted on guarantees of

non-belligerency from Egypt in return for territorial concessions and also demanded assurances that any agreement negotiated with Egypt at this time will not be abrogated when the Geneva conference resumes, should it end in deadlock. Egypt has demanded a firm time-table of withdrawals from Israel and President Anwar Sadat has suggested that Kissinger act as "guarantor" for both sides.

According to the reports from Paris, the State Department experts were instructed to study such questions as who would decide that a situation has arisen requiring implementation of the guarantees and what the guarantor would be required to do once such a situation occurred.

Israeli officials also indicated that, along with a U.S. guarantee, they would welcome provisions to strengthen the United Nations' role to police a new Israeli-Egyptian agreement. Their reference to a UN role was seen as a hint that while Israel might welcome American commitments, it would not favor a U.S. physical presence in the policing arrangements since that would inevitably mean a Soviet presence as well.

COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST JEWISH NEWSPAPER

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19 (JTA)--A special committee has been established to organize the 300th anniversary of the publication of the first Jewish newspaper--Gazette de Amsterdam--in Holland (printed in the ancient Rashit script), it was reported at a special meeting of the executive of the World Federation of Jewish Journalists here. The committee is headed by Leon Dulzin, treasurer of the Jewish Agency and Dr. Itzhak Harkavi of the World Jewish Congress. Its members include representatives of the Federation of Jewish Journalists and a representative of the Foreign Ministry. The committee will prepare an exhibition of the Jewish press around the world over the years to be held in New York and Paris and centers throughout the world.

PARIS (JTA)--Jewish students covered the walls of Arab and pro-Arab banks in Paris Tuesday night with pro-Jewish slogans. The Jewish Student Front claimed responsibility for the numerous slogans painted on the walls of the Credit Lyonnais and the Union of Franco-Arab Banks. The slogans read: "Halt Financial Anti-Semitism," "Out With Racist Arab Banks," and "UBAF Racist." Another form of popular protest against the Arab boycott has been the closing of accounts at the banks in question.

COPENHAGEN (JTA)--Several Scandinavian companies in their business dealings with the Arabs, have refused to comply with the Arab boycott of Israel. The Danish F.L. Smith Company, supplier of the machinery for the cement factories in Haifa and Ramle, recently refused to sign part of a contract it made with Iraq. The unsigned paragraph stipulated that the company should have no commercial dealings with Israel. The \$100 million contract will go into effect without the boycott paragraph. It was reported that two unnamed Norwegian companies have done likewise.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Seven newly-elected New York Congressmen each have "adopted" a Soviet Jewish "prisoner of conscience" and are waging an intensive drive designed to secure their release. The efforts by the lawmakers is part of a major campaign on behalf of the prisoners that is being conducted by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

ISRAEL LINING UP TALENT FOR HAPOELYADA GAMES

By Haskell Cohen

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Chaim Glovinsky, Israel's sports ambassador, has just returned from a whirlwind tour around the world visiting all continents in a period of 21 days in order to line up talent for the Hapoelyada games slated for May 1-10. In addition to his quest for athletes for the games, Glovinsky has had the opportunity to straighten out a few sports matters which have burdened the Israeli government as well as the public here.

The matter of Israel's exclusion from the world table-tennis matches in India has been heavily publicized and a story concerning the exclusion of Israel's women's hand-ball team from the Asian eliminations has been given a lot of attention by sports writers and political analysts. It appears, however, that the whole matter became garbled. Glovinsky, while in South Korea, learned of the difficulty involved and straightened the matter out to Israel's satisfaction and benefit.

Originally, the story came through that Israel was slated to participate in what is known as Series "B" in South Korea for the right to qualify for the world championship games which will be held in the Soviet Union later this year. According to stories emanating from the Far East, Japan, South Korea, Formosa and Israel were to be the participants in the qualifying round.

South Korea Not Opposed To Israel

The story arriving here indicated that South Korea advised that if Israel participated it was withdrawing as the site for the qualifying round. Glovinsky's detective work revealed that South Korea never indicated any such thing. It developed the Japan, fearful of the Arabs, insisted that Israel had qualified in the "A" series because India refused to meet the Israelis in the finals, thereby eliminating the necessity for Israel to play in the "B" series.

It was Japan which actually leaked the story that South Korea would cancel the tourney if Israel participated. This proved to be untrue according to what the South Korean Olympic people, old friends of Glovinsky, told him. Apparently everybody in the Far East is afraid of the petro-rich countries and do not want to antagonize them by inviting Israel to any sports functions.

South Korea is not fearful and gladly would have hosted Israel for the hand-ball tournament. But in view of the fact that the Israelis already had won the Middle East championship by virtue of India's default, it was not necessary to go to South Korea. However, the South Koreans wanted it clearly stated on the record that all Israeli teams are welcome in their country and as a matter of fact, they will be sending a top-flight swimmer and possibly their best basketball team to the Hapoel games in order to show their unity with the Israelis.

Games Scheduled In Japan

On the other hand, Japan refuses to send any competitors to the Hapoel games but informed Glovinsky that if the Japanese women's hand-ball team wins the "B" series tournament it will play a two-game series with the Israelis in order to determine the Asian championships. As a matter of fact, the games are slated for late February and early March in Japan on the assumption that the Japanese have the strongest

team among the three contesting squads in South Korea.

In the interest of time and saving of money, both games will be played in Japan with the Japanese hand-ball association splitting the transportation costs with Israel and assuming all maintenance expenses for the Israeli women's hand-ball team during its stay in Japan.

Glovinsky has advised this writer that after visiting Bangkok, Singapore, South Korea and Japan, all of the countries' sports authorities have told him, "We have become strong anti-Semites--not against the Jews but against the Arabs." Glovinsky has arranged for the Asian sprint champion from Thailand to appear in the Hapoel games and in addition to securing athletes from South Korea, has the promise of competitors from Singapore so that all in all the Hapoel games will continue successfully as usual with its customary 26-country representation.

PETRONIUS ARBITER LIVES AGAIN

By Murray Zuckoff

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Petronius Arbiter, a Roman proconsul and satirist who lived about 60 C.E., ridiculed Jews for prohibiting the eating of pork and mocked their habit of lifting their eyes heavenward in prayer and their rigorous enforcement of the law of circumcision. Presently, there is a writer who uses the name "Petronius" to sign his column, "Diplomatic Pouch," in a bi-weekly publication called "The Delegates World Bulletin" which describes itself as "an independent publication" "dedicated to serving the United Nations and the international community."

In the Feb. 10 issue of this publication, "Petronius" has an item about the meeting Feb. 6 between a group of writers and actors and John Fobes, the Deputy Director General of UNESCO who was then in New York. The columnist comes down hard with his hammer and chisel on the group--Arthur Miller, James Michener, Colleen Dewhurst, Julie Harris and Anna Strassberg, representing Writers and Artists for Peace in the Middle East which organized the meeting--by noting that their visit was to "make war on his (Fobe's) organization" and "how they would emasculate UNESCO which had betrayed its allegedly non-political vocation."

"Petronius," Arbiter-like, then writes: "The ticklish visit had to be made to Mr. Fobes, because his boss, Director-General M'Bow of Senegal, was at the time too busy visiting Arab countries and the Soviet Union, where he was not exposed to such unpleasantness."

The modern-day "Petronius" notes that "Author (sic) Miller" remarked "darkly," that "Unless UNESCO repels (sic) its action taken against Israel, it will ultimately crumble, and with that one international organization after another will begin to unravel." The "Independent publication" columnist does not, of course, mention that the five artists had met with Fobes to present him with a letter to M'Bow protesting the recent anti-Israel resolutions adopted by UNESCO which, they pointed out, had subverted the organization's principles and purposes. How now, Petronius Arbiter?

PARIS (JTA)--Two hundred French politicians, university professors, and doctors have signed a petition in favor of Dr. Mikhail Stern, the Soviet Jewish endocrinologist who was sentenced to eight years at hard labor after requesting emigration to Israel. French intellectuals signing the petition included Jean-Paul Sartre.