



# daily news bulletin

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## NASHPITZ, TSITLONOK SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN EXILE

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--Mark Nashpitz, a 27-year-old dentist, and Boris Tsitlonok, a 31-year-old plumber, were today sentenced to five years in exile by a Moscow district court, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. The sentence was imposed a few hours after the beginning of the trial which was closed to other Moscow Jewish activists and foreign correspondents.

Under Soviet law exile means the two men cannot live in their home town of Moscow. There was no immediate word, however, whether they would be sent. They had been charged with disturbing public order which carries a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment.

### First To Be Tried For Public Protests

Soviet authorities appeared to take pains to keep the trial, already raising an international clamor, from being publicized. When foreign correspondents and some 40 Jewish activists arrived at the court they found a note on the door saying the court was closed for cleaning. However, police confirmed the trial was being held but said the courtroom was full. The NCSJ said that Allan Grieman, a lawyer from Illinois who is in the Soviet Union as a tourist, tried to enter the courtroom but was also barred by authorities.

Nashpitz and Tsitlonok were the first Jewish activists to be tried for public protests in Moscow. They were among nine Jews who demonstrated outside the Lenin Library Feb. 24 to protest against the refusal of Soviet authorities to grant them emigration visas. The others were released or were sentenced to 10-15-day jail terms.

The two men's mothers, Itta Nashpitz and Batya Tsitlonok, both of whom are now Israeli citizens, have been conducting a vigil outside the Soviet Embassy in London to protest the trial. They continued to sit outside the Embassy gates in inclement weather today despite a warning from a doctor that they should end their demonstration.

### Trial Called A Fraud

Stanley H. Lowell, chairman of the NCSJ, called the trials of Nashpitz and Tsitlonok a "fraud." He noted that "there were early hints that this trial, like others in recent months, would be open to the press and certainly friends of the accused would be permitted to enter the courtroom. By holding this trial in camera, Soviet authorities telegraphed to the world that they were afraid to hold an open trial because there was no real evidence against these men."

## U.S. ENVOYS TO ISRAEL, EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN SUMMONED TO WASHINGTON FOR HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AMERICA'S MIDEAST POLICY

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA)--The United States Ambassadors to Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel have been summoned to Washington

this week for a high level conference on American Middle East policy, the State Department announced today. The envoys will meet with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger at the State Department to examine U.S. positions before Kissinger flies to Palm Springs, California late Thursday for a meeting with vacationing President Ford.

Kissinger's talks with Ford will cover America's position in Vietnam as well as the Middle East. The President will address the nation on foreign affairs on or about April 9, it was learned today.

"The reassessment is underway," State Department spokesman Robert Anderson told newsmen today with regard to the recall of the U.S. Middle East ambassadors. He said the review would be conducted "in the normal way by the National Security Council machinery" and that all agencies involved in the Middle East will be participating.

Anderson praised Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's speech to the Egyptian Parliament last Saturday as "statesmanlike and restrained" but said he did not wish to go into details. Sadat announced in his speech that the Suez Canal would be re-opened on June 6 and that Egypt would agree to a three-month extension of the mandate of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in Sinai after it expires next month.

Anderson said, in reply to a question, that he was not aware of any communications with regard to convening the Geneva peace conference. Kissinger breakfasted with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin at the State Department on Saturday. They discussed the Middle East but Anderson would not say whether the Geneva conference was a subject of their talk. Kissinger said at his press conference last Wednesday that he would meet with the Soviet Union "soon" to discuss resumption of the Geneva conference. (By Joseph Polakoff)

## PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE ISSUES DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations today issued a "declaration" of solidarity with Israel "in their struggle for peace, security and dignity." The declaration was read by Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference, at the end of a two-hour meeting called by the Conference to inaugurate "an intensified program to tell American people the facts about the Arab-Israeli conflict." (See full story P. 3)

The "declaration" stated:

"Through the men and women who make up its 32 national Jewish secular and religious constituents, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations declares its solidarity and unity with the people of Israel in their struggle for peace, security and dignity. Towards this end we will launch a nationwide drive to mobilize broad public support for Israel's cause among our fellow-citizens.

"Because we do not have the huge financial resources of the Arab propaganda machine, we shall rely on a people-to-people effort in which the individual members of our constituent organizations will tell the facts of the Middle East con-

flit to their friends and neighbors in every walk of life and every corner of this great country. We believe the American people will understand that the vital interests of the United States are best served by providing Israel with the economic, military and political support necessary to deter Arab attack and keep alive the search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

"We believe the American people will continue to see in Israel a brave democracy--the only state in the Middle East that shares our country's values of freedom and equality--that has had to fight four times within a quarter of a century for its independence in the face of unremitting hostility by the Arab nations that surround it.

"Finally, we believe that what America requires and what Israel seeks are the same--a durable peace enshrined with justice for every man and woman and mutual recognition and respect among nations. As Americans and as Jews we pledge our energies, our strength and our commitment to this great goal."

#### BINGHAM URGES U.S. TO CONTINUE ITS PRESENT POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA)--Rep. Jonathan B. Bingham (D,NY) has told the House of Representatives that the U.S. must continue its "concrete and moral" support for Israel despite the failure of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's failure to negotiate a second Egyptian-Israeli interim agreement.

The Secretary's failure, Bingham said, "is no cause for the kind of reappraisal of our policies in the Middle East that President Ford has called for." Noting that U.S. policies have been based on a determination to provide Israel with the support she needed to survive as a vibrant and viable nation, Bingham said, "surely this basic policy is not subject to review."

"Israel took great risks and offered Egypt substantial concessions," Bingham said in denouncing suggestions that Israel "intransigence" caused the breakdown in negotiations. He urged Congress to keep clear that Egypt's role in the negotiations "was to demand much and offer nothing."

#### WALK-A-THON DRAMATIZES PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWISH POCS

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--With Israeli flags and "Free Marina Tiemkin" banners flying, 500 young New York Jews, together with contingents from nearby counties, joined legislators and dignitaries for the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry's second annual Walk-A-Thon yesterday. The youths obtained "sponsors" for each of the 10 miles they walked through Brooklyn under rainy skies; the proceeds will be sent to families of the Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience by the SSSJ.

Rep. Stephen Solarz (D,NY) led off the first contingent of walkers who wore symbolic prisoner uniforms, declaring "We must continue to march for Soviet Jews," especially in light of the increasing harassment. August Stern, whose father Dr. Mikhail Stern's eight-year sentence was confirmed last week, joined the marchers and thanked them for their continued protests on behalf of his family. Dr. Stern was tried after his sons applied to leave for Israel. Stern was accompanied by Bronx Borough President Robert Abrams.

Many of the marchers said they came in spite of the rain to show their anger at Soviet police

attacks on Jews attending the Moscow Synagogue last Wednesday and Saturday. Others said they were walking for Marina Tiemkin, whose large photo they held aloft. Marina, a Moscow teenager, was kidnapped by police agents after she and her father applied to leave for Israel.

Members of the SSSJ went today to the office of Aeroflot to protest against the trials and sentences of Mark Nashpitz and Boris Tsitlionok. The demonstrators held aloft mops and brooms, which they said symbolized the locked courtroom, barred to Western newsmen and spectators, which bore a sign on its door, "Close for cleaning." The youths urged passersby to "Fly Aeroflot to the 'friendly' USSR and be with Jews as they are put on trial, dragged from the Moscow Synagogue, threatened with trial for 'treason' as was Prof. Alexander Luntz, and faced with loss of jobs for seeking to live in freedom."

#### JDL Pickets Soviet Mission

In a related action, 22 members of the Jewish Defense League were arrested early yesterday while picketing the Soviet Mission to the United Nations to protest the dispersion of Jews from the Moscow Synagogue during Sabbath-Passover services. The JDL pickets poured animal blood on the Mission building, symbolic of one of the 10 plagues. The pickets were taken to police headquarters in lower Manhattan where they were held several hours on charges of disorderly conduct and malicious mischief and released. They vowed to continue their actions until all Soviet Jews were freed.

#### CANAL REOPENING EFFECT UNDER STUDY

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA)--Israeli maritime circles are pondering the effects that the reopening of the Suez Canal will have on Israel's merchant marine and on the future of the port of Eilat, Israel's outlet on the Red Sea. In the wake of President Anwar Sadat's announcement Saturday that Egypt will reopen its waterway on June 5, though denying access to Israeli ships or Israeli cargoes, directors of the Zim Lines, Israel's national shipping company, will meet with political experts next week.

The growth of Eilat which has expanded as a seaport during the eight years that the Suez Canal was shut down, may be affected by the loss of foreign trade that passed through Israel enroute to other destinations. While maritime circles believe the canal fees charged by Egypt may be a factor in reducing the amount of traffic diverted from Eilat, they agree that steps will have to be taken to provide Eilat with modern transportation links to the Mediterranean.

These may include improving the existing highway connections and possibly the construction of an Eilat-Mediterranean railroad. Experts are also expected to recommend the speedy establishment of container services and facilities at Eilat to make that port an attractive alternative to the Suez Canal. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said today that the reopening of the canal was not a gesture toward Israel but an economic decision that would bring Egypt \$1 billion a year.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Israeli teachers were urged Monday to take assignments in Jewish communities abroad which need them. Dr. Haim Hamiel, director general of the World Zionist Organization's religious education department, said that without the support of Israeli educators, Jewish education in the diaspora could not survive. He said that currently about 270 Israeli teachers serve 1000 Jewish communities world-wide.

**U.S. URGED TO CONTINUE ITS  
SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IN INTERESTS OF  
U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, MIDEAST PEACE**  
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--Continued American support for Israel, both in the interests of U.S. foreign policy and for the achievement of peace in the Middle East, was urged today by five members of Congress and other speakers at a meeting convened by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to open a nation-wide drive aimed at mobilizing broad public support for Israel. Addressing 350 national Jewish leaders at Conference headquarters at 515 Park Ave., Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz emphasized the importance of American support for Israel on all levels.

He said his country was mindful of the American initiative for peace in the Middle East and wanted to keep it going "because only the U.S. can bring peace to the Middle East."

Dinitz shared the platform with Reps. Bella Abzug, Elizabeth Holtzman, Edward I. Koch, Benjamin Rosenthal and Lester L. Wolff, all members of New York City's Democratic Congressional delegation. Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Presidents Conference, declared that "a weak Israel is of little value to the U.S.," but "a strong Israel will enable it to move into peace" and any reassessment of American Middle East policy must take these facts into account. **'Go Forth Throughout The Land'**

The five legislators all agreed that there was still a broad base of support for Israel in Congress and among the American people at large. But they expressed concern, as did Rabbi Miller with implications by the Ford Administration that Israel was responsible for the breakdown of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's most recent efforts to achieve a second-stage Israeli-Egyptian agreement in Sinai.

They urged leaders of the American Jewish community "to go forth throughout the land" to explain Israel's position to the vast majority of Americans who support Israel. They agreed with Dinitz that Egypt was solely to blame for the breakdown of Kissinger's talks by its refusal to accept the most generous of Israel's offers for a Sinai accord.

**Israel Ready To Work For Peace**

The Israeli envoy told the meeting that Israel had offered Egypt two options--a sweeping territorial withdrawal returning the Sinai passes and oil fields in exchange for Egypt's formal renunciation of its war option; or a more limited withdrawal in return for less far-reaching political concessions. Dinitz charged that at a certain point during the negotiations conducted by Kissinger, Egypt stopped negotiating and "started dictating."

He said this was probably because Cairo recognized U.S. diplomatic difficulties in other parts of the world and thought the time was ripe to impose a settlement on Israel. "Egypt was more interested in winning public opinion in the U.S." than in reaching an agreement with Israel, Dinitz charged.

The Ambassador said that Israel remained ready to offer concessions and would continue to work for peace through the U.S. and through other channels. But he contended that the Geneva conference, if it is reconvened, cannot produce any meaningful solution of the Middle East

conflict. He said that the combined power of the Arabs, together with that of the Soviet Union which is not "a calming influence" would create "a mini-United Nations" in Geneva at which Israel could not expect fair treatment.

Israel will continue to work for peace, "but not at the expense of its survival," he told the audience. He reiterated that Israel alone cannot bear the full brunt of the peace initiative. Egypt, too, has to compromise and make concessions, he said. "Let them not frighten the world with the Russian option," Dinitz declared, observing that even while Kissinger was conducting negotiations, Russian ships were unloading arms at Egyptian ports.

**Congress Supportive Of Israel**

Abzug said that while there was concern in Congress over the breakdown of the negotiations, the mood was one of support for Israel. "It is intolerable to expect Congress to penalize Israel" for the breakdown, she said. Urging a national mobilization of support for Israel, she stated, "We have to do an educational job" because the Middle East is a major factor in American foreign policy.

Koch emphasized that support of Israel was in America's national interest for reasons of security as well as moral imperatives. Referring to reports that Sen. George McGovern (D.S.D.) met in Beirut with PLO leader Yasir Arafat, Koch declared this is "a most shocking thing." He told the audience to "remember who is your friend and who is your enemy," adding that "There is no doubt that Congress is supportive of Israel."

Rosenthal was critical of Kissinger's policy in the Middle East. He charged that when Kissinger returned from the Middle East last Monday he met with 21 Congressmen and conveyed to them the impression that Israel's intransigence was responsible for the failure of his mission.

Wolff noted, however, that when Kissinger appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee of which he is a member, the Secretary stated flatly that "the U.S. can never afford to let Israel go down the drain." Wolff said that the Middle East battle lines have shifted from the Suez Canal to American shores because Egypt is attempting to win over American public opinion rather than reach a settlement with Israel.

Holtzman expressed concern over implications by the Administration that Israel is the culprit in the failure of the second-stage talks. "Our task is to remind the American people that the Arabs do not recognize the State of Israel" and to shatter the myth of the Palestinians who were exploited all these years by the Arabs for political purposes, she said.

**Nature Of National Campaign**

Rabbi Miller said that member organizations of the Presidents Conference would undertake a "national campaign to strengthen public understanding that the strategic interests of the United States are best served by providing Israel with the economic, military and political support necessary to deter Arab attack and keep alive the search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

Rabbi Miller said the drive would include "a special effort to place responsibility for the breakdown of Secretary Kissinger's Middle East peace mission where it belongs--on Egypt." He added, "In this effort we will underscore the fact that Israel offered to give up her most valuable bargaining points...in exchange for a declaration of non-belligerence by Egypt, and it was Egypt that refused."

