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JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY OPENS; SAPIR SAYS ISRAEL MUST DOUBLE POPULATION FOR SECURITY

by Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA)--Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, said tonight that Israel would have to have a Jewish population of at least six million, before it could have peace and security. The present population is three million, and at the present rate of natural increase it will take 25 years to double it, which means that every effort must be made to increase aliya, Sapir said in the course of his keynote address opening the fourth annual Assembly of the Jewish Agency here.

The opening session was attended by President Ephraim Katzir of Israel, Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek, Max Fisher of Detroit, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors and Ezra Shapiro, world chairman of Keren Hayesod. The Assembly has drawn more than 300 Jewish leaders from all over the world who, for the next four days, will be grappling with such problems as the decline in aliya, immigrant absorption, Jewish education in the diaspora, the Arab boycott and the social and economic gap in Israel's society. Most important, the Assembly will have to approve the Jewish Agency's \$500 million budget for the next fiscal year which is based on an estimate of 45,000 new immigrants arriving in the country.

That number may not be achieved, Sapir noted in his address that only 32,000 immigrants came to Israel in 1974 compared to 55,000 in 1973. He said that the 7400 olim who arrived during the first five months of 1975 comprised "about half of what it was in the same period last year." Sapir attributed the sharp decline in immigration in part to the harassment and persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union who seek exit visas. He said he wanted to assure them that the campaign for their freedom was continuing in Israel and in Jewish communities throughout the world. He praised the contributions of the 100,000 Soviet Jews already in Israel.

Cites Absorption Problems

Sapir said that while the immigrant housing problem was practically solved, there were still many problems ahead, notably in the area of social absorption. He told the delegates that they must devote special attention to organizing aliya as special projects of their home communities rather than as an initiative from outside.

Sapir spoke at length about the unique contribution of special funds, such as the Israel education fund for the improvement of the quality of life in Israel and urged the delegates to help meet Israel's educational needs, especially pre-kindergarten, high school and neighborhood centers.

The Jewish Agency chairman had warm praise for the settlement projects accomplished by the Agency's settlement department which he described as "one of the shining jewels in the crown of Jewish Agency achievements." He said he would present to the Assembly detailed

plans for new settlements in Galilee and in the Arava district.

Revisionists Attack Sapir

The general display of unity within Zionist ranks was marred by an attack on Sapir emanating from the Revisionist (Merut) wing of the World Zionist movement. Several hours before the Assembly opened, the Revisionists held a press conference in Tel Aviv at which the faction's chairman, Rafael Kolowitz, blamed Sapir personally for the decline in aliya and demanded his ouster. The attack brought swift and angry rebuttals from Max Fisher and Jewish Agency treasurer Leon Dulzin.

Fisher expressed full confidence in Sapir, calling him the "one person who has done more than anyone else for the development of the country and for the improvement of its absorption capacity." Dulzin said the attempt to blame Sapir for declining aliya was "immoral."

The Jewish Agency Assembly will be followed next week by a meeting of the World Zionist Executive of which Sapir is also chairman. It will be attended, among others, by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress; Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the WZO American Section; and David Blumberg, chairman of B'nai B'rith. The Executive is expected to discuss means to counter the Arab boycott against Israel.

STATE DEPARTMENT BLAMES KILLING ON 'WANTON TERRORISTS'

WASHINGTON, June 16 (JTA)--The State Department today blamed the killing of an Israeli woman, her husband and brother by Arab terrorists in the Israeli village of Kfar Yuval, as "clearly sparked by an act of wanton terrorists."

Referring to the attack and the Israeli retaliation that followed against an Arab village in south Lebanon, the State Department statement said: "Our position on such incidents has been stated many times and it has not been changed. We deplore such incidents of violence, which in this case were clearly sparked by an act of wanton terrorism. We particularly deplore and regret very much the loss of innocent lives."

The statement, which came in response to a query by the JTA, on the U.S. feeling on the acts of latest Arab terrorism including the shelling from Lebanon of an Israeli village, appeared to condemn the Israelis for retaliating against Arab terrorist bases in Lebanon, where the four terrorists who were killed in Kfar Yuval were assumed to come from. (By Joseph Polakoff)

THIRD TERRORIST VICTIM DIES; ROCKETS HIT GALILEE TOWNS

By Yitahak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 16 (JTA)--Terrorist rocket fire during the night and early this morning caused some damage but no casualties in Israeli villages near the Lebanese border. Israeli artillery returned the fire. A military spokesman reported damage to power lines and some buildings in Metullah, Israel's northernmost settlement which was the target of Katyusha rockets at about midnight. An Israeli border patrol was attacked near Kfar

JTA After midnight and Katyusha rockets were fired at Kfar Giladi and Metullah just before dawn causing slight damage which was promptly repaired.

Yesterday's terrorist attack on Kfar Yuval claimed its third Israeli victim this morning when Simha Mordechai, 22, died in Safad hospital of wounds inflicted by the same hand grenade that killed her husband Yaacov. Her seven-month-old son, Assaf was still on the serious list after undergoing surgery to remove grenade splinters from his head and legs. Her brother, Nehemia Yossef-Chai, a newly enlisted soldier home on his first leave, was also killed by the four terrorists who invaded the Mordechai home early yesterday morning. All three members of the family will be buried with full military honors at the tiny cemetery in Kfar Yuval.

Yesterday's tragic events were the first flare-up of violence along the Lebanese border for more than a month. Israeli Air Force jets retaliated with heavy strikes at terrorist strongholds in southern Lebanon, concentrating on Shuba village where terrorists are known to assemble for incursions into Israel. Despite the air attacks, Katyusha rockets were fired into Nahariya yesterday evening, wounding two civilians.

Posthumous Decoration

Yaacov Mordechai, who died in the defense of his home in Kfar Yuval will be decorated posthumously for bravery. A veteran soldier in Israel's famed Golani Brigade, he was born in Cochin India, and was brought to Israel as a child of three. He married after his demobilization from the army in which he held the rank of 1st Sgt. Mordechai had participated in numerous skirmishes with terrorists and was known by his fellow soldiers as "the king of Lebanon" because of his intimate knowledge of the southern Lebanese terrain. He was on his way to work yesterday when his house on the outskirts of Kfar Yuval was invaded by terrorists. He joined an army assault party and killed two of the terrorists with machinegun fire. But the third terrorist hurled a grenade that took his life and inflicted fatal wounds on his wife and serious injuries on his infant son.

Simha Mordechai was reported out of danger at Safad Hospital last night. But she suffered a hemorrhage during the night and succumbed this morning. She was unaware that her husband had been killed.

KATZIR TELLS JEWISH AGENCY DELEGATES HE IS ENCOURAGED BY REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA)--President Ephraim Katzir said tonight that he was hopeful and encouraged by reports from Washington of the strengthened American-Israeli understanding. It was Katzir's only reference to current political affairs, in his speech at the opening session of the Jewish Agency's fourth annual Assembly. He promised the 300 delegates they would hear "more of this" from Premier Yitzhak Rabin. He praised Rabin "for his efforts and his dedication."

Katzir said that Jews have survived by living in the long terms of history, despite the sorrows and troubles of so many periods. "The faith and moral strength of Jews throughout the ages will not, and cannot, be allowed to desert us who are the generation that has seen the greatest collec-

tive tragedy and the greatest collective redemption," he declared. He quoted the late Premier Moshe Sharett who once observed that Israel's "capacity for action" was one of the products of Jewish history. It was this capacity for action, Katzir said, that was precisely what the Jewish Agency has demonstrated during the 27 years of Israel's existence. He said that "In these days when so great a part of Israel's resources must go to security, it is unbelievably fortunate that you have accepted a major responsibility in the fields of education and community development."

The President concluded his remarks by quoting another former Premier, Golda Meir, who said to Jewish leaders in 1948, "We will do the fighting by ourselves. The measure of your help will decide whether we win or lose." Referring to the present, Katzir said: "What this fourth Assembly of the Jewish Agency decides this week will determine to a large extent whether we, the entire Jewish people, will win or lose our battle for a just peace and a noble future."

BEIGIN SAYS WORLD OPINION WILL HELP SOVIET JEWS LEAVE

TEL AVIV, June 16 (JTA)--Menachem Beigin, leader of the Herut wing of Likud and Labor Party Secretary General Meir Zarmi shared the date here last night at a special meeting in B'nai B'rith House marking the fifth anniversary of the mass arrests of Jews in the Soviet Union who sought exit visas.

Beigin declared that Israel must unmask the "great Russian bluff" that there is no allya because Jews do not wish to emigrate. World public opinion can force the Russians to open the gates and then thousands and tens of thousands of Jews would leave, he said. Beigin urged all parliaments in the free world to take up the question of Jewish political prisoners in the USSR and the suppression of emigration. He called for organized demonstrations near every Russian Embassy and legation in the free world.

Zarmi reported on the activities of the world socialist movement on behalf of Russian Jews. Shimon Grillos, a former prisoner in the USSR, warned that every Jew in a Russian prison faced the danger of death and therefore action on their behalf was urgent.

CITES ERRORS ON '60 MINUTES'

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA)--Rabbi Joseph Harari, executive director of the Committee for the Rescue of Syrian Jewry, charged today that the re-broadcast of Mike Wallace's "60 Minutes" contained erroneous statements. On the original broadcast, Wallace said that four young Jews were executed for espionage. On the re-broadcast, in an answer to complaints, Wallace justified this by asserting that a Syrian Jew had told him the story. Rabbi Harari said. He complained that this "is totally fictitious," and added "No Syrian Jew has ever been convicted or executed for espionage." He accused Wallace of "lending credibility to the Syrian government's claim that the Jews present the threat of a possible fifth column." He further rebuked Wallace "because he caused a man to falsely stand witness against his own people. No Jew would justify such a lie unless he was forced to," Rabbi Harari concluded by asking Wallace why he did not mention a truthful and more recent incident in which he said, "Last year the secret police delivered to the Damascus Jewish community the bodies of four young women and two men who were murdered as they attempted to flee the country."

U.S. MIDEAST POLICY NOW WAITS MEETING WITH SYRIAN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 16 (JTA)--With Premier Yitzhak Rabin having reached an "understanding" with President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger during his five days of discussions here and in New York, the United States turned its attention today to further contacts with Egypt and other Arab countries. The Syrian Foreign Minister, Abdo Halim Khaddam is due in Washington this Friday for a visit of undetermined duration, indicating the possibility of extended talks with U.S. officials.

The American course toward diplomatic progress in the Middle East, either by a new interim agreement between Israel and Egypt or an overall settlement, remained uncertain, however. The Administration is yet to come up with its foreign aid package for Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria which, most observers agree, will be a tangible indication of the extent of the American commitment to those four countries in economic and military terms during the new fiscal year—that begins July 1.

An aide to Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D, Minn.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's subcommittee on the foreign aid program, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that hearings on the program probably will not begin until some time in July. Secretary Kissinger said last Thursday, in response to a JTA question, that a precise date has not been set for the presentation of this program to Congress.

On May 15, Sen. Humphrey had said that unless the State Department was forthcoming soon with its foreign aid proposals, his subcommittee would begin hearings without the government's presentation directly after the Rabin visit. If the hearings are not held until some time in July, as now indicated, it would be the first time in foreign aid history that the United States has entered a new fiscal year without a complete aid program.

Common U.S.-Israel Ties

U.S.-Israel relations were underlined in the closing days of Rabin's visit in philosophical comments by President Ford and two members of his Cabinet. The President observed that the basis of U.S.-Israeli relations was the two countries' mutual dedication to democracy. Kissinger made the same point in a toast at a dinner for Rabin given last Thursday night by Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, at the Israeli Embassy.

Last night, at the 27th anniversary ball for Israel, held by the Embassy at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Caspar Weinberger stated that the "ties for a strong relationship between the U.S. and Israel that 'unquestionably will continue,' were based on 'similarity of beliefs.' He pointed to the 'deep human concern for the less fortunate' and the 'deep attachment to human liberty and dignity of each individual' as examples of those beliefs. Dinitz reiterated what Rabin had said on the CBS "Face the Nation" program Sunday, prior to his departure from the U.S., that all negotiations and pieces of paper that are signed will be unable to guarantee Israel's security, "unless Israel is strong by itself and for itself." Dinitz presented the Israel Cultural Award at the ball to humorist Sam Levinson.

RABIN URGES AMERICAN ALIYA

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA)--"There is no-

thing more important than aliya," Premier Yitzhak Rabin yesterday told more than 250 American Jewish youth. He urged them to immigrate to Israel because "we need your help. We need your involvement. But most of all, we need you." The gathering, held at the Jewish Agency headquarters here, was sponsored by the American Zionist Youth Foundation and attended by members of a number of American Jewish youth groups.

Rabin stressed that the real challenge facing American Jewish youth at present is "building and fighting in Israel." He added, however, that other challenges are "how to maintain the Jewishness of the Jewish community in America" and helping Jews when and wherever they are persecuted and oppressed.

Answering questions on the political situation in the Mideast and Israel's willingness to make concessions, Rabin had some stinging words to say to those here who demand that Israel will not give up even "one inch." "It is very easy to be extremist in New York. Those who demonstrate that Israel will not give back even an inch will do better if they will come to Israel," He added; "Those who do not have to go to war have to bear in mind that they do not have the right to speak about peace and war" for Israelis.

Rabin, who was flooded with questions from members of Betar, the Herut-affiliated youth organization, mainly on the right of Jews to settle in the West Bank, said that "under the present circumstances we should not do things that will block understanding between the two people (Arabs and Jews)" and that Jews were always tolerant people and "we have to put on ourselves certain restrictions while we have control of the area." Members of the Jewish Defense League demonstrated outside of the building while Rabin was addressing the youngsters. They called on Israel not to give in to Arab demands. (By Yitzhak Rabin)

RABIN RETURNS TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, June 16 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin returned to Israel tonight and declared that he hopes all the participants in the Middle East dispute have learned their lesson from last March's shuttle diplomacy and no dramatic diplomatic moves are made before the components of a settlement are reached through diplomatic contacts. Rabin told newsmen after landing at Ben Gurion Airport that 90 percent of the problems should be settled before the actual negotiations so that there will be no unrealized expectations.

Rabin stressed that if Egyptian President Anwar Sadat means peace, "now is the time to do it." He said peace will be achieved by each side presenting positions that will lead to a settlement. However, Rabin refused to reply to a question at the crowded airport press conference as to whether he brought back any concrete proposals for a settlement. "I shall bring to the Cabinet what I find necessary," he snapped. He added that he would provide the Cabinet with suggestions for action, stressing that this would not require any new decisions.

Rabin said Israel's position was thoroughly explained in Washington. Asked if he persuaded the Americans to accept Israel's views, he replied, "I would not want to say that all I said was accepted by the Americans, but at the same time not everything that was said by the Americans was accepted by me." Rabin stopped off in London before returning, where he met with British Foreign Secretary James Callaghan and Anglo-Jewish leaders. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

INCREASED TOURISM FROM U.S. URGED

By Yitzhak Rabin

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Israeli Tourism Minister Moshe Kol urged American Jews yesterday to come and visit Israel and help to strengthen Israel's economy and the unity of the Jewish people.

Addressing some 200 Jewish leaders and representatives of the travel industry from throughout the United States and Canada at the North American Conference on Tourism at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here, Kol expressed deep concern over the steady decline in American tourism to Israel since 1973. "Where are you Jews of America?" Kol asked, noting that in the last two years there has been a decline of 29 percent in the number of American Jewish tourists to Israel. "The situation is unbearable," Kol said, pointing out that there has not been a decline in tourism to Israel from other parts of the world.

"We are concerned and we think that the situation must change drastically," Kol stated. He observed that since the establishment of Israel only 10-12 percent of American Jewry has visited Israel. Kol added that the sharpest decline was in American Jewish youth tourism to Israel which is 50 percent less this year than in 1974.

In order to encourage American Jews to visit Israel, Kol suggested that a "liaison officer" with the Israel Ministry of Tourism will be appointed in every congregation and synagogue and in every Jewish organization in North America to work toward increasing American tourism to Israel. The conference adopted Kol's suggestion as a resolution at the end of the meeting.

Rabin, in what was his last public appearance before flying back to Israel, stressed the importance of tourism to Israel's economy but observed that for the Israelis tourism means "that we are not alone. It gives us the feeling that we are not isolated." Rabin also said that tourism is important because tourists can come to Israel and see everything for themselves and then can spread the truth about the country. "This is the time for Jews to come to Israel and show their identity and confidence in the future of the Jewish State," Rabin said. He also called upon Christians to visit Israel.

BNAI ZION URGES TOUGH LAWS TO CURB ARAB BOYCOTT IN U.S.

MONTICELLO, N.Y., June 16 (JTA)--Bnai Zion, the national Zionist fraternal order, ended its 66th annual convention here yesterday by adopting a unanimous resolution urging tough legislation to curb the abuse of Arab boycotts of American firms in business relationships with Israel and to halt Arab-directed discrimination against Jewish individuals employed by government or business firms. The resolution charged that Arab interests were pressuring Western companies that do business with them, or hope to, to discriminate against Jewish firms and individuals.

The 500 delegates also adopted a resolution that urged the establishment of a center for Russian olim in Israel to be named and supported by Bnai Zion. Continued support and solidarity for Russian and Syrian Jews was expressed in the resolution which hailed the personal courage of those Jews and called on the Soviet and Syrian governments to grant them freedom. In a special appeal, the delegates called on the Soviet Union to grant speedy trials to Soviet Jewish

prisoners of conscience. Former Congressman, Abraham J. Multer was unanimously re-elected to a third consecutive one-year term as president of Bnai Zion.

JEWS URGED TO STUDY TORAH

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA)--Eight thousand Orthodox Jews, led by 750 rabbis, jammed into Manhattan Center yesterday and heard major rabbinic scholars call on American Jews to "perpetuate the lessons of the Holocaust through a spiritual revival, which can only be achieved by Jewish adults becoming students of the Torah." The assemblage, sponsored by Agudath Israel of America, marked a double event: the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Holocaust in which six million Jews died, and the seventh time Orthodox Jews have completed study of the 2720 folios of the Talmud since a system to study a page a day was instituted in 1933.

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, an Orthodox scholar and dean of Mesivta Tifereth Jerusalem, a rabbinic seminary, declared that "Torah study is not for children alone, but the duty of every Jewish man for his entire life span as a prerequisite toward living a life of a fully committed faithful Jew."

The audience included thousands of Jewish day school students who came in buses. Rabbi Chaskel Besser, a presidium member of Agudath Israel, expressed concern that the Holocaust would lose its significance to American Jewish youth. He warned that "One of the most awesome periods in Jewish history would very well join the thousands of bloodstained pages of Jewish history to which Jewish youth does not relate in any meaningful manner." A proclamation was issued calling on educators to institute Holocaust studies into the curriculum of all Jewish educational institutions.

JEW JOINS GERMAN ARMY

BONN, June 16 (JTA)--The chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Werner Nachmann, 50, is off on four weeks military training. Nachmann, who was recently awarded West Germany's Order of Merit by President Walter Scheel, says his decision to do voluntary military training is to demonstrate the closeness of German Jews to the new West German State. Under present laws, Jews are not obliged to do military service in the Bundeswehr.

JNF THINNING OUT FORESTS

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund, traditionally a tree-planting organization, expects to make J.L. 8.9 million this year--by thinning forests, rather than filling them. The dead wood will partly go to JNF saw mills, partly to pulp processing factories, and the remainder to agriculture for use as support posts, primarily in banana fields.

The 60,000 tons of thinned wood is the output of some 40,000 dunams of forest thinning. The thinning must be undertaken for the purpose of clearing old tree plots for new regeneration, increased growth yield of remaining trees and the blazing of new forest roads built for purposes of getting the newly cut wood from the forests.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--The winners of Bible quizzes conducted in 16 prisons all over Israel assembled at the Beersheba jail for the convicts' finale Sunday night and crowned one of their number the new "Queen of the Bible." She is Souhr Bint Sherif, a blond long-haired Christian Arab from East Jerusalem who is serving a four-year sentence for subversive activities.