



daily news bulletin

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Friday, January 2, 1976

No. 1

NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON REPORT THAT ALLON PROPOSED ISRAEL HOLD 'INFORMAL' TALKS WITH JORDAN FOR INTERIM ACCORD

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry refused to comment today on a report that Foreign Minister Yigal Allon has proposed that Israel conduct "informal" negotiations with Jordan for an interim agreement at which West Bank Arab leaders would be part of the Jordanian delegation.

The report, by Ma'ariv's political correspondent, Yosef Harif, appeared on the eve of Allon's departure for Washington where he will meet on Jan. 7 and 8 with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and possibly with President Ford. According to Ma'ariv, Allon's suggestion was the first by a ranking member of the government that included West Bank leaders in negotiations with Jordan, an apparent attempt to neutralize the PLO.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman hinted that the reported proposal coincided with Allon's views when he referred newsmen to the Foreign Minister's speech at the Labor Party's ideological forum at Beit Berl last week. Allon said at that time that when the time comes to negotiate with Jordan, "We shall want to consult both the Jordanians and the West Bankers on the way to include West Bank representatives in the talks."

Could Neutralize the PLO

The question remained as to whether Allon was merely repeating in political consultations this week what he had said on the record last week or was actively pushing for an Israeli initiative in that direction.

Ma'ariv quoted other political figures as expressing doubts as to the feasibility of Allon's proposal considering the reluctance of West Bank leaders to participate in such negotiations. The paper named Premier Yitzhak Rabin as one of those who "probably" opposed Allon's ideas. The Foreign Minister reportedly defended his suggestion on grounds that it could neutralize the PLO and present Israel, for a change, as a country with positive ideas. Allon was said to believe that if the West Bankers reject his proposal, the onus will be on the other side, not Israel.

Allon's visit to Washington is linked to the Security Council debate on the Middle East scheduled for Jan. 12 at which the Palestine Liberation Organization is due to participate. Israel is still maintaining that it will boycott the session because of the PLO presence.

ZIONIST GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING BEGINS JAN. 4; FOCUS WILL BE ON RACE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE WZO

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- The annual meeting of the Zionist General Council will open here Sunday night and continue for the next four days. Its immediate task will be to implement the decisions taken at the international conference on solidarity with Zionism and Israel held in Jerusalem last month. Council chairman Yitzhak Navon said at a press conference yes-

terday: But most attention will be focussed on the hotly contested race for the chairmanship of the World Zionist Organization Executive.

The two candidates are Leon Dulzin, acting chairman of the WZO since the death of Pincas Sapir last August, and Yosef Almogi, the Mayor of Haifa who is the Labor Party's choice for the post. Dulzin concedes that the vote will be a close one. Almogi says he is certain of victory. The chairman of the WZO Executive is, by tradition, automatically elected chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive. Whoever wins this week will have to stand for reelection when the World Zionist Congress convenes in Jerusalem next summer.

Navon said the opening session would be addressed by Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Dulzin and Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem. The rest of the sessions will be devoted to Council business and the final one will be a ceremonial celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Jewish National Fund to be addressed by Yaacov Tsur, chairman of the JNF Board. Navon said.

The Zionist General Council is the governing body of the WZO between Zionist Congresses and deals with matters that arise in that interim. It consists of 110 voting members of whom 42 are from Israel and the rest from diaspora countries. There are also 47 members without voting rights.

RABIN DUE IN WASHINGTON

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VENEZUELA REJECTS PLO REQUEST TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN CARACAS

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- Venezuela has refused a request by the Palestine Liberation Organization to open an office in Caracas, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The ADL said that the Venezuelan Ministry of Foreign Relations stated that the refusal was based upon Venezuela's policy of maintaining relations only with nations and international organizations.

The PLO request was made Nov. 7 during a visit to Caracas by a PLO delegation. The PLO published an advertisement in Caracas newspapers on Dec. 18 as a means of pressuring the Venezuelan government. The advertisement expressed the PLO's sadness that the government had not yet responded to the request for the establishment of an official permanent PLO delegation in Caracas, the ADL reported.

HAZAN PLAN FOR JERUSALEM

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- Veteran Mapam

leader Yaacov Hazan has proposed a plan for Jerusalem that would leave the city united under Israeli control. He told Mapam's political committee yesterday that under his proposal there would still be a central municipal government that would have authority over the entire city but the city would be divided into areas or boroughs on the basis of the demographic distribution of the population. The various areas would have authority to handle their affairs independently.

Hazan proposed his own Jerusalem plan because, he said, it was better for Israel to defend its own proposal than to oppose a plan by its opponents. The fact that some U.S. universities are working on draft proposals for Jerusalem means that people are thinking about the problem and it will come up sooner or later.

Hazan said the Old City should be governed by a committee of Jews, Christians and Moslems and the holy places should be regarded as having extraterritoriality, although Israel should continue to be responsible for maintaining order at the sites.

He said the Arabs could hold citizenship in some state east of Israel (he did not specify whether this would be Jordan or a Palestinian state) or they could apply for Israeli citizenship. He said if they retain their Arab citizenship they should still be given all the rights of Israeli citizens except to vote for the Knesset.

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Abramowitz said "there are hundreds of congregations throughout the country which because of lack of sufficient funds had no choice but to rent quarters in residential buildings." He said that very often the landlords, seeking higher rentals, sued the congregations on charges of disturbing other tenants.

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Schwimmer, who founded IAI, one of Israel's largest defense contractors and its leading producer of military and civilian aircraft, said the firm was feeling the effects of the government's austerity program. He said cutbacks in orders from the Defense Ministry affected IAI's subsidiary firms that produce helmets, electronic equipment and various metal and plastic products used by the military. But aircraft sales abroad show good prospects he said.

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JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- Eight Arab students departed from the Hebrew University campus at Ein Karem yesterday, choosing to leave rather than stand compulsory guard duty with their Jewish dormitory mates. The Arab youths said their refusal was a "principle of conscience" and noted that Israeli Arabs are not conscripted for compulsory duty in the armed forces. The Ein Karem campus houses mainly pre-medical students.

The Arab students had volunteered to perform non-security related services on the campus such as first aid in lieu of guard duty. But the University Student Union, dominated by the militant Likud and National Religious Party, rejected the offer. They insisted that in addition to first aid duties, the Arabs patrol the campus. The University authorities who would have preferred a compromise, said they could only accept one that was agreed to by the Student Union which they recognize as the sole official representative of the student body, including the Arabs.

Amin Riad, head of the Arab Students Committee warned, "If we are forced to leave the campus the issue will be brought to the Arab public and then it will be hard to stop it from rolling."

ZIONIST OFFICIAL SAYS ZIONISM FAILED TO COPE WITH CRISIS IN WORLD JEWRY

LONDON, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- The younger leadership department of the World Zionist Organization is to convene a world emergency conference of young Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, department head Uri Gordon announced here. He was addressing a meeting of younger Zionist leaders, representing all parties, at the British Zionist Federation headquarters.

He dwelt on the failure of the organized Zionism to cope with the present crisis in world

Jewry: "We denounce the enemies of Zionism and wear 'I'm a Zionist' badges, but no one pays attention to the weariness of the World Zionist Organization and to its detachment from Jewish life," Gordon said. He cited two examples of the failure of the present set-up in organized Zionism to perform its proper function. One was that "not even one percent of the half-million Jewish students in American universities have ever come to Israel even in its darkest hours." The other was that "only 70 percent of 3,000 British volunteers who went to Israel in unofficially-sponsored schemes in the past year were Jewish."

Gordon charged that many excellent young people were ready to work for Zionism in Britain and elsewhere "but they are kept out of the established set-up." He warned that "unless there is a radical shake-up" in this set-up "Zionist work will continue in its present doldrums." Gordon spoke of the partnership between young Jews in the diaspora and young Israelis, and together he hoped they might effect change inside Israel.

ISRAELI SECRET SERVICE IMPLICATES ALGERIA, LIBYA, IRAQ IN TERRORIST ATTACK AT OPEC HEADQUARTERS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- The Israeli secret service implicates Algeria, Libya and Iraq directly in last month's attack by Palestinian and European terrorists on the headquarters of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna in which three persons were killed and 11 oil ministers kidnapped. According to the newspaper France Soir, the Israelis are convinced that Algeria organized and supervised the operation in collaboration with the other two Arab countries and extremist Palestinian terrorist groups.

If the Israeli view is as reported, it coincides remarkably with the charge published today in the semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram that the Vienna assault was masterminded by one Dr. Wadi Haddad and financed by Libya with the collaboration of Algeria.

France Soir, which did not identify its sources of information, said today that the Israeli secret service learned that the attack on OPEC followed a secret meeting in Baghdad attended by Haddad, by a wanted international terrorist known as Carlos Martinez, an Algerian representative and a Libyan delegate. Haddad is in charge of military operations of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist terrorist group that split from the PLO.

Several Questions Raised

All Hamdi Gammal, editor of Al Ahram, said, however, that the attack was carried out by the Libyan-backed Popular Revolutionary Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a splinter organization of the PFLP. "Why did the Algerian authorities allow the guerrillas to travel to Libya instead of trying them or handing them over to the Palestine Liberation Organization to try them?" he asked.

He also questioned the reasons behind last Sunday's meeting between Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi and President Houari Boumediene of Algeria. "All these indications and information make us wonder whether there

was a premeditated agreement on this operation," Gammal wrote.

Plans Finalized in Libya

The France Soir article said Israeli intelligence learned that the four men who attended the secret Baghdad meeting prepared plans for the Vienna attack which were finalized in Tripoli, Libya. After a stay in Libya, Carlos went to West Germany to recruit some members of the Baader-Meinhof, an anarchist group. The terrorists arrived in Vienna on Dec. 19 and carried out the attack according to plan, although the killing of three people was a blunder that temporarily embarrassed the Algerians, France Soir said.

Carlos Martinez is still at large and may be hiding out in Libya. He is wanted in France for the murder last June of two French secret service agents and a Lebanese informer.

TALKING TO THE WALL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- The Knesset proved yesterday it can carry on even without any of its members present. Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Barlev, Police Minister Shlomo Hillel and Tourism Minister Moshe Kol answered some 60 questions submitted to them earlier by Knesseters although there were no MKs present to hear the answers.

The Knesset emptied out after a long session and by 7 p.m. only Amnon Lin of Likud and Yitzhak Golan of the Independent Liberal Party were still in their seats. Lin suggested to Golan that they leave "to bring things to the absurdity they are." When both MKs walked out it left only a stenographer and two attendants to hear the ministers. Kol, courtly to the end, thanked the stenographer for being kind enough to listen to him.

ANCIENT TABLET RETURNED TO HEBREW U.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- A clay tablet identified as a legal document from the Biblical city of Hazor estimated to be about 3600 years old, has been restored to the Hebrew University by an American tourist who discovered it at the probable site of Hazor ten years ago. The tourist, who was not identified, took the fragment out of the country at the time. According to Israeli law, such archaeological finds must be submitted to the department of antiquities.

Prof. Yigael Yadin, head of the University's Institute of Archaeology, said the object probably came from the royal archives at Hazor which have not yet been discovered. The Arkadian cuneiform inscriptions correspond with a section of an Arkadian-Sumerian dictionary also discovered at the same site, Prof. Yadin said.

The tourist showed his find to Prof. W. Hallo of Yale University in 1971. Prof. Hallo identified it as a legal document in which the King of Hazor rendered a judgement in favor of a woman in connection with real estate in his kingdom. The inscription is in the old Babylonian style of the Late Period and dates approximately to the 17th century BCE. According to Prof. Yadin the find makes it possible to identify the site of Biblical Hazor and proves there were royal scribes at the palace there.

FORD DECLARES ISRAEL ELIGIBLE FOR GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- American firms seeking to locate industrial plants abroad will find the advantages offered by Israel virtually unmatched by any other country as a result of an Executive Order by President Ford, effective today, the Government of Israel Investment Authority announced here. The Presidential order makes Israel one of the few selected countries eligible for the Generalized System of Preferences. This means that more than 2700 products manufactured in Israel can now be imported into the U.S. duty-free, the Investment Authority said.

The advantages that would accrue to an American company locating an industrial site in Israel include, according to the Investment Authority, duty-free access to many U.S. markets; duty-free access to the European Common Market; a preferential tax position, including higher foreign tax credits; and protection from double taxation. The duty-free status applies to many metal products, fine chemicals, electrical and electronic products, computers and medical instruments. Textile and semi-finished goods are excluded under the agreement.

GSP Is A Reciprocal Agreement

The GSP is a reciprocal agreement. Israel has agreed to reduce import tariffs on over 130 U.S. made items, the Investment Authority said. The Authority quoted a senior Israeli government official as saying that products manufactured in Israel by American firms "will be able to reach Europe and the United States as if they were manufactured in the domestic markets duty free."

"At the same time, manufacturers will be able to take advantage of U.S. tax breaks not granted to operations in either the U.S. or the EEC. Together with Israel's low costs, high technical skills and generous financial incentives, these tax breaks will make it more advantageous from a 'cost of doing business' standpoint to locate in Israel than in either the Common Market or the U.S.," the official said.

Israel bases this claim on its admission to the European Common Market as an associate member last July with an initial 60 percent reduction in customs duties on all industrial exports to EEC countries; the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty of November 20, 1975 which, subject to Congressional approval, will protect American firms investing in Israel from double taxation; and the Israel government's recent raising of existing grants for research and development to match, dollar-for-dollar, the investing company's investment in research and development.

JWB PLANS CULTURAL ARTS CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- The Jewish Welfare Board will hold a 3-day American Bicentennial conference on the Jewish cultural arts beginning Jan. 10. Arthur Miller, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, is scheduled to open the conference at the 92nd Street Y. Dore Schary, motion picture producer and director and Academy Award winning playwright, is chairman of the conference.

Schary said the conclave will focus on the ways in which Jews, in the cultural mainstream of American line, have influenced American arts, and in turn, on how Jewish life has been

shaped creatively by the distinctive American experience. A spokesman for the JWB said the conference is unique in that it will probably be the largest assemblage of celebrities ever to gather under the auspices of a national Jewish organization and because all the participants are Jewish and have contributed substantially to American culture.

Among those participating in the first sessions dealing with "Jewish Culture: An Overview" will be Barbara Tuchman, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian; Alfred Kazin, noted author and Distinguished Professor of English at Hunter College; and Richard Gilman, former drama critic of Newsweek magazine.

Festival of Arts Planned

On Jan. 11 there will be a gala festival of the arts. Performers scheduled to participate include Sam Levinson, the comedian; actors Sam Levene, Arnold Moss, Harry and Marguerite Goz and Marian Seldes; composers Jule Styne, Cy Coleman and Burton Lane; the Adat Beyt Mosheh Chorus; and the Felix Fibich Dance Ensemble. There will be a day-time seminar Jan. 11 and 12 on writing, music, the popular arts and the fine arts. The seminars on writing, music and the popular arts will be held at the Jewish Museum.

Among the participants will be Jerome Weidman, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and novelist; Irving Howe, literary critic and author; Cynthia Ozick, author; Paddy Chayefsky, playwright and Academy Award-winning film script writer; Eugene B. Borowitz, author and editor of the journal, *Sh'ma*; Martin Gottfried, drama critic of the *New York Post*; and authors Jacob Kabakoff and Bel Kaufman.

According to the JWB, the conference is a confirmation of a recent statement by JWB president Daniel Rose that "America is good for the Jews. The Jews are good for America."

SOVIET JEWISH WOMAN BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO IN MENTAL INSTITUTION

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- A Soviet Jewish woman, Meta Leikina, has been held incommunicado for eight months in a mental institution in Kazan in the Soviet Tartar Republic and is suffering from malnutrition and severe mental depression, according to information reaching her daughter, Anna Rosnóvskaya, who lives in Israel. Details of the case were reported by Inez Weissman, president of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry.

According to Weissman, the daughter learned of her mother's condition from her sister in Moscow who only recently was allowed to visit Mrs. Leikina for the first time since her incarceration. The daughter reported that her mother's weight was down to 100 pounds, that she was wracked by despair and wanted only to die. The medical committee at the mental institution which is supposed to consider her case will not meet for another seven months.

Mrs. Leikina was given an indeterminate sentence after conviction at a secret trial for allegedly smuggling a victim out of the Soviet Union. The charge was false, the court sat in camera and the accused was not permitted to attend her own trial, Weissman said.



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Jewry: "We denounce the enemies of Zionism and wear 'I'm a Zionist' badges, but no one pays attention to the weariness of the World Zionist Organization and to its detachment from Jewish life," Gordon said. He cited two examples of the failure of the present set-up in organized Zionism to perform its proper function. One was that "not even one percent of the half-million Jewish students in American universities have ever come to Israel even in its darkest hours." The other was that "only 70 percent of 3,000 British volunteers who went to Israel in unofficially-sponsored schemes in the past year were Jewish."

Gordon charged that many excellent young people were ready to work for Zionism in Britain and elsewhere "but they are kept out of the established set-up." He warned that "unless there is a radical shake-up" in this set-up "Zionist work will continue in its present doldrums." Gordon spoke of the partnership between young Jews in the diaspora and young Israelis, and together he hoped they might effect change inside Israel.

ISRAELI SECRET SERVICE IMPLICATES ALGERIA, LIBYA, IRAQ IN TERRORIST ATTACK AT OPEC HEADQUARTERS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- The Israeli secret service implicates Algeria, Libya and Iraq directly in last month's attack by Palestinian and European terrorists on the headquarters of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna in which three persons were killed and 11 oil ministers kidnapped. According to the newspaper France Soir, the Israelis are convinced that Algeria organized and supervised the operation in collaboration with the other two Arab countries and extremist Palestinian terrorist groups.

If the Israeli view is as reported, it coincides remarkably with the charge published today in the semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram that the Vienna assault was masterminded by one Dr. Wadi Haddad and financed by Libya with the collaboration of Algeria.

France Soir, which did not identify its sources of information, said today that the Israeli secret service learned that the attack on OPEC followed a secret meeting in Baghdad attended by Haddad, by a wanted international terrorist known as Carlos Martinez, an Algerian representative and a Libyan delegate. Haddad is in charge of military operations of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist terrorist group that split from the PLO.

Several Questions Raised

All Hamdi Gammal, editor of Al Ahram, said, however, that the attack was carried out by the Libyan-backed Popular Revolutionary Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a splinter organization of the PFLP. "Why did the Algerian authorities allow the guerrillas to travel to Libya instead of trying them or handing them over to the Palestine Liberation Organization to try them?" he asked.

He also questioned the reasons behind last Sunday's meeting between Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi and President Houari Boumediene of Algeria. "All these indications and information make us wonder whether there

was a premeditated agreement on this operation," Gammal wrote.

Plans Finalized in Libya

The France Soir article said Israeli intelligence learned that the four men who attended the secret Baghdad meeting prepared plans for the Vienna attack which were finalized in Tripoli, Libya. After a stay in Libya, Carlos went to West Germany to recruit some members of the Baader-Meinhof, an anarchist group. The terrorists arrived in Vienna on Dec. 19 and carried out the attack according to plan, although the killing of three people was a blunder that temporarily embarrassed the Algerians, France Soir said.

Carlos Martinez is still at large and may be hiding out in Libya. He is wanted in France for the murder last June of two French secret service agents and a Lebanese informer.

TALKING TO THE WALL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- The Knesset proved yesterday it can carry on even without any of its members present. Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Barlev, Police Minister Shlomo Hillel and Tourism Minister Moshe Kol answered some 60 questions submitted to them earlier by Knesseters although there were no MKs present to hear the answers.

The Knesset emptied out after a long session and by 7 p.m. only Amnon Lin of Likud and Yitzhak Golan of the Independent Liberal Party were still in their seats. Lin suggested to Golan that they leave "to bring things to the absurdity they are." When both MKs walked out it left only a stenographer and two attendants to hear the ministers. Kol, courtly to the end, thanked the stenographer for being kind enough to listen to him.

ANCIENT TABLET RETURNED TO HEBREW U.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- A clay tablet identified as a legal document from the Biblical city of Hazor estimated to be about 3600 years old, has been restored to the Hebrew University by an American tourist who discovered it at the probable site of Hazor ten years ago. The tourist, who was not identified, took the fragment out of the country at the time. According to Israeli law, such archaeological finds must be submitted to the department of antiquities.

Prof. Yigael Yadin, head of the University's Institute of Archaeology, said the object probably came from the royal archives at Hazor which have not yet been discovered. The Arkadian cuneiform inscriptions correspond with a section of an Arkadian-Sumerian dictionary also discovered at the same site, Prof. Yadin said.

The tourist showed his find to Prof. W. Hallo of Yale University in 1971. Prof. Hallo identified it as a legal document in which the King of Hazor rendered a judgement in favor of a woman in connection with real estate in his kingdom. The inscription is in the old Babylonian style of the Late Period and dates approximately to the 17th century BCE. According to Prof. Yadin the find makes it possible to identify the site of Biblical Hazor and proves there were royal scribes at the palace there.

FORD DECLARES ISRAEL ELIGIBLE FOR GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- American firms seeking to locate industrial plants abroad will find the advantages offered by Israel virtually unmatched by any other country as a result of an Executive Order by President Ford, effective today, the Government of Israel Investment Authority announced here. The Presidential order makes Israel one of the few selected countries eligible for the Generalized System of Preferences. This means that more than 2700 products manufactured in Israel can now be imported into the U.S. duty-free, the Investment Authority said.

The advantages that would accrue to an American company locating an industrial site in Israel include, according to the Investment Authority, duty-free access to many U.S. markets; duty-free access to the European Common Market; a preferential tax position, including higher foreign tax credits; and protection from double taxation. The duty-free status applies to many metal products, fine chemicals, electrical and electronic products, computers and medical instruments. Textile and semi-finished goods are excluded under the agreement.

GSP Is A Reciprocal Agreement

The GSP is a reciprocal agreement. Israel has agreed to reduce import tariffs on over 130 U.S. made items, the Investment Authority said. The Authority quoted a senior Israeli government official as saying that products manufactured in Israel by American firms "will be able to reach Europe and the United States as if they were manufactured in the domestic markets duty free."

"At the same time, manufacturers will be able to take advantage of U.S. tax breaks not granted to operations in either the U.S. or the EEC. Together with Israel's low costs, high technical skills and generous financial incentives, these tax breaks will make it more advantageous from a 'cost of doing business' standpoint to locate in Israel than in either the Common Market or the U.S.," the official said.

Israel bases this claim on its admission to the European Common Market as an associate member last July with an initial 60 percent reduction in customs duties on all industrial exports to EEC countries; the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty of November 20, 1975 which, subject to Congressional approval, will protect American firms investing in Israel from double taxation; and the Israel government's recent raising of existing grants for research and development to match, dollar-for-dollar, the investing company's investment in research and development.

JWB PLANS CULTURAL ARTS CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- The Jewish Welfare Board will hold a 3-day American Bicentennial conference on the Jewish cultural arts beginning Jan. 10. Arthur Miller, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, is scheduled to open the conference at the 92nd Street Y. Dore Schary, motion picture producer and director and Academy Award winning playwright, is chairman of the conference.

Schary said the conclave will focus on the ways in which Jews, in the cultural mainstream of American line, have influenced American arts, and in turn, on how Jewish life has been

shaped creatively by the distinctive American experience. A spokesman for the JWB said the conference is unique in that it will probably be the largest assemblage of celebrities ever to gather under the auspices of a national Jewish organization and because all the participants are Jewish and have contributed substantially to American culture.

Among those participating in the first sessions dealing with "Jewish Culture; An Overview" will be Barbara Tuchman, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian; Alfred Kazin, noted author and Distinguished Professor of English at Hunter College; and Richard Gilman, former drama critic of Newsweek magazine.

Festival of Arts Planned

On Jan. 11 there will be a gala festival of the arts. Performers scheduled to participate include Sam Levinson, the comedian; actors Sam Levene, Arnold Moss, Harry and Marguerite Goz and Marian Seldes; composers Jule Styne, Cy Coleman and Burton Lane; the Adat Beyt Mosheh Chorus; and the Felix Fibich Dance Ensemble. There will be a day-time seminar Jan. 11 and 12 on writing, music, the popular arts and the fine arts. The seminars on writing, music and the popular arts will be held at the Jewish Museum.

Among the participants will be Jerome Weidman, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and novelist; Irving Howe, literary critic and author; Cynthia Ozick, author; Paddy Chayefsky, playwright and Academy Award-winning filmscript writer; Eugene B. Borowitz, author and editor of the journal, *Sh'ma*; Martin Gottfried, drama critic of the *New York Post*; and authors Jacob Kabakoff and Bel Kaufman.

According to the JWB, the conference is a confirmation of a recent statement by JWB president Daniel Rose that "America is good for the Jews. The Jews are good for America."

SOVIET JEWISH WOMAN BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO IN MENTAL INSTITUTION

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- A Soviet Jewish woman, Meta Leikina, has been held incommunicado for eight months in a mental institution in Kazan in the Soviet Tartar Republic and is suffering from malnutrition and severe mental depression, according to information reaching her daughter, Anna Rosnóvskaya, who lives in Israel. Details of the case were reported by Inez Weissman, president of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry.

According to Weissman, the daughter learned of her mother's condition from her sister in Moscow who only recently was allowed to visit Mrs. Leikina for the first time since her incarceration. The daughter reported that her mother's weight was down to 100 pounds, that she was wracked by despair and wanted only to die. The medical committee at the mental institution which is supposed to consider her case will not meet for another seven months.

Mrs. Leikina was given an indeterminate sentence after conviction at a secret trial for allegedly smuggling a victim out of the Soviet Union. The charge was false, the court sat in camera and the accused was not permitted to attend her own trial, Weissman said.