



daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XLIII - 59th Year

Wednesday, February 4, 1976

No. 24

RIVLIN REPORTS BELGIAN GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO BOW TO ARAB PRESSURE TO CANCEL SOVIET JEWRY CONFERENCE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Moshe Rivlin, director general of the Jewish Agency, disclosed that Arab states were pressuring the Belgian government to cancel the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry scheduled to open in Brussels Feb. 17. The Belgian government has rejected these pressures and the conference will open as scheduled, Rivlin said in a report to the Jewish Agency Executive. He said the pressure was applied by Iraq which claimed that it was acting in the name of all Arab states.

Meanwhile, it was announced that the Israeli delegation attending the Brussels conference will be headed by Yosef Almogi, chairman of the World Zionist Organization; Avraham Harman, president of the Hebrew University and chairman of the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jews; and Zalman Abramov, a member of Knesset and president of the Council. (See related stories this page and Page 4.)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGES CONGRESS TO EXPRESS SOLIDARITY OF AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH BRUSSELS CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 (JTA)--A concurrent resolution calling on Congress to "express the solidarity of the American people, with the efforts to enlarge human freedom by the participants in the Second Brussels Conference" on Soviet Jewry was introduced today in the Senate by Sens. Clifford Case (R,NJ) and Henry M. Jackson (D,Wash.) and in the House by Rep. James Scheuer (D,NY). The Brussels Conference will be held from Feb. 17-19.

The resolution was preceded by a letter to all members of both Houses from the three initiators pointing out that the Brussels Conference is a signal to the Kremlin "that the civilized world expects the Soviet Union to abide by all the international resolutions and declarations of human rights to which it has subscribed." The letter referred specifically to the Helsinki Declaration signed by Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev and the UN Declaration of Human Rights that assured all people the right of free emigration.

The letter also pointed out that the First World Conference on Soviet Jewry held in Brussels five years ago "marked the beginning of large-scale intensive action on behalf of Soviet Jews." It noted that in the period since then, 112,000 Soviet Jews received exit visas compared to only 10,000 in the 23 years from 1948, when the State of Israel was formed, until 1971.

The resolution stated that the struggle by Soviet Jews to emigrate has continued in face of severe repression and on the "eve of the (second Brussels) Conference is marked by increased intimidation and persecution of Soviet Jews who seek to emigrate" and a "new and widespread campaign of anti-Semitism within the Soviet Union."

The resolution added that "The American people have, through legislation and in other ways, demonstrated their support for the struggle of

Soviet Jews to be free." The three sponsors urged Congress "to move expeditiously in this important bi-partisan expression of solidarity." (By Joseph Polakoff)

KISSINGER: CONGRESS' APPROVAL OF TRADE ACT, EX-IM BANK LAW SHOWED IT DIDN'T UNDERSTAND SOVIET POLITICS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger today charged that Congress acted "without subtlety or understanding of Soviet politics" in adopting legislation in the Trade Act of 1974 and the U.S. Export-Import Bank Law that linked U.S. trade benefits to the Soviet Union to Soviet emigration policy.

"The human rights issue is a matter of deep and legitimate concern to all Americans," Kissinger told a meeting of the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco and the World Affairs Council of Northern California in San Francisco. "But the Congressional attempt to link it openly with economic relations without subtlety or understanding of Soviet politics, both deprived us of economic levers and sharply reduced Soviet emigration. Other industrial countries have stepped in to provide credit and technology with less concern for the objective of inducing political restraint which we had envisioned."

This paragraph was sandwiched in Kissinger's 16-page discourse on U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union in which he noted that "the catastrophic nature of nuclear war imposes upon us the necessity that transcends traditional concepts of diplomacy and balance of power."

ISRAEL EVACUATES SINAI ZONE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 3 (JTA)--A 200-square kilometer area in the former United Nations buffer zone in Sinai was evacuated by Israeli troops yesterday and turned over to Egyptian forces under the terms of the Sinai accord signed last September. The area extends from the Firdan Bridge southward to the middle of the Great Bitter Lake. The final Israeli withdrawal under terms of the accord will be completed on Feb. 22 when Egyptian units will enter additional areas of what was formerly the UN buffer zone.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres conferred last night with Gen. Ensis Sillasvuo, commander of UN forces in the Middle East on matters concerning implementation of the interim agreement with Egypt. Members of the Israeli General Staff visited forward lines in Sinai and consulted with the commanding officer of the southern front preparatory to the final evacuation.

PERES INDICATES HE SEES NO NEED TO HOLD INTERIM TALKS WITH JORDAN By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres indicated today that he saw no need for interim talks with Jordan and that any negotiations with that country should be for a final peace settlement. Peres made his remarks in a broadcast on the Army Radio Station. He said that for all practical purposes, the situation that interim negotiations could achieve already exists. "The borders with Jordan are quiet, the Jordan River bridges are open and the tone of relations with

Jordan, even in Jordanian statements, is polite, he said.

Peres expressed his views as reports reached Israel that Premier Yitzhak Rabin broached the subject of talks with Jordan to President Ford at their White House meetings last week and that the President appeared to accept Rabin's "Jordanian option" by which the Palestinian issue would be settled in the context of Israeli-Jordan negotiations. According to the reports, President Ford said the U.S. would feel out King Hussein on this plan when the Jordanian ruler visits Washington in March.

Lebanese Army In Former Position

Meanwhile, Peres disclosed that the Lebanese army has returned to its former positions in southern Lebanon near the Israel border which it had evacuated during the height of the Lebanese civil war last month. However, according to Peres, the Lebanese forces returning to the region consist of about two battalions, one less than before their evacuation. He also reported that one of the Palestine Liberation Army battalions that entered Lebanon last month has returned to Syria.

Peres said there are presently four of the Syrian-sponsored PLA battalions in Lebanon, consisting of between 1500-2000 men without tanks or artillery. Nevertheless, Peres said, they constitute a significant force when added to the 10,000 Palestinian terrorists in Lebanon.

Peres said the Palestinians were employed guarding the various refugee camps and training depots during the Lebanese fighting. He said their presence did not affect Israel and that there has been no increase of terrorist activity along the Lebanese border, although Israeli forces are prepared for any eventuality.

SPECULATION THAT RABIN GOVERNMENT MAY BE SEEKING TO BROADEN ITS BASE BY WOOLING ULTRA-ORTHODOX FACTION By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA)-- The large turnout of Labor Party ministers at the opening of the Poalei Aguda Israel national convention here Monday night has aroused speculation that the Rabin government may be seeking to broaden its political base by wooing the ultra-Orthodox splinter faction.

Justice Minister Haim Zadok, delivering the government's greetings to the convention, remarked that "we've always seen you as a natural coalition partner." Acting Premier Yigal Allon and several other Labor Ministers said nothing, but appeared to approve Zadok's implied invitation.

The Poalei Aguda, with two Knesset seats and the Aguda Israel with three seats, comprise the so-called "Torah bloc" in the Knesset, a faction well to the right of the National Religious Party and uncompromising in its religious zealotry. Were the Poalei Aguda to enter the coalition, the "Torah bloc" would be broken. The faction served in several coalition governments in the 1950s and 1960s after the Aguda seceded over the issue of army service for women.

At the convention opening, veteran Poalei Aguda leader, Kalman Kahane, rebuked the new chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, a Reform rabbi, because of his statement last month in Jerusalem that the Presidents Conference would not automatically

accept policy lines dictated by Israel. Kahane also bewailed the decline of religious values in Israel.

HOMOSEXUALS IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Israeli homosexuals came out of the closet and into the national spotlight last night in a three-and-a-half-hour television panel discussion, the first ever in Israel to deal with the problems of homosexuals in this country. The program featured two male homosexuals who readily identified themselves and several others whose faces were concealed from viewers. Two psychiatrists and two MKS were also on the panel.

The MKs took diametrically opposing views on the issue of liberalizing Israel's strict laws proscribing homosexual acts. Ms. Shulamit Aloni of the leftist Yaad faction, declared that the laws must be changed because homosexuals have the same right as all citizens to follow their own life-style in private without fear of blackmail and loss of jobs. She rejected the claim by one of the psychiatrists that homosexuality was a disease.

Yedidia Beerl, of the right-wing Likud faction, said he would fight against liberalizing the laws because he believed that lifting the ban on homosexual acts would be to admit they were "a good thing" and permissible.

Lesbians, Homosexuals Are Organized

I. Angel, an admitted homosexual who participated in the discussion, disclosed for the first time that an organization exists in Israel for homosexuals and lesbians. During the course of the program, unverified reports were mentioned that about five percent of Israel's male population was homosexual. There was no estimate of the number of female homosexuals in the country.

One of the homosexuals, who declined to be identified, alleged that he had been abused by bullies and by the police. A senior police officer who appeared on the program said that on the recommendation of the Attorney General, the laws against homosexuality were hardly ever enforced.

The program contained a 10-minute taped interview with representative Israelis on the subject which indicated widespread public prejudice and ignorance regarding homosexuality. A majority of the persons interviewed said they would refuse to employ a homosexual or rent a room to one. The program also included a BBC-TV film on homosexuality which depicted a religious marriage ceremony between two male homosexuals.

HERZOG REGRETS MOYNIHAN'S RESIGNATION

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Chaim Herzog, expressed "the greatest of regret" today over Ambassador Daniel P. Moynihan's decision to resign his post as U.S. Ambassador to the UN. "I regret the departure of a friend and of one who has succeeded in adding a new dimension to the UN, which gave promise of arresting the process of deterioration in the UN," Herzog said in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"His was the privilege of participating on behalf of the U.S. in the historic debate in the UN on Zionism and in the struggle against the evil forces which introduced the infamous resolution" equating Zionism with racism, Herzog said. He added that Moynihan's part in that debate and his activity in the UN "have earned him the gratitude of the Jewish people and of the ordinary men and women

yearning for personal liberty and freedom throughout the world."

STORM CONTINUES OVER CRITICISM OF ISRAEL'S WEAPONS PURCHASE LIST

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Many Likud MKs were reportedly having second thoughts today over a sharply worked motion of non-confidence in the government introduced in the Knesset yesterday by Haim Landau of Likud's Herut faction. The MKs, among them Shmuel Tamir and others, fear that the motion, which has already been published in the local press, will further discomfit Premier Yitzhak Rabin on his current American visit.

The non-confidence motion stemmed from remarks attributed to a "senior source" in Rabin's party in Washington that Israel's weapons purchase list drawn up by the Defense Ministry for submission to the U.S. was inflated and dishonored the State. Landau's motion charged that such remarks demonstrated that the Rabin government was torn by internal rifts and could not function properly. It termed the remark incalculably harmful to Israel's interests.

Landau denied that he had "leaked" the contents of his motion to the press. He said that after the story was published he issued a statement confirming and correcting the leaked report. Landau asked for a Knesset debate on the matter next Monday by which time Rabin will have returned to Israel and will be able to reply to the motion.

Regardless of the outcome of the Likud challenge, Rabin is expected to face a far more serious storm from within his own party where some of his key colleagues have been angered and embarrassed by the remarks on the weapons shopping list.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres, the chief target of the criticism of the weapons purchase list, broke his silence on the matter today. Speaking on the Army Broadcasting Service, he said the entire matter would be discussed when Rabin returns from the U.S. Meanwhile, he said, whatever his Ministry did could stand on its merits against any criticism. He said he had no intention of resigning.

JEWS FROM MOSLEM COUNTRIES TO DEMAND COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTY LEFT BEHIND AFTER FORCED EMIGRATION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA)--A mass public assembly at the Tel Aviv Museum Feb. 25 will launch a world-wide campaign by Jews from Moslem countries for recognition of their right to compensation for property they left behind when they were forced to emigrate from their countries of origin. The campaign, to be conducted in Israel and abroad, was announced by MK Mordechai Ben Porat, Arye Zimuki of the Zionist General Council and Yehuda Ilan, director of the Information Center.

Ben Porat, who is a leader of the World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries established in Paris last November, said a mass rally was planned to be held in New York late this year. In the interim, smaller assemblies, seminars and discussion circles will be conducted here and abroad. Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Yossi Almog, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive, are expected to address the Feb. 25 assembly.

Ben Porat said his organization will seek representation on international bodies, just as Pales-

tinians have. He said WOJAC should be represented at the UN Security Council to state their right to regain lost property.

PROTEST FORCES CANCELLATION OF TV SERIAL ON ANTI-SEMITIC PREJUDICE

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 3 (JTA)--A six-part television serial on anti-Semitic prejudice in Holland was cancelled by the Dutch Roman Catholic broadcasting organization KRO today just before the first installment was to go on the air. The decision to cancel was attributed to protests from Jewish and other circles who claimed that instead of ridiculing anti-Semitism, the constant repetition of anti-Semitic remarks might foster it.

Ten "progressive" journalists protested the cancellation on grounds that the public should be allowed "to judge for itself." The journalists expressed opposition to "Jewish censorship." The serial, titled "On in the Family," was written by the British playwright Johnny Speight and Dutch TV quizmaster Berend Boudewijn. Production took two years and each installment cost 40,000 guilders.

ARABS, RUSSIANS ATTACK SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY

BRUSSELS, Feb. 3 (JTA)--The Belgian government is standing firm against concerted pressure by Arab and Soviet diplomats to have it cancel the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry to be held here Feb. 17-19. The pressure is being applied to Belgian ambassadors in Arab countries and the USSR, through articles in the Arab and Soviet press and political statements in those countries.

The Soviet Deputy Minister of Interior was quoted today as calling the conference a "provocation." He said that "if Soviet Jews do not emigrate it is because they have been disappointed by Israel."

The Belgian Foreign Ministry issued a statement today stressing that "it has traditionally been Belgium's policy to permit all conferences as long as they do not create a public disturbance or are contrary to public morals." The statement said that the government would grant permission for similar conferences, if requested to do so, "on behalf of other communities such as the Palestinians."

The statement noted that the ministers and members of parliament who will participate in the World Conference on Soviet Jewry will do so "as private persons" and not as representatives of the government. * * *

JERSEY, England (JTA)--This tiny Jewish community is to enjoy closer links with the British Zionist Federation, following the visit last week of a Zionist official from the mainland. A meeting was sponsored jointly by the Jersey Hebrew Congregation, the local Joint Israel Appeal and the local WIZO branch. There are about 80 Jewish families living in the larger of the two Channel Islands. There is no community on the smaller islands of Guernsey and Sark. A synagogue existed in St. Helier, the main town of the island between 1843 and 1870. The present synagogue and community was founded in 1962 by Jews from London and other parts of the mainland. * * *

LONDON (JTA)--Jack-booted whites wearing Nazi-style uniforms and displaying swastikas have formed a new Rhodesian political party, the Rhodesian White People's Party, according to reports from Salisbury. The principal aims of the party are resisting terrorism, combatting "liberalism" and opposing Zionism.

U.S. CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO ATTEND BRUSSELS CONFAB AND ARE EXPECTED TO ISSUE A 'CALL TO CONSCIENCE'

CHICAGO, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Thirteen prominent U.S. Christian leaders will join with world-wide representatives of Jewish communities in a demonstration of solidarity with Soviet Jews at the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry to be held Feb. 17-19 in Brussels. (See related stories Page 1.)

The Christian leaders are expected to issue a "Call to Conscience," demanding that Soviet authorities provide full human rights to Soviet Jews, including the right to emigrate, as provided in the Helsinki Declaration signed by the Soviet Union and 34 other countries last summer. The delegation of Christian leaders at the Brussels conference will represent the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry. The group, founded in 1972, draws together Roman Catholics, Protestants, Evangelicals, Eastern Orthodox, and Jews in an interreligious effort to secure basic human rights for Soviet Jews.

Its national co-chairpersons are: Sister Margaret Ellen Traxler, of Chicago; Prof. Andre LaCocque, of the United Church of Christ and a member of the faculty of Chicago Theological Seminary; and Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee.

Sister Ann Gillen, executive director of the Task Force, will coordinate the participation of the delegation of Christian leaders at the Brussels meeting. Rabbi A. James Rudin, assistant director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee, serves as executive chairman of the Task Force. In addition to the Christian leaders from the U.S., Sister Marie-Erst, member of the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace of Dublin, is expected to participate in the conference.

In announcing the formation of the delegation, Sister Gillen said: "The world must recognize that the issue of religious freedom, the right of emigration and an end to harassment of Jews in the Soviet Union is not an issue for Jews alone but is one that is of deep concern to all who care about human rights. It is important that Soviet authorities be forced to live up to the obligations that they assumed in the Helsinki Declaration. Our Christian delegation, by its presence in Brussels, will bear witness to the universality of the struggle to secure the legitimate human rights of Soviet Jews."

NO RETREAT ON SOVIET EMIGRATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.), a contender for the Democratic Party presidential nomination, told the Queens County Council on Soviet Jewry that he will "never retreat" from his determination to promote freer emigration from the Soviet Union and the West European nations. "If we back down on the Jackson Amendment now, we lose all right to call ourselves the leaders of the free world," he said.

Jackson said that all candidates for the Presidency "should be required to take a specific stand on this specific issue. There is no issue more important to the cause of freedom around the world than this one." He noted that politicians seeking votes this year "will ask that we abandon our commitment to free emigration" by claiming that the American people "don't give a damn" about what happens to Soviet Jews or to

the oppressed in the Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and other countries under Soviet domination.

Jackson stated that "Tens of thousands of people--Jews and non-Jews alike--escaped from captivity because of the Jackson Amendment." It was only after Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger "pledged that the Administration would destroy the amendment that the Kremlin tightened the screws once again," he added. The Presidential hopeful said that if the Soviets want some of the trade benefits from the U.S., that other countries enjoy "let them at least honor the right to emigrate. On this matter of principle and human life I will never retreat."

U.S. ASKS USSR TO COOPERATE IN MATTER OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Rep. Joshua Eilberg (D.Pa.) reported that the State Department has informed him it has formally asked the Soviet Union to cooperate in locating witnesses to crimes said to have been committed by alleged Nazi war criminals now living in the United States. He said that the U.S. request was delivered last week to the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

Eilberg, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and International Law, said 55 persons are in the United States who have been accused of perpetrating crimes during World War II. He wants the U.S. government to take action against them.

Noting that "We have been trying for almost three years to get the State Department to take this action," of asking Soviet help, Eilberg recalled that on his visit to Moscow last May, "the Russian officials promised me that our government would have full cooperation without any reservations." He said that "now it is up to the Russians to honor their commitment and to prove that their word is good, at least in this area."

COMMISSION TO STUDY PROBLEMS OF CANADIAN IMMIGRANTS IN ISRAEL

MONTREAL, Feb. 3 (JTA)--A commission of inquiry to study the problems of integration of Canadian settlers in Israel's society has been appointed by Rabbi David Monson, president of the Zionist Organization of Canada. Specifically, the commission will seek to identify the principal problems facing Canadian olim and determine those areas in which the Zionist Organization of Canada can be effective in helping to solve those problems.

Gerald Charness of Montreal, deputy president of the ZOC, was named chairman of the commission. Other members are Max Goody of Toronto, deputy president of the ZOC; and Morris J. Wosk of Vancouver, associate chairman of the commission. Public hearings will be held in Israel in February and May by the commission. The commission is leaving Montreal on Feb. 9.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Israeli security forces have detained 35 suspects in connection with an El Fatah gang that has been operating in the southern Gaza Strip. Most of the suspects are from Rafah township where acts of murder and sabotage were carried out. The gang is held responsible for the murder of a Medouni watchman and theft of his firearms; a grenade attack on an Israeli army patrol near Rafah two months ago; and a grenade attack on an army vehicle in the same region six weeks ago.
