



daily news bulletin

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SENATE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF SOLIDARITY WITH BRUSSELS CONFAB ON SOVIET JEWRY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (JTA)--The Senate today unanimously approved a concurrent resolution expressing "the solidarity of the American people with the efforts to enlarge human freedom by the participants in the Second Brussels Conference" on Soviet Jewry which opens in the Belgian capital Feb. 17. The conference, which will be attended by 1000 Jewish leaders from around the world along with Protestant and Catholic spokesmen, comes five years after the first Brussels conference in 1971 that marked the beginning of large-scale intensive action on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

The Senate resolution, introduced only yesterday by Sens. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.) and Clifford Case (R.N.J.), had 14 additional sponsors from a dozen states. They were Sens. James Buckley (R.Cons.NY); Joseph Montoya (D.NM); John Durkin (D.NH); Gale McGee (D.Wyo.); Richard Stone (D.Fla.); Thomas McIntyre (D.NH); Harrison Williams (D.NJ); Hugh Scott (R.Pa.), the Senate Minority Leader; Frank Church (D.Idaho); Abraham Ribicoff (D.Conn.); Hubert Humphrey (D.Minn.); Jacob K. Javits (R.NY); Jesse Helms (R.NC); and Birch Bayh (D.Ind.).

The House of Representatives, which has an identical resolution before it with a score of sponsors led by Rep. James Scheuer (D.NY) will vote on it next week. A concurrent resolution expresses the sense of both Houses of Congress on a proposition. It differs from a joint resolution that when it is adopted by the two chambers it goes to the President. If he signs it, the resolution incurs the force of law.

ALMOGI TO GROUND WZO OFFICIALS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Yosef Almogi, the newly elected chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive, indicated yesterday that he intends to end excessive travel abroad by department heads and directors of the WZO and the Jewish Agency. There will be less supervision from planes and more work at "headquarters" on the ground, Almogi said at his first meeting with WZO and Jewish Agency officials since his election last month.

Almogi, who is technically acting chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and will be automatically elected chairman when the Agency's Assembly convenes here this summer, made it clear that he intends to institute internal changes in the WZO and Jewish Agency machinery. In the interests of greater efficiency, Almogi implied that he intends to become personally involved in areas that his predecessors usually left to subordinates. He is already scrutinizing two spheres of activity that have come under criticism--Zionist information and shlichim (emissaries)--and has indicated that changes would be instituted shortly.

FAMILY OF FORMER CHILEAN JEWISH OFFICIAL SEEKING HIS WHEREABOUTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA)--The family of David Silberman, who disappeared in Chile after his arrest by the military junta in 1974, has vowed

to continue their world-wide campaign for information as to the whereabouts of their son or to obtain confirmation that he is alive or dead. According to information reaching here from sources close to the family, who immigrated to Israel in Jan. 1974, Silberman's father and sister are unfazed by rebuffs from the Chilean government. His wife and three children remained in Chile.

Silberman's father and sister have sought help from the International Red Cross, the Chilean prelate, Cardinal Silva Henriquez and Chilean Chief Rabbi Angel Kreiman. They have now renewed their appeal to world personages, American legislators and the Red Cross.

David Silberman, 35, was deputy minister for mines and general manager of the Chilean copper mines that were nationalized during the regime of the late President Salvador Allende. When the right-wing military junta seized the government, he was among thousands of Chileans arrested for their associations with the Allende administration. In October 1974, he was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment for treason. Since then, his family has heard nothing from him.

No Hint Of His Fate

Israeli Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Shlomo Goren was reportedly informed by President Augusto Pinochet of Chile last May that Silberman was taken away by a commando unit while serving his sentence. There was no explanation and no hint of his fate and his parents continued to press for information, travelling to Chile themselves to no avail. When Rabbi Kreiman continued to seek information on their behalf, he was reportedly ordered by Pinochet to stop asking questions about Silberman, sources close to the family in Israel reported.

Members of the family noted that many Chilean political prisoners held without trial have disappeared but none have been missing after trial and sentencing. His parents and sister say that any information, even confirmation that he is dead, would be better than the state of suspense the family has been living under for the past 15 months. According to unconfirmed reports, political prisoners in Chile claimed they saw Silberman at various interrogation centers since his sentencing. There has been no further information.

RENAMING OF STREET OPPOSITE UN TO ZION SQUARE DEFENDED, ATTACKED

By David Friedman.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA)--A public hearing today by a City Council committee to rename a street across from the United Nations as Zion Square drew nearly 20 persons speaking in its favor and only two against. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee, which deals with street name changes, will act on the proposal later but approval by the full City Council is expected since Council President Paul O'Dwyer and 40 of its 43 members have endorsed it.

Councilman Henry J. Stern of Manhattan, who introduced the measure last November after the United Nations adopted the resolution equating Zionism with racism, today moved that Zion Square be located on the west side of First Avenue between 42nd and 43rd Streets in front of the Isalah Wall. He changed the location from his original

designation three blocks north after the New York City Commission for the United Nations had objected, citing among the reasons that two major firms would have to change their stationery.

Mrs. Frances Loeb, New York City Commissioner for the UN, said she approved the change and that it also had the endorsement of Daniel P. Moynihan, the U.S. Ambassador to the UN.

Affirmation of Respect

Stern said the naming of the street as Zion Square was an "affirmation of New Yorkers' respect for the aspirations of the Jewish people for a national homeland." Councilman Walter Ward of Queens, chairman of the committee, said that "speaking as a non-Jew, when you attack Israel you attack all of us."

Speakers representing Jewish organizations and themselves as individuals applauded the action as a means of answering the anti-Zionist resolution and of affirming support of Israel.

Jack M. Elkin, chairman of the New York Metropolitan Council of the American Jewish Congress, said that "Zion Square will demonstrate that the people of the City of New York repudiate and reject the UN's condemnation (of Zionism)." He said the creation of a Zion Square in New York will be the answer to the Palestine Liberation Organization's terrorist bombing of Jerusalem's Zion Square last fall.

Norman Kaish, a Queens resident, said that he would provide all the money needed for the changeover so that there could be no claim that it was costing the city money during this time of financial crisis.

And Then There Were Two

The only opponents to the measure were Dr. T.M. Mehdi, secretary general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, and Alfred M. Lillenthal, chairman of the American Council on the Middle East.

Mehdi called the Council's proposed action an "emotional reaction" which was not only "childish" but "also obscene." He said if the Council goes through with the plan the south-west corner of First Avenue and 44th Street should be named Palestine Liberation Organization or Palestine Square because if peace comes to the Mideast it must come through talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Lillenthal, a long-time opponent of the State of Israel and formerly connected with the American Council for Judaism, accused the City Council of declaring war on the UN, the Arab states and the Third World by its action. He accused the U.S. of subordinating its foreign policy for domestic interests and said that when the American people realize the cost of U.S. support for Israel he fears it will result in a backlash of anti-Semitism.

Lillenthal got into a dispute with several Councilmen when he accused them of interfering in American foreign policy. Ward said councilmen who spoke out were representing their people.

Earlier, O'Dwyer told the committee that the "one humanitarian effort of the UN which is worthwhile was the establishment of Israel." Rep. Edward Koch (D.N.Y.), whose district includes the UN, said through a representative that Zion Square will remind UN delegates as they walk through it "of how low the United Nations has fallen in the esteem of decent, moral persons in the city of New York, or the United States or everywhere democracy rules."

Other proponents included New York State Supreme Court Justice Abraham Multer, president of Bnai Zion; Rabbi Judah Cahn, president of the New York Board of Rabbis; and representatives of Yavneh, the Zionist Organization of America, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, National Council of Young Israel, Pioneer Women, and the Synagogue Advisory Council of the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

1700 PEOPLE PLEDGE \$8.2 MILLION AT DINNER FETING ISRAELI PREMIER

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 5 (JTA)--More than 1700 people jammed the Beverly Hilton Hotel here last night to hear Premier Yitzhak Rabin and to pledge \$8.2 million toward the United Jewish Welfare Fund goal of \$35 million at UJWF's inaugural dinner. The event was the final public appearance by the Premier during his three-day visit here. He also spoke to more than 2000 young Jews at a meeting yesterday arranged by the Los Angeles Jewish Youth Council.

Rabin told the huge throng, believed to be one of the largest audiences of his current visit to the United States, that he had found on the part of both Jews and non-Jews "a solid basis of communication and understanding and of special relations between the largest democracy and the only democracy that exists in the Middle East."

Declaring that "we are strong in terms of what we present and what we project," Rabin said, "We carry with us something other nations envy. Many countries would like to see the same zeal among their young people as is exhibited by our young people."

During a stop-over in New York today on his way back to Israel, Rabin met with reporters and Israeli officials, conferred with intellectuals and scholars from various universities and taped an interview to be shown on Channel 13-WNET this evening at 7:30 and 11:30 p.m.

CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER SOVIET PROPAGANDA IN AMERICAN PRESS

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA)--The opening of a new "intensified" campaign on behalf of Soviet Jewry in the face of growing "Soviet propaganda" in the American media, was announced here today by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Addressing a press conference at the GNYCSJ's headquarters, Eugene Gold, chairman of the Conference and Brooklyn District Attorney, noted that the Soviet Union has been engaged recently in a massive propaganda campaign, concealing and "falsifying" facts about the persecution of Jews in the USSR. He said the Soviet campaign is a result of the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry in Brussels next week, the shaky state of detente and internal economic problems in the USSR.

"We are going to continue the struggle for Soviet Jews, no matter what happens," Gold declared. Malcolm Hoenein, executive director of GNYCSJ, said that more than 100,000 people are expected to attend the Solidarity Day rally on behalf of Soviet Jewry on May 2 in New York.

50 PERCENT CARGO RULE AROUSES CONCERN IN ISRAELI SHIPPING CIRCLES

HAIFA, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Israeli maritime circles have expressed concern that the United States, for the first time, is implementing a provision of the Foreign Aid Bill that stipulates that at least 50 percent of government cargoes must be carried in

American-flag ships. Although this clause has been in effect for many years with respect to grain and other civilian aid cargoes, it has been waived in the case of U.S. military hardware shipped to Israel.

The bulk of those shipments were carried by freighters of the Zim Lines, Israel's national shipping company. But beginning Jan. 1, the 50 percent law was invoked and Zim must now share military cargoes with the American Export Lines, the only American shipping company maintaining regular service between the U.S. and Israel. Israeli shipping circles fear that the loss of a substantial portion of this high revenue freight will affect Zim's earnings and the employment of Israeli seamen.

The latest development coincided with the announcement this week that Maritime Fruit Carriers Ltd., Israel's largest privately owned shipping company, has ceded control to a consortium of foreign creditors and will cease to be an Israeli firm. The company's headquarters will be moved from Haifa to London.

U.S. SUPREME COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ON REDISTRICTING IN WILLIAMSBURG By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA)--A joint friend of the court brief has been filed with the United States Supreme Court by two Jewish organizations in support of an appeal by the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg against a 1974 redistricting which the UJO contended discriminated against the Brooklyn area's 45,000 Hasidic Jews.

The UJO, an umbrella agency representing more than 100 Williamsburg Jewish groups, had charged that new districts, approved by the State Legislature on May 29, 1974, discriminated against Jewish residents in favor of Blacks and Puerto Ricans.

In their joint brief in support of the UJO appeal, the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) and the American Jewish Committee charged that a racial quota concept had been introduced into the voting process by the redistricting. Both the federal District Court and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the redistricting. The Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments in the case for mid-March.

Acting under constraints imposed by the U.S. Attorney General under the Federal Voting Rights Act, the Legislature set up several voting districts in Brooklyn with a 65 percent non-white and 35 percent white population to make more likely the election of the choice of non-white voters. The District Court and the Appeals Court upheld the redistricting because it was deemed to correct a "wrong" committed against non-white voters.

Claims Gerrymandering Is Unconstitutional

The UJO is being represented by Nathan Lewin, a COLPA vice-president, who is acting in a private capacity, though COLPA assisted him in the district court and appeals court phases of the litigation.

Lewin argued in his brief that deliberate racial gerrymandering was unconstitutional. Even if remedial racial districting was ever proper, it was not applicable in the Williamsburg case because, he contended, there was no evidence of prior districting either intentionally or effectively abridging the rights of Blacks or Puerto Ricans to vote in the disputed areas of Brooklyn. He argued that

the 1974 New York Reapportionment Law, under which the redistricting was implemented, introduced a racial quota concept into the voting process and must be nullified.

The joint brief declared the meaning of the redistricting was that, in protecting the right to vote, "equal access to the electoral process is no longer enough" and that an election must be held to produce a "pre-ordained" result. Dennis Rapps, COLPA executive director, and Samuel Rabinoev, AJ Committee legal director, were attorneys for their organizations in submitting the joint brief.

PROF DENOUNCES JEWISH 'LOBBY'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (JTA)--An article in the February issue of Readers Digest alleging that Congress was "wrecking" the Administration's foreign policy, in some instances due to the influence of "a powerful lobby, that of Jewish Americans," was inserted into the Congressional Record today by Senate Deputy Minority Leader Robert P. Griffin (R, Mich.). In presenting it to Congress, Griffin observed that it was "interesting and provocative" and "ought to be read by every Senator and Congressman."

The article, by Prof. William E. Griffith, claimed that "of all the examples of unwise interference by Congress in foreign policy, the most dangerous is the unconditional support that Congress has habitually insisted we give to the policies of Israel. In so doing, it has disregarded not only the legitimate interests of the Arabs, but America's own interests as well." Griffith was identified to the JTA by Readers Digest as a political science professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, of diplomatic history at the Fletcher School of Law and of Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Griffith cited as an example of alleged Congressional "bias" toward Israel the opposition of the sale of a "Hawk" anti-aircraft missile system to Jordan last year. He charged that Sen. Clifford P. Case (R, NJ) and Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D, NY) "mustered enough opposition to the sale so that the Administration had to postpone consideration of the proposal." He noted that "a compromise of sorts" had since been reached "on their deployment and use imposed at the demand of pro-Israeli Congressional forces."

Griffith asserted that the U.S. "must make clear by deeds as well as words, our commitment to her (Israel's) survival and our moral and political outrage at such Arab maneuvers as the recent UN General Assembly vote that equated Zionism with racism" because "if we don't, the radical Arab dreams of destroying Israel will surely revive."

On the other hand, Griffith warned that "Unless Congress abandons its favoritism toward Israel and supported the Administration in an even-handed attempt to work out a permanent peace settlement in the Middle East, another war, and another disastrous oil boycott, seem virtually certain to follow."

The writer also cited the linkage of the 1974 Trade Reform Act to Soviet emigration policies. "A powerful lobby, that of Jewish Americans, asserted itself" and "over Administration protests," Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D, Wash.) and Rep. Charles A. Vanik (D, Ohio), "got the law amended so that the Soviet Union would receive such benefits (most favored nation treatment and U.S. government credits) only if it permitted more Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel and Western countries," Griffith wrote. The Jackson-Vanik Amendment does not refer to Jews but to all Soviet citizens who may wish to emigrate. (By Joseph Polakoff)

AID TO SYRIA CUT BECAUSE DAMASCUS HAS NOT SHOWN SERIOUS INTENTION TO RESOLVE ISSUES LEADING TO PEACE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (JTA)--The Senate Foreign Relations Committee cut the Ford Administration's recommendation in economic supporting assistance for Syria almost in half because the government in Damascus has not shown serious intention to negotiate on issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This came to light yesterday in the Committee's report to the full Senate on its authorization measure for the fiscal year 1976 of an aid program totaling \$4.397 billion plus an additional 25 percent for the transitional budget quarter of three months that precedes the new fiscal year 1977 beginning Oct. 1.

"The Committee has generously funded the programs for Middle Eastern countries because it strongly supports the Sinai agreement and efforts to achieve further disengagement of forces and movement toward peace among all parties in the Middle East conflict," the Committee's report said.

Egypt Given Good Marks

"The Committee has reduced the proposed program for Egypt by only \$50 million despite budget stringencies because Egypt has responded positively toward U.S. efforts to secure peace in the Middle East and is beset with serious economic problems," the report continued.

"The request for Syria was cut more severely, however, because Syria has not yet demonstrated that it seriously intends to negotiate even an interim, let alone more permanent arrangements looking towards a peaceful resolution of issues currently endangering peace in the Middle East."

Military and supporting assistance programs for Jordan were reduced "because that country is the recipient of significant assistance from other Arab states, some of which enables Jordan to pay for its military purchases in the United States. Thus even military credits for Jordan are effectively grants since they are underwritten by third countries," the Committee said.

Jordan's allocations in the bill for fiscal 1976 is also \$50 million in economic supporting assistance, \$5 million less than the Administration's request. The Committee cut in half the Administration's request of \$100 million in grant military aid to Jordan, but allowed to stand the proposed \$75 million in military credit and an additional \$800,000 in military training costs plus \$162,000 for international narcotics control. Lebanon was allowed \$5 million in military credits and a grant of \$200,000 for training.

Israel May Get \$2.81 Billion

Israel was recommended for \$740 million in economic supporting assistance and this was reduced by the Committee to \$725 million. In addition, the Administration's recommendation of \$1.5 billion in military credits was left standing for Israel. Providing Congress and the President finally approve the programs the Committee has outlined, Israel will receive \$2.5 billion in military credits and supporting assistance plus 25 percent of that amount or a total of \$2.81 billion for the fiscal period of 15 months ending Sept. 30.

SOVIETS CUT ONE TAX, INSTALL ANOTHER

LONDON, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Soviet authorities

have reduced the travel tax levied on emigrants from 900 to 800 rubles per person but have imposed a new tax on books taken out of the country. Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported today. The sources said the lower travel tax was apparently a propaganda ploy while the duty on books imposes a special hardship on Jewish emigrants, most of whom wish to take books with them to Israel.

As a result, Jews leaving the USSR pay more despite the 100 ruble cut in the travel tax, the sources said. They saw the cut, moreover, as one of several propaganda moves the Soviet authorities were taking in connection with the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry to be held in Brussels Feb. 17-19.

Meanwhile "Helsinki" watchdog committees on behalf of Soviet Jews have been created in 15 cities and towns in Britain and Ireland to monitor Soviet adherence to the agreement on security and cooperation they signed at Helsinki last year. The committees, organized by the Womens Campaign for Soviet Jewry, will report all violations to the British and Irish governments. Committee volunteers include members of Parliament, trade unionists, religious leaders and lawyers.

The watchdog committees also intend to dispute the reasons given by Soviet authorities for refusing visas to 100 Jewish families who have applied for them since 1970.

ATLIT LANDMARK TO REMAIN

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (JTA)--Protests, mainly by school children, have led to the preservation of an historic landmark of the late Mandatory period in Palestine and the early years of Israel's statehood. The landmark is the old Atlit camp just south of Haifa, once a prison, later an internment center for "illegal" Jewish refugees and finally a temporary transit station for new immigrants.

With Aliya down, the Jewish Agency, which owns the property, planned to tear it down and construct warehouses on the site. But the protests were overwhelming, many of them from children unborn when the many incidents involving Atlit in Israel's struggle for independence occurred. Bowing to the pressure, the Jewish Agency authorities agreed to preserve the larger part of the camp as a center for Zionist studies.

The British used Atlit as a prison during the Mandate. After World War II, they turned it into an internment camp for thousands of Jewish survivors of Nazism who came to Palestine without visas. One winter night in 1946, a unit of Palmach, the strike force of Haganah, raided Atlit and liberated the internees who were dispersed to Jewish settlements all over Palestine. The unit was commanded by a young officer, Yitzhak Rabin.

When the State was established, the Jewish Agency turned Atlit into a temporary immigrant hostel. For many of the tens of thousands of olim who arrived every month during those early years of statehood, Atlit was their first home on Jewish soil.

BUENOS AIRES (JTA)--Argentine journalists have received leaflets signed by the self-styled Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance stating that the group plans to execute large numbers of alleged enemies of the State, including Jews. The leaflet warned that individuals will be liquidated "whatever their nationality, faith, race or investiture who respond to non-fatherland, anarchist, Freemason, anti-Christian interests or those of international synarchic Judaism."