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On The Eve Of Brussels II 750,000 SOVIET JEWS WANT TO LEAVE AND EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL, LOWELL SAYS

By Edwip Eytan

BRUSSELS, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Three-quarters of a million Soviet Jews want to leave the Soviet Union and emigrate to Israel, Stanley H. Lowell, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, one of the convening bodies of Brussels II said here today. Lowell, in reply to questions from newsmen told a press conference here this morning that this figure "was discreetly indicated to us by the Soviet authorities themselves in one of their calmer moments."

Lowell said the situation of Soviet Jewry "has definitely become part of the relationship between the U.S. and the Soviet Union." He said the issue of Soviet Jewry has resulted in changes between the two countries. He listed three major purposes of the conference:

"To make clear to the leaders of the Soviet government the strength of our identification with the three million Jews of the USSR and of our determination that they will win their struggle; to tell the Jews of the Soviet Union that they are not alone, that their cause is our cause and that we continue to take fresh inspiration from their incredible courage; and to serve as a signal to the free world of the unity of all those who have joined the Soviet Jewish struggle."

Lowell said a major purpose of Brussels II will be to draw attention "to the ever harsher Soviet policy towards Jews seeking to emigrate and to the Soviet government's failure to live up to the 1975 Helsinki agreement on the free movement of people and ideas."

Sharp Increase In Anti-Semitism

A recent Soviet immigrant to Israel, Dr. Alexander Voronel, warned that official Soviet anti-Semitism has increased "sharply and alarmingly" since the Yom Kippur War. Voronel, who was granted permission to emigrate to Israel last year after a three-year wait, spoke of "growing pressure on those who apply to emigrate, including the use of enforced military conscription, arrest, trial and prison sentences."

Thirty recent Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel are attending the conference. Among them is Mery Knoch, whose husband is serving a 10-year prison term for treason, and Sylvia Zalmanson whose husband, Eduard Kuznetsov, is serving 15 years on the same charge.

FORD, IN MESSAGE TO CONFAB, PLEDGES U.S. SUPPORT OF RIGHT TO EMIGRATE

BRUSSELS, Feb. 16 (JTA)--President Ford has sent a message to the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry opening here tomorrow in which he pledged that America will support the right of emigration at the appropriate international forums and in exchanges with other governments. The message will be read to the 1000 delegates from 30 countries attending the conference, the largest international gathering ever held on behalf of Soviet Jews.

The President's message specifically cites emigration as one of the fundamental human

rights that the U.S. adheres to. This is an apparent reference to the 1975 Helsinki Declaration on Human Rights of which both the U.S. and the Soviet Union were signatories. The largest single delegation consisting of 350 members will be from the United States, headed by Sen. Frank Church (D, Idaho).

PLO Plans Own Conference

It was learned today that the Palestine Liberation Organization plans to hold a "world conference" of its own here, to expose "the true face of Zionism" and describe the plight of the Palestinians. An Arab League spokesman here said the PLO gathering would open Feb. 25 and probably would be held at the Salle Des Congres, the same hall to be used by the Soviet Jewry conference.

A Belgian government spokesman said the PLO conference needed no special government authorization as long as it was not contrary to public morals or Belgian interests. Arab sources here would not disclose who will attend or whether the meeting would be presided over by PLO chieftain Yasser Arafat. They said only that it would be the first international conference on behalf of the Palestinians to be held outside of an Arab state.

Other sources here expressed doubt that the PLO would be able to organize a meeting of international scope on a few days' notice or that any well-known personalities outside the Arab world would attend a gathering that will be openly anti-Israel. Nevertheless, sources close to the conference on Soviet Jewry admitted that they were surprised by the PLO announcement.

Some sources blamed the local Herut Federation for deliberately provoking a PLO response by scheduling an anti-Palestinian meeting here tomorrow night on the eve of the opening of the Soviet Jewry conference. The sources said that in view of the Herut meeting, the Belgian authorities had no choice but to permit the PLO to hold a counter-meeting here.

USSR Sponsoring Meetings

The Soviet Union is also sponsoring a number of propaganda meetings here aimed at countering the effects of the Soviet Jewry conference. The Soviet news agency, Novosti, has called another press conference for this morning at which a number of Soviet Jewish immigrants who left Israel will state their reasons for wanting to return to the USSR. An earlier one was held last Thursday. This evening, Aharon Vergelis, editor of the Soviet-sponsored Jewish periodical "Sovietische Heimland" will address a public meeting here.

At the same time, an ultra-Orthodox group known as "Rav Tov," believed to be associated with the Satmar Rebbe, leader of a Hasidic group based in Brooklyn, announced that it will hold a protest meeting to counter the Soviet Jewry conference. The group claims that Soviet Jews do not want to go to Israel and that they obtain no assistance from American Jewish organizations.

Kahane Due To Arrive Wednesday

Meanwhile, it was reported that Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Jewish Defense League, is due to arrive in Brussels Wednesday morning where he will try to address the delegates. He is,

according to reports from New York, prepared to offer a 10-point program which includes an immediate end to all talks by the West with the Soviet Union, a trade embargo, an end to general tourism to the USSR, a cessation of all cultural exchanges, and the suspension of the Soviets from international organizations and activities.

As of today, conference organizers indicated they will not permit Kahane to address the assembly and are determined to prevent him from entering the hall as they did at the first conference five years ago.

GOLDMANN: BRUSSELS II MEETS AT A CRUCIAL PERIOD OF WORLD HISTORY

PARIS, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, sent a message to Yosef Almog, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive and chairman of the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry, expressing his best wishes for the success of the gathering. Goldmann stated that although he personally will not be able to attend, the WJC will be represented by a large delegation headed by Philip M. Klutznick, chairman of the WJC governing board.

"The conference meets at a crucial period of world history, when great efforts are being made everywhere to reduce tensions between the nations of the world," Goldmann said in his message. "One essential element in these efforts is the realization of the need for universal respect for human rights and human dignity. Regrettably, this spirit has not yet expressed itself in the treatment of the Jewish people at large and particularly of the Jewish minority of the Soviet Union. They still do not enjoy the right of free emigration and the right of free pursuit of their religious life and national culture.

"I am confident that a statesmanlike conduct of the Brussels conference, under your chairmanship will help to draw attention to these problems and place them high on the agenda of current world concern."

The importance of the conference, Goldmann continued, is already apparent from the campaigns conducted against it. "I hope that nothing will allow us to have the unity of the Jewish people disturbed in our unceasing endeavors for the better life of our brethren in the USSR who represent nearly one-fourth of the Jewish people," he stated.

3000 POUNDS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES FLOWN ON ARAVA STOL TO GUATEMALA

TETERBORO, N.J., Feb. 16 (JTA)--Three thousand pounds of medical supplies were loaded aboard an Israeli-built Arava Stol aircraft which left today from here for earthquake-stricken Guatemala. The material was marked "From the People of Israel to the People of Guatemala" and "From the People of Israel Aircraft Industries to the People of Guatemala."

In order to speed delivery to the stricken areas of Guatemala, the medical goods were purchased in the United States by IAI and loaded aboard the Arava Stol which was scheduled to be delivered to Guatemala this month. At a ceremony at the Teterboro Airport today, Victor Riveria, a representative of the Guatemalan Consul in New York, said that "Israel and your company (IAI) have clearly demonstrated the affection for my country."

Another Arava Stol is scheduled to arrive in the New York area Thursday with 3000 pounds of

powdered milk that IAI has donated for Guatemala. Last week an Israeli Boeing 707 flew to Guatemala from Israel with supplies donated by Israelis. The three planes will have carried a total of 46,000 pounds of relief supplies donated by Israel and IAI.

B'NAI B'RITH LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR AID TO GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith is marshalling funds, supplies and medical volunteers for victims of the Guatemala earthquakes. Ricardo Holzer of Panama City, chairman of the B'nai B'rith International Council, said that Guatemala's small Jewish community has reported no deaths "but widespread loss of material possessions."

Max Trachtenberg, president of the B'nai B'rith lodge in Guatemala City, advised B'nai B'rith headquarters here that the quakes had severely damaged Jewish communal institutions, some of them beyond repair. Trachtenberg appealed for large canvas tents and other supplies. Twenty tents, contributed by a Philadelphia sporting goods store, have been air-shipped, Holzer said.

Holzer, enroute to Guatemala City, will present government relief officials with a \$1000 contribution from B'nai B'rith "as the start of a campaign for relief funds among our members."

A campaign for Spanish-speaking physicians to volunteer their services in Guatemala has been organized by Perry Shertz of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., chairman of B'nai B'rith's Disaster Relief Committee, and Irving I. Gerson of Metairie, La., who has headed B'nai B'rith hurricane relief drives in the past. Gerson has also organized a team of ham radio operators to maintain contacts with Guatemala.

(Meanwhile, the Central Jewish Committee in Mexico City is organizing a campaign to collect food and clothing for the earthquake victims. The Guatemalan Embassy in Mexico City has already expressed thanks to the local Jewish community.)

HANOCH GIVTON DEAD AT 58

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Funeral services were held here today for Hanoach Givton, Israeli Consul General in Los Angeles, who died Saturday of an apparent heart attack at the age of 58. He had been admitted to Midway Hospital last Tuesday suffering from pneumonia. Mr. Givton's body will be returned to Israel for burial.

Before taking up his post here, Mr. Givton had been general-director of Israel's Tourism Ministry for the previous five years. He was the chief spokesman for the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, with the rank of Minister, in 1968 and 1969. Prior to that, he was with the Israeli Broadcasting Service where he headed its news department in 1950, was promoted to deputy director in 1956 and named director-general in 1960.

In 1945, Mr. Givton joined the Hebrew section of the Palestine Broadcasting Service and organized an underground news service. During the War of Independence he served with a Haganah unit in Jerusalem and as press spokesman with foreign correspondents there. He was a delegate to the UN General Assembly in 1955. Born in Poland, Mr. Givton settled in Palestine in 1935. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from the Hebrew University and was general secretary of the Palestine Students Organization in 1940-41.

CABINET APPROVES AVINERI TO POST

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (JTA)--The Cabinet yesterday

day approved the appointment of Hebrew University Prof. Shlomo Avineri as the new director general of the Foreign Ministry. Avineri said afterwards that he would resign his post as dean of the university's political science faculty on April 1 and begin his duties at the Foreign Ministry then.

Avineri's appointment by Foreign Minister Yigal Allon aroused controversy in government and political circles because of the professor's outspokenly "doveish" views and his position that Israel should state its willingness to negotiate with any Palestinian group that recognizes the Jewish State, including the PLO. The Cabinet endorsed Allon's choice for the sensitive post after a two-hour debate during which several ministers expressed serious reservations.

Social Welfare Minister Ze'evulun Hammer of the National Religious Party urged that the vote on Avineri be postponed for one week. He was supported by Defense Minister Shimon Peres, Police Minister Shlomo Hillel and Transport Minister Gad Yaacobi of the Labor Alignment and Interior Minister Joseph Burg of the NRP. They were overruled by the majority, however, and when the vote was taken, only Hammer cast a negative ballot. Peres, Yaacobi and Burg abstained.

In a radio interview following his confirmation, Avineri said he decided to accept the Foreign Ministry post because he believed that he, like others, should serve the country in the difficult times ahead. He said that had he rejected the offer, he would not have been able to continue to preach his principles. Times are difficult and everyone should contribute what he can, Avineri said. He stated that he visualized his new responsibilities as assisting the Foreign Ministry to crystalize its work and to help the Foreign Minister reach decisions and implement them.

VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS, NEAR RIOTS OVER TEMPLE MOUNT PRAYER ISSUE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Violent demonstrations and near riots flared in most major West Bank towns and in East Jerusalem over the weekend as high school students and other local youths continued to protest a recent decision by a Jerusalem magistrate that would allow Jewish prayer services on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem, an Islamic shrine. Although the government has appealed the decision and promised that police would enforce the ban on Jewish religious rites on the Temple Mount, the demonstrations have increased rather than diminished.

Several policemen were injured in Nablus and 40 local youths were arrested after police battled stone-throwing mobs with clubs and tear gas. There were similar demonstrations in Ramallah and the Military Government yesterday imposed a ban on residents of those towns prohibiting them from visiting Jordan or receiving visitors from Jordan. Israeli authorities said the ban would be lifted as soon as conditions returned to normal.

Demonstrations also occurred in Jericho where several people were arrested, and in Hebron where youths stoned a tourist bus and hurled rocks at police yesterday. Police prevented attempts to organize demonstrations yesterday in Jenin and Tulkarm.

The disturbances began in East Jerusalem after the Friday noon services at the El Ake Mosque on the Temple Mount. High school boys and girls rampaged through the narrow streets and alleys of the Old City forcing shopkeepers to close their businesses and driving peddlers from

the streets.

West Bank merchants blame the Supreme Moslem Committee for the disturbances which have resulted in a loss of business. A meeting was held at the Nablus town hall yesterday at which local dignitaries called on all citizens, and especially the local youth to return to normal life.

MESHEL WARNS OF POSSIBLE 70,000 JOBLESS BY THE END OF THE YEAR

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel warned yesterday that unemployment in Israel could reach 70,000 by the end of 1976 unless the government takes urgent measures to find jobs and to increase investments that would create more jobs. Meshel also warned that Israel faced serious social unrest if the poorer classes feel the wealthier people are not bearing their fair share of the economic burden.

Meshel contended that the government was not doing all it could to equalize the tax burden and charged that many affluent persons were not paying the proper amount of taxes. The Histadrut official appeared on the radio "Interview of the Month" program. He said there was no way to avoid unemployment this year but maintained that the government could nevertheless find "natural jobs" for many and thus prevent a drastic rise in unemployment. He said there were 20,000 "job-seekers" in Israel and "several thousand" unemployed.

WEST BANKERS REGISTER TO VOTE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA)--More than 84,500 West Bank residents have registered to vote in the municipal elections which will be held in Judea and Samaria in April. In 1972, when municipal elections were held for the first time under Israeli administration, only 31,700 voters registered.

The increase is attributed to a growing interest in local government and the recent decision by the authorities to extend the voting rights to all family members and not just wage-earners. The Jordanian election law, which still applies to the West Bank, had in the past restricted the franchise to the head of the family. The current voters list now includes 30,000 women who will be voting for the first time. However, most of the women have reportedly registered on their husbands' initiative rather than their own.

Some 2000 women have registered in ultra-conservative Hebron where 10,000 men have the right to vote. In Tulkarm, 3000 women have registered along with 7000 men, and in Nablus the voters' list contains 3500 women and 18,000 men. In 1972, only 6577 men registered to vote in Nablus, the largest city on the West Bank.

BOSTON (JTA)--The Mayor of Boston, Kevin White, presented a unique gift to Shimon Inbal, Consul General of Israel in Boston. The gift, a Fremont Cottonwood, also called the Alamo tree, will be sent on to Mayor Teddy Kolek of Jerusalem. It is expected that the tree will be planted among others in the Liberty Bell Garden in Jerusalem, to symbolize the reaffirmation of the principles of freedom and liberty which White said characterize the two countries. The garden is part of the Jerusalem National Park area encircling the walls of the Old City. The garden will be a testament to the ties between the two peoples conceived in liberty, Israel and the United States. Inbal said. The ceremony at the mayor's office was attended by a group of prominent Bostonians.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE ROAD TO BRUSSELS II

By Edwin Eytan

BRUSSELS, Feb. 16 (JTA)--In February, 1953, 23 years ago, the East-West cold war was at its height. The U.S. Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, was talking about "brinkmanship" and the "Iron Curtain" which had fallen across Europe at the end of World War II seemed an unmovable fixture. In Moscow, the Soviet secret police, KGB, was investigating the so-called "doctors' plot" and observers in the West feared that Stalin might order any day a mass deportation of Jews to Siberia.

In spite of the icy despair which hung over Europe, a wave of anxiety spread throughout the world when Stalin died on March 5, 1953. Jewish leaders feared the situation of Soviet Jewry might worsen further, and in Israel the press wondered whether the dictator's death might not spell the end "of the friendly relations" between the USSR and Israel.

It is by a strange twist of history that Israel relied at that time mainly on the Soviet Union's help and assistance. The USSR had announced on Oct. 13, 1947 that it would vote for the UN Palestine partition plan. When this was approved a few weeks later, the Soviet Ambassador, Semyon Tsarapkin, opened a bottle of vodka to toast Israel's "prosperity and independence" with the Jewish Agency observer, Moshe Sharett.

The Soviet Union was the first country to recognize Israel "de jure" and Soviet-made arms flowed to Israel's fledgling forces fighting off seven Arab invading armies.

Height Of Loneliness, Isolation

In 1953, Israel was far weaker, lonelier and isolated than one can even recall. America's Eisenhower Administration was dreaming about a strong Arab League as a Western defense on the Soviet Union's southern flank and Dulles was actively wooing the Arabs. Britain was still openly hostile and France's troubles in North Africa were only beginning.

Though no one in Israel forgot the plight of Soviet Jews, the time seemed highly inappropriate to alienate the only helpful power Israel had anywhere in the world.

Israel's first envoy to Moscow, Golda Meir, who appropriately enough will be the president of honor at the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry which begins tomorrow in Brussels; witnessed and reported to the Israeli government that Jewish throngs danced, cheered and sang Hebrew songs when she visited for the first time the Moscow Synagogue. "Reasons of state" and the hope that quiet diplomacy might help "arrange matters" prevailed, however.

The 1967 Six-Day War, the outright Soviet support for the Arabs, the Soviet decision to break diplomatic relations with Israel and the realization that nothing more can be lost and everything won, made the break between the Jewish people and Moscow unavoidable. By a strange twist of history, Israel's Premier at that time was Mrs. Meir, who 19 years earlier had seen the Jewish crowds in Moscow.

Two Options In 1971

The only weapon Israel and the Jewish people had were words to arouse public opinion and shame the Soviet Union. The 1970 Leningrad trial and the ensuing death sentences raised public fervor to a new pitch. In February, 1971, the first

Brussels conference convened.

Two options existed at that time: one favored, by the World Jewish Congress President Nahum Goldmann which called on the Soviet Union to grant its Jews the rights to which they were entitled by the Soviet constitution, the possibility to establish religious and cultural centers of their own and permission for a "reunification of families" scheme. This approach took into consideration the fact that less than 15,000 Jews had been allowed to leave the USSR since the end of World War II, and the belief that the bulk of the Soviet Union's Jews would remain where they were and thus be given the right to develop their own institutions.

The other major option, advocated by Israel, the Jewish Agency and a large part of the world Jewish leadership, believed the main struggle should be on behalf of free Jewish emigration. At the end of the first conference it was clear that the second thesis had won. A major offensive was launched and within weeks after the end of the conference, the Soviet Union started issuing exit visas. In the five years since then some 110,000 Jews were permitted to leave the Soviet Union.

New Unity Of Purpose

The Brussels II conference is meeting with a new unity of purpose. Practically all the 1000 delegates from 30 countries agree that the effort must continue to be for emigration. The conference sponsors also believe that its very existence will help Soviet Jews to organize themselves and continue to press their demands for permission to leave. Conference sources believe that the Soviet Jews will invariably know that the conference is being held and will see it as an encouragement to continue their struggle.

The Soviet government, which substantially reduced in 1974 the number of exit visas granted (20,000, from 35,000 in 1973) will be forced, conference sources believe, to increase the number of exit permits granted if it wants to keep up the climate of detente. The Angola intervention makes it more imperative than ever before for the Soviets to show "good will" and a humanitarian sentiment, if it wants to erase the effects of its military adventure in Black Africa.

Brussels II will be a "talk shop" but conference sources feel that words are the most potent weapon Jews have in their struggle with the Soviet leadership.

LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Members of two Latin American delegations to Brussels II were announced today. From Mexico, 16 delegates representing the Jewish community here will be headed by Simón Feldman, president of the Ashkenazic community, and Sergio Nudelstejer, secretary of the Central Jewish Committee and representative in Mexico of the American Jewish Committee.

The Brazilian delegation is headed by Supreme Court Judge Caludio Viana de Lima, president of the Brazilian Committee for Soviet Jews. Others in the delegation include Rabbi Henry Sobel of Sao Paulo, and David Markus, editor of Rio de Janeiro's "Yiddische Presse" and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent in Brazil.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Israel's Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi, Shlomo Goren, visited Gov. Hugh Carey in the governor's office here Friday for 20 minutes. An aide to the governor said the two discussed Israel's problems, particularly its security needs.