



daily news bulletin

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BRUSSELS II ENDS WITH CALL ON USSR TO IMPLEMENT HELSINKI DECLARATION, RECOGNIZE RIGHTS OF JEWS TO BE REUNITED WITH BRETHREN IN ISRAEL

By Edwin Eytan

BRUSSELS, Feb. 19 (JTA)--The second World Conference on Soviet Jewry ended its three days of meetings here today with a declaration calling on the Soviet Union to implement the Helsinki declaration of human rights, respect its own constitution and laws and "recognize and respect the right of Jews in the USSR to be united with their brethren in the Land of Israel, the Jewish historic homeland." The declaration was read to the conference by David Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith.

Brussels II was essentially a talk shop--a place where people spoke words, listened to words and exchanged words for hours on end. But, as one delegate noted, "since the days of the Bible, words have been our main weapon." The conference laid particular stress on the need for Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, although it also called for religious freedom and the rights of Jews in Russia to develop their cultural heritage and language.

There was never any real conflict or divergence between the more committed Zionist elements and the lesser committed. But there were differences of nuance and equilibrium and apparently the more militant Zionist elements within the conference presidium won the day.

This was not surprising because while certain Jewish leaders from abroad, notably Rabbi Alexander Schindler, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, Philip Klutznick and Raymond Epstein from the U.S., and Claude Kellman, and Alain de Rothschild of France addressed themselves to the problem of Soviet Jews in more sophisticated and wordy terms--without diminishing the intensity of their determination, courage and solidarity with Soviet Jewry--the mass of the more than 1000 delegates from 30 countries were rank-and-file militants and activists without whom the struggle for Soviet Jewry could not continue.

Jewish leaders said that keeping up the spirits and enthusiasm of these elements was just as important as any other purpose of the conference.

Certain Degree Of Control

The main substantive result of Brussels II was the decision by the presidium and steering committee to exert a certain degree of control over world-wide activities on behalf of Soviet Jews. The exact form this will take remains to be decided. Some delegates want a specialized organization. Others like Klutznick, chairman of the Board of Governors of the World Jewish Congress, and Likud leader Menachem Begin, called for a permanent secretariate to oversee and supervise activities.

Whatever formula is adopted, it is clear that Brussels II marks a moving away from the present situation where all campaigns on behalf of Soviet Jewry were conducted without coordination in depth world-wide by Jewish organizations.

At the final session of Brussels II, Yoacif Almog, chairman of the World Zionist Organiza-

tion Executive and acting chairman of the Jewish Agency, read a statement indicating that the conference would be continued in some permanent form. Almog, who was president of the conference, said: "I have requested the presidium and steering committee to hold consultations at the earliest possible date with the convening bodies and others about the appropriate means and structure to conduct and coordinate this campaign" on behalf of Soviet Jewry." The presidium agreed to do so.

Not A Debating Society

Actually Brussels II was not called, as its spokesmen made clear from the start, to discuss or debate policy or tactics but to serve as a rallying point and spotlight on the plight of Soviet Jewry. According to all observers, this objective was achieved. The world press focussed on the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union and informed public opinion of Moscow's refusal to respect and honor its own constitution and laws as well as the Helsinki declaration which it signed.

On the other hand, the failure to attract important non-Jewish personalities--except for a U.S. Congressional delegation headed by Sen. Frank Church (D, Idaho)--demonstrated that Israel and world Jewry must count mainly on themselves to succeed in their struggles.

It was apparent from the vehement Soviet reaction to the conference that Brussels II achieved some of its objectives. An officially sponsored Soviet Jewish delegation was sent to Brussels before the conference opened and throughout its sessions tried to lobby the press and various observers to convince them that Brussels II was nothing more than a Zionist plot to discredit the Soviet Union. But they apparently had little success.

The only jarring note was the eviction of Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Jewish Defense League, from the conference hall yesterday, a replay of the Brussels I incident five years ago. While many delegates, probably the vast majority, approved the conference's refusal to give Kahane a platform, many deplored the vigorous manner in which security guards and police ousted him.

One delegate, who identified himself as a rabbi from New York, said after witnessing Kahane's ejection that it was "outrageous." He also recalled Kahane's shouting, as he was carried bodily from the conference hall lobby: "I have been to jail for Soviet Jewry and these fat, rich Jews prevent me from speaking."

Inspired By Soviet Jewish Olim

More inspiring was the presence here of hundreds of Soviet Jews who have immigrated to Israel. Some, like Sylvia Zalmanson and dozens of other women have husbands, brothers, fathers or sons in Soviet prison camps. Thirty-five Soviet Jews were members of the Israeli delegation and hundreds more came from Israel as observers, people whose own suffering bore witness to the plight of Jews in the USSR.

CHRISTIANS ISSUE 'CALL TO CONSCIENCE'

BRUSSELS, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Representatives of Christian denominations from eight nations added their voices today to those of Jewish leaders

participating in the second World Conference on Soviet Jewry in a call to the Soviet leadership to allow Soviet Jews the right of free emigration and to live up to the pledges the Soviet Union made in signing the Helsinki agreement last year especially those provisions related to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief.

Brussels II was attended by Roman Catholics, Protestants and Evangelicals from the United States, Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Israel. Their participation was coordinated by the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry of which Sister Ann Gillen, of Chicago, is executive director. A "Call to Conscience," issued by the Christian delegates at a seminar held here in connection with Brussels II, specifically demanded that:

Soviet authorities cease the harassment and intimidation of persons seeking exit visas; the "kidnapping" of Jewish children and their removal to compulsory training schools; the conscription of Jewish young men into the Soviet armed forces as punishment for seeking exit visas; the sentencing of innocent persons on false charges; the denial of professional status and educational opportunities for Soviet Jews; the deprivation of employment for these applying for exit visas; the exorbitant taxation of gift monies sent to Soviet Jews and the "ruthless and brutal imprisonment of all Prisoners of Conscience, both Jewish and Christian."

While the Christian group urged the Soviet Union to "give the Jews their right to leave for countries of their choice," they also appealed for the Soviet authorities "to grant religious, cultural and educational institutions for the perpetuation of Judaism and Jewish culture" the right to function and to lift "the prohibition against publishing Hebrew Bibles and prayer-books, and the production of religious articles." They asked the Soviet Union to permit the training of rabbis and Jewish teachers in that country and at seminaries abroad.

Rights For Jews Who Remain

Meanwhile, at the closing session of Brussels II, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, urged Soviet authorities to allow Soviet Jews to choose their own leaders. "The demand of this conference must be for Jews and for all other religions and cultures in the USSR to be permitted to organize and to associate freely and not under the constraints of the secret police," Rabbi Hertzberg said.

David Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith, said spiritual survival must accompany the physical survival of Soviet Jews. They must not and cannot be deprived of the right to know their heritage, their history, their traditions and their culture, he said.

Those closing statements stressed the rights of Jews who would choose to remain in the USSR even if the Soviets permitted free emigration and were apparently intended to balance the vigorous claims for massive immigration to Israel made throughout the conference.

Balancing Two Facets Of Problem

Most Jewish leaders attending Brussels II said privately that the conference tried to balance the two facets of the Soviet Jewish problem--emigration and the civil, religious and cultural rights of those Jews who do not wish to emigrate. They also said that the reference to the "Land of Israel" in the final declaration had no

political significance and is only a Biblical expression familiar to Jews everywhere.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned, however, that the presidium first voted down the inclusion of that expression but reversed itself at the demand of Likud leader Menachem Begin and other militants.

The presence here of Almogi, former Premier Golda Meir, who was honorary president of the conference, and Begin, was seen as testimony to Israel's readiness to do its utmost to absorb the hundreds of thousands of Jews the conference hopes will eventually arrive in Israel from the USSR.

SENATE, HOUSE ACT ON FOREIGN AID

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 (JTA)--The Senate late yesterday adopted a \$4.4 billion Foreign Military Authorization Bill that includes provisions for tightened Congressional control over skyrocketing U.S. arms sales abroad and clamped down on countries that seek American governmental assistance while violating human rights including such tactics as the Arab boycott.

The 60-30 vote of approval climaxed a day-long debate that saw the Senate's bipartisan majorities sweep away attempts to restrict Israel's freedom of action and weaken the provisions on human rights.

It left intact provisions allowing Congress to veto by concurrent resolution within 30 days any U.S. government or American commercial weapons sale that exceeds \$25 million or involves a major weapons system that may be even less than \$25 million, discriminates against U.S. citizens and business organizations on racial or religious grounds, or supplies weapons to countries that violate human rights such as torture and imprisonment of political dissenters.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D, Minn.), floor manager of the Senate legislation, described it as "the most significant revision of legislative authority for foreign military assistance and sales since enactment of the Mutual Security Act more than a quarter of a century ago."

House Version Differs From Senate's

Meanwhile, the House International Relations Committee completed work on its authorization measure that carries, in principle, the provisions of the Senate's version but with significant differences in language. The House probably will vote on its committee's bill during the first week in March.

The likelihood is that because of differences in the legislation, a Senate-House conference will have to iron out the legislative wrinkles and both chambers will then vote on the compromise measure. After that, both Houses must go through the legislative processes to appropriate the funds for the authorized legislation.

Financially, the Senate authorized 25 percent of the \$4.4 billion approved for the fiscal year ending June 30 to be used for the transitional quarter ending Sept. 30. This quarter is to account for the lapse before the start of fiscal year 1977 that begins Oct. 1 under the new budgeting calendar. The fiscal '76 provisions allocated \$725 million in economic assistance and \$1.5 billion in military credits for Israel.

\$10,000 JDC GIFT TO GUATEMALA

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Jack D. Weiler, chairman of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, presented a check Tuesday for

\$10,000 in behalf of his agency for earthquake relief for the general population of Guatemala to Dario Soto Montenegro, that country's Consul General in this city. Weller also volunteered the services of JDC relief workers to aid the earthquake victims.

In making the gift, Weller, who is vacationing in southern California, said: "The entire world is sick at heart over the tremendous loss of life and the terrible destruction caused by the earthquakes in Guatemala. We at the Joint Distribution Committee have always been sensitive to the needs of people caught in natural disasters; during the floods in Rumania, following earthquakes in Yugoslavia, Chile and Morocco and in other countries following other emergencies. Aside from funds we are prepared to send members of our staff to Guatemala, if needed, to organize welfare and other services. We have notified the U.S. State Department that we are ready to send our people there."

Mrs. Lawrence Jay Weinberg, president of the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles, joined Weller at the Consul General's office. "JDC's gift," she said, "is a gift of the American Jewish communities, of the federations and welfare funds, in the sense that the JDC is the philanthropic arm of American Jewry." Montenegro thanked Weller and Mrs. Weinberg and assured them that the funds would be put to immediate use.

SINAI STRONGHOLDS EVACUATED

By Yitzhak Shargil

SINAI, Feb. 19 (JTA)--The Israeli army yesterday evacuated the Sinai stronghold known as Budapest, the only point on the Barlev Line that was not overrun by the Egyptians during the Yom Kippur War. The army also evacuated from two other northern Sinai strongholds, Balooza to the south of Budapest and Romani to the east. The evacuation means that by Sunday Israel and Egypt will be situated on the new lines with the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) between them in a buffer zone.

The installations at Balooza and Romani were handed over to the UN force for \$10 million for use as a logistics and operational base. The Balooza area also contains an airstrip. The \$10 million figure was arrived at through negotiations between UNEF officials here and the Israeli Defense Ministry. By purchasing the facilities from Israel the UN saved a great deal of money, since the facilities would have had to be installed for use by UNEF members.

The ceremony at noon yesterday in which Israel turned over the Budapest stronghold to a Swedish officer serving with UNEF, was an emotional one. Israelis who had served in the post which overlooks the Mediterranean entrance to the Suez Canal were invited to attend.

"We only hope that we shall not be called to return once again," one soldier said. "It's part of my home," another said. "I lived here four years, twice it was constructed and twice it was destroyed. It is not very pleasant to see it all go; yet time has come for that too."

The area did not look like a stronghold yesterday. The bunkers, the trenches, the tank positions and machine gun holes, the neat dirt paths with white stone boundaries, the stone piles used for protection against shelling, and the barbed wire fences were all levelled. Nothing remained but the sand dunes, scattered stones and the tracks of the trucks that were going back and

forth picking up the last of the material to be taken away.

Problem Of 4500 Bedouins

Yesterday's withdrawal from northern Sinai also involved the problem of some 4500 Bedouins who live in the area and worked as fishermen or as service workers for the Israelis, the Egyptians and the UN. The Bedouins, whose Israeli cards were taken away, are now under the jurisdiction of the UN. However, Israel said it will allow teachers from El Arish to continue staffing the Bedouin schools and the Bedouins will be able to get treatment at the El Arish Hospital as well as other help. Egypt has sent a convoy of food for the Bedouins.

The Bedouins will also be able to move freely between Israeli and Egyptian territory. This has caused some anxiety among Israeli security authorities who feel that the Bedouins could be used by the Egyptians for spying or terrorist acts.

CARMELLA YADIN DEAD AT 64

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Carmella Yadin, wife of archaeologist Yigael Yadin, died yesterday in Hadassah Hospital after several months of being ill. Mrs. Yadin was born Dec. 1, 1921 in Jerusalem, the elder daughter of Hanna and Dr. Arthur Ruppin, the prominent Zionist writer and ideologist. Yigael Yadin and Carmella Ruppin were married in 1941. Mrs. Yadin bequeathed her body to science.

HISTADRUT FOUNDATION SETS \$50 M GOAL

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 19 (JTA)--The 10th annual economic conference of the Israel Histadrut Foundation closed last night at the Fontainebleau Hotel with a gala banquet at which a new goal of \$50 million was set. Dr. Sol Stein, Foundation president, reported that the cumulative total of commitments since the Foundation was established 16 years ago reached the \$40 million mark at the end of 1975 and that \$2.5 million had been committed so far this year toward the 1976 additional target of \$10 million worth of bequests and annuities that would go toward low-cost mortgages for young Israeli couples and for other health, educational and welfare programs, of Histadrut.

Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, guest of honor who received the Foundation's "Forty Million Dollar Award," told the 1250 guests that "This outpouring of understanding and support is a source of encouragement not only to Israel, but to all American Jews and also to non-Jews involved in the struggle for human freedom."

Dinitz declared that "the defense of freedom does not begin in New York City or Miami, but wherever men fight for their liberty. Never before has there been greater solidarity between Israel and the American people than in these very days. Do not believe the prophets of doom and despair who tell lies in the hope that Israel's friends will falter and fail. They lie because they don't want American people to demonstrate solidarity with Israel."

Saul C. Chaiken, president of the ILGWU, who was attending the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting at nearby Bal Harbor, made the presentation to Dinitz. Chaiken, a vice-president of National Council for Labor Israel, stated that "the fourteen million members of AFL-CIO, most of whom are not Jewish, are staunch friends of Israel because she represents a decent, humane society."

PRESSURE RENEWED FOR ESTABLISHING GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Renewed pressure for the establishment of a national unity government has surfaced in recent days. The Likud opposition and the National Religious Party, a member of the present coalition, are the principal advocates of an all-party regime and are trying to convert certain elements of the Labor Alignment to their point of view.

Menachem Beigin, leader of Likud's Herut wing, met with Defense Minister Shimon Peres last week to discuss various aspects of the subject, informed sources said. Beigin apparently is agreeable to a national unity government headed by Peres. He was severely criticized by members of his own party this week for, in effect, conceding the Premiership to Labor. Simcha Erlich, of Likud, said it was improper for an opposition leader to bow to the ruling party.

Beigin agreed that Likud should aspire to the leadership role but said that was not feasible under present conditions which required a national unity regime. He confirmed that he has been meeting from time to time with Peres but refused to elaborate on what they had discussed.

NRP sources said over the week-end that the religious faction still strongly favored a national unity government. But they said to bring it about would require the Rafi wing of the Labor Party, headed by Peres, to take the drastic step of threatening to quit the present government.

Meetings Held With Rabin

It was learned, meanwhile, that members of the "religious kibbutz" movement have been meeting with Premier Yitzhak Rabin on the issue of a national coalition. The meetings, which began before Rabin's visit to the U.S., last month are continuing, sources said. Avraham Stern, leader of the "religious kibbutz" movement, and Zvi Bernstein, secretary general of the NRP, also met with Beigin several weeks ago.

They reportedly urged him to initiate talks with Rabin on forming a national unity government regardless of his own personal prestige. Beigin reportedly told them that it was not personal considerations that prevented him from acting but the fact that Likud was never invited by the Premier to discuss a unity government. According to religious sources, the Likud leader implied that if Rabin summoned him, all the obstacles toward a national government could be resolved between them "within 24 hours."

The revival of the national unity government idea was said to have stemmed from a dump Rabin movement among certain Knesset members who would like to see Peres assume the Premiership. That idea was dropped as impractical at the moment but a national unity government was viewed as a possible alternative. Rabin has always opposed an all-party coalition embracing Likud on grounds that it would paralyze the government's ability to make foreign policy decisions.

Nevertheless, discussions are expected to continue with leaders of some of the smaller Knesset factions participating. The matter is not likely to come to a head for some time because Beigin and Herut's No. 2 man, Haim Landau, will be out of the country for several weeks.

RABBI AVRAHAM KITOV DEAD AT 63

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA)--The death at the

age of 63 of Rabbi Avraham Eliyahu Kitov, a prominent Israeli writer, educator and religious mentor, was reported here by Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky, head of Torah Umesorah, the National Society of Hebrew Day Schools of which the late Rabbi Kitov was a close friend and guide. He died in Jerusalem on Feb. 7 and was buried the same day at the Sanhedria cemetery, Dr. Kaminetsky reported.

During the past 30 years, Rabbi Kitov wrote on educational subjects under the pen name Eliyahu Kitov and was an essayist and contributor to Israeli newspapers as well as the author of books of commentary and other religious works.

Rabbi Kitov was born in Warsaw, surnamed Mokotowsky, and came to Palestine about 40 years ago. He was active for a time in political affairs. He also served as secretary to the former Sephardic Chief Rabbi Itzhak Nissim and used his influence to resolve the differences between Rabbi Nissim and former Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Issar Yehuda Unterman, Dr. Kaminetsky reported.

Rabbi Kitov's major books included, "Sefer Ha Todoah," the book of Jewish consciousness, translated into English by Rabbi Nathan Bulman. That work was written when the new Israeli educational system was instituted and the government wanted a book portraying the essence of Judaism for the younger generation. It is widely used in most Jewish day schools in America, Dr. Kaminetsky said.

Rabbi Kitov was also the author of "Ish U'va'iso" (A Man and His Home), also translated by Rabbi Bulman, which is a composite of the laws of marriage and the concept of the Jewish home. Another major work by Rabbi Kitov was "Sefer Ha Parshios," a commentary on the Pentateuch. Rabbi Kitov made frequent visits to the United States and addressed conferences and conventions of Torah Umesorah on the principles of education and methodology.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The State Department said that it will study a news report that the number of Palestine Liberation Army troops in Lebanon total up to 20,000 men, many of them disguised Syrian soldiers. However, Department sources indicated to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they doubted the Department would discuss officially the number of PLA troops in Lebanon. The State Department has estimated that about 2000 PLA troops entered Lebanon from Syria last month in support of the Moslem-Palestine Liberation Organization's side in Lebanon's civil strife.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The 1976 campaign for State of Israel Bonds will be officially launched at a three-day International Inaugural Conference in Miami beginning Feb. 26, with more than 1500 American and Canadian Jewish leaders participating. It was announced by Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization. Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon will fly to the U.S. to be the guest of honor and deliver the principal address at the culminating dinner on Feb. 28. Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, will be the guest speaker at the Prime Minister's Club and the Society of Trustees of Israel Dinner which will officially open the conference Feb. 26.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Joseph Handleman, president of the American Red Magen David for Israel, announced that March has been designated for the ARMDI national membership campaign. Chapters in the U.S. will bring the work of Magen David Adom into focus in each community, he said.