



daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XLIII - 59th Year

Friday, October 29, 1976

No. 206

37 JEWS ARRESTED IN MOSCOW; 16 JAILED FOR 15 DAYS FOR 'HOOLIGANISM'

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Thirty-seven Jews were arrested in Moscow during the past four days for demonstrating last week to demand to know why they have been denied exit visas. According to reports from several groups here active on behalf of Soviet Jewry, 16 of those arrested have been sentenced to 15-day jail terms for "hooliganism," the fate of eight others is unknown and six Jewish woman protesters were fined 20 rubles each. According to the reports, others arrested were subsequently released without punishment.

The activists who received jail sentences are being held at the Spetspriomni-Severnoy prison about 25 miles outside of Moscow, the reports said. They include Vladimir Slepak, leader of the emigration movement in the USSR.

Meanwhile, Boris Blitshtein, 20 and Slava Fishkin, 21, ended a three-day hunger strike outside of the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, office here today. They began their fast Monday when their fathers, Lev Blitshtein, 46, an engineer, and Boris Fishkin, 49, an economist, went on a hunger strike in Moscow to protest the denial of visas. They had applied for visas to re-join their families who emigrated from the USSR two years ago.

In a related development, telegrams protesting the mass arrests of Jewish activists and the beatings administered to many of them by Soviet police agents, were sent by Hadassah Tuesday to President Ford; Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger; Gov. Hugh Carey of New York; Daniel P. Moynihan and Sen. James Buckley, the Democratic and Republican candidates, respectively, for the U.S. Senate in New York; and Sen. Jacob K. Javits (RNY). They were urged to "speak out and use all possible means to counter Soviet terror and win immediate release of activists from prison and from USSR."

Hadassah also demanded the "immediate release of imprisoned Jews" in telegrams to Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador to the U.S., and to the Supreme Soviet in Moscow.

REPORT SPECTACULAR RISE IN TRADE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND CANADA By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Oct. 28 (JTA)--A spectacular rise in trade between Canada and Israel was reported yesterday by Ray Wolfe, president of the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber's annual meeting here. He told the 300 members attending the meeting that trade between the two countries rose to \$96 million in 1975 from \$74 million in 1974. During the first six months of 1976, the volume of Canadian-Israel trade was \$49 million, Wolfe said.

Zeev Sher, the Israeli Minister of Economic Affairs in New York, discussed the joint venture program recently signed in Ottawa by Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and Canadian Minister for External Affairs Donald Jamieson. Sher praised Canada as "a free country whose free enterprise system is a guarantee against the Arab boycott of Israel."

Jacob Levinson, chairman of the Bank Hapoalim in Tel Aviv who was guest speaker at the Chamber's dinner, announced the opening of a branch of his bank in Toronto. He spoke optimistically of Israel's expanding economy and stressed the importance of its banking institutions.

ARAB WORLD IS CURRENTLY THE EEC'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The Arab world is now the European Economic Community's largest trading partner, accounting for more than 13 percent of all EEC exports and 20 percent of all EEC imports.

Lord Selson, advisor to the Midland Bank Group, told the Euro-Arab business cooperation symposium in Montreux this week that unless there was closer financial cooperation between the Arab world and Western Europe there would be financial chaos. Development projects of major international significance would fail to get off the ground and "money will be poured down the drain."

Arab world development plans now show an average annual expenditure in excess of \$70 billion. When expansion resumes in the industrial world, there may not be enough capital to go round, he warned.

Despite the enormous agricultural potential of many Arab countries, they imported twice as much food from the EEC than they exported. Food was already a world problem and could become a particular problem for Arab countries unless they increase their own production.

HOREV COMMISSION RECOMMENDS DRASTIC REORGANIZATION OF ISRAEL'S IMMIGRATION, ABSORPTION MACHINERY By Gil Sedan and Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The Horev Commission's report recommending a drastic reorganization of Israel's immigration and absorption machinery and major reforms in dealing with immigrants before and after their arrival in Israel, was submitted Tuesday to Premier Yitzhak Rabin. The commission, chaired by Gen. (Res.) Amos Horev, president of the Haifa Technion, proposed the abolition of the Absorption Ministry and of the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department which, it said, often worked at cross-purposes.

It would replace those bodies with a single immigration authority that would receive its directives from a supreme council headed by the Premier but would be incorporated into the Jewish Agency. The recommendations were received with satisfaction by Yosef Almog, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization and by other members of the Jewish Agency Executive. Almog said the commission reflected a deep understanding of the problem. But Absorption Minister Shlomo Rosen was strongly critical of the report which, he said, called for the government to abdicate its responsibility for immigration and absorption.

Rabin has remained non-committal. He said that the recommendations would be studied care-

fully and discussed by both the government and the Jewish Agency before any action was taken. He stressed the importance of aliya to Israel's future development.

Leon Dulzin, Jewish Agency treasurer, congratulated Horev for the "intensive and thorough work" he and the commission members did to complete the report. "The commission's recommendations are, in my opinion, a turning point and a cornerstone in the solution of immigration and absorption problems," Dulzin said.

Representatives of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel also praised the recommendations but stressed that increased aliya would not be brought about by changing the methods of aliya work but by improving the quality of life for olim.

The Most Important Aspect

Horev himself said on a television interview that he thought the most important contribution made by his panel was the idea that the functions of immigration and absorption cannot be separated. Such separation, he said, resulted in friction with new immigrants because one authority often did not keep the promise made to them by the other prior to their departure for Israel. He called the establishment of the Absorption Ministry several years ago a mistake.

The commission's report ruled out exclusive government responsibility for immigration "because of the nature of relations between the State of Israel, the World Zionist Movement and the Jewish diaspora and the special legal aspect of these relations." Rosen, one of the two Mapam ministers in the Rabin government, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, however, that the recommendations contradicted his opinion and that of his ministry that immigration and absorption should be a function of the government, not the Jewish Agency.

Some Of The Recommendations

The reforms proposed by the panel reflected serious dissatisfaction with the way the Jewish Agency's aliya department functioned as well as with the absorption process. It recommended, for example, that an emissary abroad should master the language of the country to which he or she was assigned; preferably, that the emissary be a former immigrant from that country so that he could promote aliya from the point of view of his personal, successful, experience in Israel.

It also recommended improvements in the benefits allowed new immigrants with respect to housing, mortgage loans and exemptions from duty on household articles and for additional incentives for newcomers who volunteer to settle in development areas. It called for the establishment of new absorption centers that would give the immigrants a positive first encounter with Israel and the absorption process.

Although the government would continue to set the guidelines for immigration and absorption, the proposed new authority would operate directly under the Jewish Agency chairman and would be staffed by a small team of highly qualified professionals.

The Horev Commission was appointed jointly by the Prime Minister and the Jewish Agency chairman in March, 1976 in response to a resolution adopted at the Jerusalem Conference on Solidarity With Israel in December, 1975. It heard over 90 witnesses during the course of 20 meetings held behind closed doors and sent two of its

members abroad to examine the work of Jewish Agency emissaries in various countries.

Political sources here said that the Horev recommendations would not be implemented before next year's elections because of the domestic political storm they will arouse.

THE ISSUE OF SOVIET DROP-OUTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--A Foreign Ministry spokesman has denied that there is a crisis in relations with Austria because the latter country has rejected Israeli proposals that it take measures to reduce the drop-out rate among Soviet Jews arriving in Vienna with Israeli visas. It was confirmed, however, that Zeev Shek, assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry in charge of its Eastern European desk, and Uzi Narkiss, director of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, met with high level Austrian officials in Vienna recently to discuss the problem.

According to sources here, the Israeli officials proposed certain changes of procedure in handling Soviet Jewish emigrants in transit and agreements were reached but have not been implemented yet. The nature of the agreements has not been disclosed. According to the Viennese newspaper, Kurier, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky rejected an Israeli plan to fly Soviet Jews directly to Israel within the shortest possible time of their arrival in Vienna in order to cut down drop-outs.

The rate of drop-outs--Jews leaving the USSR with Israeli visas but opting to go to the United States or other countries--has reached alarming proportions in recent months after slackening off during the summer. The rate is now said to amount to 50-62 percent of all Jews departing from the Soviet Union.

Reasons For Concern

Israeli aliya officials are concerned for a number of reasons. They say the drop-outs are using Soviet exit visas that otherwise might have gone to Jews desiring to come to Israel. They note that the Soviet propaganda machine is citing the high drop-out rate as "proof" that Jews who apply for visas in order to reunite with their families in Israel were doing so under false pretenses. The heads of two Soviet emigre organizations in Israel charged last week that the KGB (secret police) was deliberately approving exit visas for potential drop-outs while denying them to Jews committed to go to Israel.

The government and the Jewish Agency have tended to blame HIAS and the Joint Distribution Committee for inadvertently encouraging drop-outs by assisting them to immigrate to the U.S. Some emigre groups here demand an end of support for those organizations. Others say the solution lies in improving absorption facilities and immigrant housing in Israel. (No immediate comments were available from the JDC or HIAS in New York.)

Rumors that a crisis has developed in relations with the Austrian government stemmed from reports that the Israeli officials who met with Austrian Interior Minister Otto Roesch last month were rebuffed when they offered suggestions to ensure that Soviet Jews travel directly from Vienna to Israel. Roesch has had no comments but sources in Vienna said that Austria was not prepared to infringe on the right of emigrants to go to the country of their choice.

LEADERS OF U.S. ARAB-AMERICAN GROUPS ARE SUPPORTING FORD IN NEXT WEEK'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Leaders of national organizations of Arab-Americans are supporting President Ford over Jimmy Carter in next Tuesday's elections and believe their views generally reflect the attitude of their memberships, according to a survey conducted by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Minor George, a Detroit building contractor and Michael Saah, of Washington, president and treasurer respectively of the National Association of Arab Americans, are both on the Ford Committee for Ethnic Affairs. The NAAA claims a membership of about two million of the estimated three million Americans of Arab descent.

On the other hand, the three Arab-American members of Congress are campaigning along party lines. Sen. James Abqurezk (D,SD) and Rep. Toby Moffett (D,Conn.) both support Carter. Rep. James Abdnor (R,SD) backs Ford.

Ford Better On Mideast Issues

Saah, a realtor and president of the Ramallah-American Federation of the United States, an organization of immigrants from what was once Palestine and descendants of Palestinian Arabs, told the JTA that he is supporting Ford because he is "impressed with how Ford handled the Middle East with Kissinger" and that he believes Ford "recognizes the injustices there." He said he thought Carter "would be more susceptible than Ford to pressure from pressure groups--labor, Zionist organizations--who support the Israeli position."

Saah and Richard C. Shadyak, immediate past president of the NAAA, stressed to the JTA that their organization does not take partisan political positions but that their organizational associates support Ford. Shadyak, an attorney from Annandale, Va., said "Many of the important leaders in the NAAA are supporting Ford because in terms of the Middle East issues he is the better of the two candidates."

Shadyak was particularly impressed because Ford opposed transitional quarter funding for Israel and because of the "de facto recognition he is now giving the PLO in the current Lebanese situation."

Dr. M. T. Mehdi, of New York, secretary general of the Action Committee on Arab American Relations, told a Los Angeles news conference yesterday that his group backed Ford because "We cannot entrust" the future of America to "a peanut farmer, brilliant as he may be." But Mehdi stressed that the choice was "between the bad and the worst" because both Ford and Carter "support arms aid to Israel and arms sales to the Arabs." Mehdi said he supported Sen. George McGovern (D,SD) against Nixon in 1972 "but this time we have a winner" in Ford.

Mehdi's implication that Israel gets U.S. military supplies without cost while the Arabs must pay for them is incorrect. Through U.S. aid programs, Jordan and Lebanon have long been receiving U.S. military aid cost free. The last two aid programs allow the President to forgive "up to half" of the cost of materiel sent to Israel. Until recent years, Israel has paid for all of its U.S. military acquisitions. While Ford and Carter have both pledged continued military support of Israel, they have not specified credit and

grat aspects.

The White House declined today to comment on Mehdi's statement. An authoritative White House source who asked that his name not be used, told the JTA "We accept endorsements but we do not comment on them."

AACI CRITICIZES UJA, JEWISH AGENCY, WZO FOR ALLEGEDLY MISHANDLING ALIYA

By Yitzhak Shargil and Tuvia Mendelson

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel has sharply criticized the United Jewish Appeal, currently holding its national conference here, for neglecting the issue of North American aliya. It also blasted Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executive chairman Yosef Almogi for allegedly mishandling aliya from the U.S. and Canada.

The remarks, made at a press conference here today by Itzhak Haimowitz, president of the AACI, were promptly answered by UJA executive vice-chairman Irving Bernstein and in a statement issued by Almogi's office. Bernstein responded to Haimowitz's complaint that AACI representatives were not granted an opportunity to address the visiting UJA delegates who number more than 3000.

He said the Association was always welcome to meet UJA leaders but on this occasion it was not possible because the delegates representing 124 communities in the U.S. and Canada, were split into groups visiting various parts of Israel. They will only come together on the last day of the conference for an address by Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Bernstein said.

Haimowitz said of the UJA: "We think there is a policy to talk to the rich and important people only about appeals and bonds and to save aliya for lesser people. Officials here seem to think North American olim are crazy and that's the way they are treating us." He claimed that Almogi was increasing the Jewish Agency's bureaucracy rather than reducing it. He said "We, as North American olim, understand better than anyone else the problems of North American olim. But he (Almogi) gives us less instead of more opportunities to work with them."

Haimowitz also alleged that Almogi was trying to destroy the AACI's aliya movement by not sending new emissaries to the U.S. after the ones there completed their term of duty.

Almogi's office denied the allegations, observing that Almogi met with an AACI official only a week ago and that everything possible was being done to cooperate with the Association. The statement said that no new emissary was being sent to the U.S. because it is now the policy of the Jewish Agency to place more responsibility on the local American leadership for the promotion of aliya.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)--The Security Council is scheduled to meet Monday, Nov. 1, on Egypt's request made last week that the Council debate the "explosive situation" in the West Bank and the recent disturbances in Hebron. Sources here said the Council, after meeting, will adjourn until after the Presidential election. The sources indicated the Arabs are interested in the postponement for two reasons: after the election a U.S. veto in the Council on behalf of Israel could be avoided; the apartheid debate in the General Assembly will be over next week and full attention can be devoted to Egypt's accusations.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES SITTING ON A POWDER KEG

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)—Israel is bracing for the probable end to the relatively relaxed political and military atmosphere in the Middle East after the American Presidential elections Nov. 2, and is particularly concerned that a new situation will emerge in Lebanon with Syria in virtual control of that country.

According to many observers here, whoever is elected President of the United States next month may take a somewhat different and possibly tougher position on Israel and the Middle East than the two candidates have in their pre-election campaigning. A "dangerous and explosive" situation is also brewing in the UN Security Council which, at Egypt's initiative, will take up the situation in the administered territories.

Many Israelis believe this could stir up a new wave of outbursts on the West Bank which seems to have calmed down after the Hebron incidents on Yom Kippur. Finally, the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights comes up for renewal at the end of November. This may occasion an end of the tacit "understanding" between Israel and Syria over events in Lebanon.

Lebanese Situation Is Pivotal

The situation in Lebanon is expected to affect future developments in the Middle East. At the beginning of next month, an inter-Arab army, reportedly to number 30,000 men, is expected in Lebanon to police the cease-fire arrangements just reached at the Arab mini-summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Israel is skeptical that the cease-fire will hold. Nevertheless, it regards the Riyadh meeting as a clear victory for Syria which will be rubber-stamped at the full scale Arab summit this week. With Damascus' intervention in Lebanon thus legitimized, the Syrians have no reason to give in to the PLO and there appears to be an understanding between Syria and Egypt that a "tamed" PLO is better for all parties concerned.

But the presence of 30,000 Arab army regulars on Israel's northern border—most likely a Syrian army with only token forces from other Arab countries—will force Israel to reassess the military situation there.

A sudden improvement in Syrian-Egyptian relations would come as no surprise here. President Anwar Sadat doubtlessly believes that after the American elections the time will be ripe to resume political movement in the Middle East. But the two major powers could not be expected to bring pressure to bear on Israel as long as the Lebanese crisis continues. Thus, Sadat is prepared to cooperate with Syria to end the Lebanese conflict.

Meanwhile, Israel has reacted in a low key to the Egyptian initiative in the General Assembly earlier this month when Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy, in a speech delivered for him by Egyptian Ambassador Abdel Meguid, stressed that a Mideast peace settlement required Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinian people, including their right to an independent state.

Political sources here noted over the weekend that the move would not contribute to peace efforts and that it contradicts the terms of the Israeli-Egyptian interim agreement which re-

quired Egypt to tone down its political warfare against Israel.

Sadat is believed to be attempting to prove Egypt's determination to make the Arab world the fifth global power. Sources here point out that this is not the first time Cairo initiated anti-Israel action in an international forum despite commitments to the contrary.

Only Certainty Is Unpredictability

But knowledgeable sources note that the only certainty in the Middle East is its unpredictability. Despite the agreement at Riyadh, no one knows what the Iraqi or Libyan reaction will be toward Syrian hegemony in Lebanon or whether they will permit an inter-Arab move to cut the PLO down to size. There have been many cease-fires called in Lebanon during the past 18 months of blood-letting and none has lasted long. It appears, in fact, that a solution is no longer solely the function of an Egyptian-Syrian understanding or of an all-Arab effort.

The Phalangist radio announced last weekend the establishment of a new Lebanese Christian army for the defense of southern Lebanon. It stated its determination to keep fighting until the last Palestinian in southern Lebanon is wiped out. "For this cause we shall cooperate even with the devil," the announcement said. There is little doubt here who they mean by the "devil."

U.S. ELECTION EVENING IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)—The 1976 U.S. Election Results Center will operate from Nov. 2 at 10:30 p.m. (local time) until the following morning at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel. This event, sponsored jointly by the U.S. Cultural Center and the Jerusalem Hilton, will be open to the public and will provide full coverage of the American election returns.

The evening will begin with the screening of a variety of short films on the elections and the candidates, followed by the Israeli premiere of the feature film, "The Candidate," starring Robert Redford. Beginning at 2 a.m. and continuing until the outcome of the elections is decided, live and up-to-the-minute results will be reported by the Associated Press wire service and the Voice of America.

The public will receive the results through a continuously updated election results board to be on display. A panel of U.S. and Israeli experts will be on hand to discuss, interpret, predict the results and answer the public's questions. While waiting for the returns to accumulate, the Jerusalem Hilton will offer entertainment and dancing. A selection of favorite American foods and beverages will be available throughout the night.

ISRAELI STUDENTS STUDY IN RUMANIA

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)—Some 350 Israeli students study medicine in Rumania, Rabbi Mordechai Kirschblum told the Zionist Executive following a visit to Rumania. Kirschblum was impressed by the state of the Jewish community in Rumania. He said its 50,000 members are active in 68 communities well organized under the leadership of the Chief Rabbi, Moses Rosen. Kirschblum said there were some 130 synagogues in Rumania with 60 of them holding daily prayers. In each community there are youth activities. He noted, however, the lack of shochetim and rabbis who can serve as teachers.