



daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XLIII - 59th Year

Wednesday, November 3, 1976

No. 209

ZIONIST EXECUTIVE ACCEPTS ZIONIST CONGRESS COURT RULING ON ELECTIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA)--The Zionist Executive will accept the Zionist Congress Court order to carry out elections "in word and in spirit," the Executive decided by a wide majority yesterday.

Avraham Schenker, head of the WZO's organization and information department, was asked to provide the Executive with a timetable for carrying out the membership census and the elections. The final decision as to the convening of the 29th Congress will be determined by the Zionist General Council. It was also decided that in countries in which election dates have already been set, they will be postponed until the final date for the Congress is fixed. The Congress was scheduled to convene Jan. 17.

The Executive meeting followed a Zionist Congress Court ruling which declared "unconstitutional" a decision by the Zionist General Council last July not to hold elections for the Congress.

Turning Point For Zionist Movement

In the discussion that developed in the Executive, WZO chairman Yosef Almog said it was desirable that the Executive prepare for the Congress properly, rather than engage itself in discussion regarding the earlier decision not to hold the elections.

Jewish Agency treasurer Leon Dulzin said the Court had saved the honor of the Zionist movement and its decision should be regarded as an important turning point in the history of the Zionist movement. He added that "all of us owe thanks to the appeal by Herut (to rescind the Zionist Council decision) and the stand adopted by the WZO attorney which brought about this important ruling."

Moshe Krone, head of the department of Torah education in the diaspora, said the Executive should learn from the failure so that from now on there will be proper preparation for the Congress.

Ezra Shapiro, chairman of Keren Hayesod, said in the name of the World Confederation of the United Zionists, that his faction supported full elections for the Congress. "If we want democracy, let there be democracy throughout the world," he said, "including in Israel." The Congress Court which ruled against the General Council's decision was headed by Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau.

GOVERNMENT TRYING TO WORK OUT POLICY OF STATE SUBSIDIES

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA)--The government announced today that it would try to work out a long-term policy of state subsidies for basic commodities and other consumer items. It said it intends to link subsidies to the general cost of living index instead of increasing or cutting them on an ad hoc basis as has been the case heretofore.

The announcement was made in an attempt to mollify critics on both left and right who have denounced the IL 400 million subsidy cuts recommended by the ministerial economic committee today in face of strong opposition from Histadrut.

The Histadrut Central Committee convened in emergency session in Tel Aviv today.

The government's subsidy policy was assailed by Likud, the leftist Moked and the Rakah Communist Party. It was also sharply criticized by Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel who characterized the decision as hasty. The Central Committee called on the government to reverse it.

The reduction will send the prices of 14 basic foodstuffs up by an average of 20 percent. The cost of public transportation will increase by the same amount in two weeks and an immediate hike is expected in the cost of fuel. The government communique said that the Finance Minister would consult with Police Minister Shlomo Hillel, chairman of the ministerial economic committee, on measures to compensate the needy.

Economists, meanwhile, estimate that today's decision will cause a 2.5-3 percent rise in the cost of living index. Israeli wage-earners are compensated semi-annually for COL hikes. A 12 percent allowance was paid only last month for price increases that took effect earlier this year. The next COL allowances are six months off but when they are paid, they will only feed the inflationary spiral, economists said.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE PLO

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2 (JTA)--Although the Palestine Liberation Organization has two offices in New York with U.S. official consent and U.S. Embassy officials in Beirut are in communication with the PLO terrorists there, the State Department insists that the United States does not "recognize" the PLO.

This developed when the Jewish Telegraphic Agency asked the Department to clarify its written response of about 350 words to a previous JTA question regarding reported fund-raising in the U.S. by the PLO.

The statement noted that the PLO established an "information office" in New York in 1965 and registered with the U.S. Justice Department at that time as "a foreign agent." It files reports every six months with the Justice Department, the response said. The PLO observer office, on the other hand, was set up under a UN General Assembly resolution. It "is not registered with Justice and need not be," the State Department said.

Contact, But No Recognition

Since the end of June, U.S. officials have been in contact with the PLO in Lebanon for purposes of protecting Americans at the Embassy there, U.S. authorities have said. Asked by JTA whether the contacts in Beirut, together with the PLO offices in New York, add up to U.S. "de facto" if not "de jure" recognition of the PLO, the Department's chief spokesman Robert Funseth replied "neither." He said the contacts did not constitute "substantive" action of recognition.

Columnists Jack Anderson and Lea Whitten reported on Sept. 20 that the PLO received a check for \$4984 from persons in Virginia. The PLO observer office director, Zuhdi Terzi, admitted to them that he received the check, the columnists said, and that he forwarded it to

Jacob Oubedi, the PLO's top fund-raiser in Beirut.

Oubedi, the columnists said, signed a thank you note, written in Arabic on the stationery of the PLO's UN office and addressed to the "Palestinian Committee in the State of Virginia." Terzi also admitted, the columnists said, that the PLO fund drive reached into many states but that money for the PLO was scarce.

Funseth acknowledged as "correct" that the PLO received the \$4984. The Department's statement said the U.S. Mission to the UN brought the matter to the UN Secretariate's attention and the U.S. Mission itself "reviewed this matter directly" with Terzi.

According to the statement, the U.S. officials told Terzi "fund-raising is not an appropriate part of the functions of the PLO observer office or its members" and that in the future in "incidents of this nature" the U.S. would be "obliged to take appropriate measures." Funseth said he would prefer not to define the measures, pending what may take place in the future.

STORM BREAKS OUT OVER APOLOGY TO SOVIET COMMUNIST OFFICIAL

By Maurice Samuelson

GLASGOW, Nov. 2 (JTA)--Boris Ponomarev, head of the Soviet Communist Party's International Department, caused a political storm here today when he revealed that Peter McCann, Glasgow's Lord Provost, had apologized to him for angry demonstrations against him last night by Jews and other minorities. Ponomarev, who heads a six-man delegation as guest of the British Labor Party's International Committee, has been the target of demonstrations since his arrival in Britain last Wednesday.

Nicholas Fairbairn, a Conservative MP who joined in the demonstrations in Glasgow, said the Lord Provost, equivalent to a Lord Mayor, should resign. Leaders of Glasgow's 14,000-strong Jewish community also joined the dispute.

City Councillor Maurice Toshner said that if McCann had apologized it was "a damned disgrace and an affront to the Jews living in the city." Mrs. Ilse Schuster, one of the demonstration's organizers, said, "I can see why, as Lord Provost of Glasgow he has to be gracious but I don't see why he had to grovel."

Demonstrations Mark Visit

Ponomarev, before leaving Glasgow, said that the Soviet Union's Jews wanted to live in no other country and enjoyed the same rights as other nationalities. "There is no Jewish problem in the Soviet Union," the 71-year-old Politburo member said.

The Soviet visitor was greeted by demonstrators in behalf of Soviet Jewry everywhere he went in England and Scotland. In the House of Commons, Conservatives failed in an attempt to have him ejected from the visitor's gallery. Labor MP Greville Janner, who is vice-president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and two other Labor MPs tried to hand Ponomarev a letter signed by 40 Labor MPs protesting the imprisonment of Vladimir Slepak after last week's demonstrations in Moscow.

Prime Minister James Callaghan had earlier said that he has always raised the issue of Soviet emigration whenever he met with Soviet leaders and would do so again. Janner said this was the most categorical confirmation a British Prime Minister had ever given about top level intercessions on behalf of Soviet Jews.

Party Dispute Over Visit

Ponomarev's visit was the subject of an internal Labor Party row. A right-wing group of Labor MPs urged Callaghan to condemn the visit. They said that Ponomarev's record was as "obnoxious" as that of Alexander Shelepin, the former KGB boss who visited Britain last year.

The Jewish protests caused embarrassment to MP Ian Mikardo, the chairman of the committee which invited Ponomarev. A leading Labor left-winger, he is also a prominent Jewish member of the Labor Zionist movement in Britain.

Ponomarev is one of the top Soviet ideologists and is responsible for relations between the Soviet Communist Party and foreign Communist and Socialist parties. He made his mark under Stalin before World War II when he held a prominent position in the Comintern. He last visited Britain in 1965 and has visited several other Western countries.

PHILIP LOWN DEAD AT 85

BOSTON, Nov. 2 (JTA)--Funeral services for Philip W. Lown, industrialist, philanthropist and Jewish educational leader, will be held tomorrow in Newton, Mass. Mr. Lown, a resident of Miami Beach and Newton, died yesterday at the age of 85. Actively associated with the establishment of the State of Israel, he was one of the founders of the United Jewish Appeal and co-founder of the State of Israel Bonds.

Born in Lithuania, Lown came to the United States at the age of 17 and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Maine. He served in the Army's Chemical Warfare Division during World War I and later operated a chemical factory.

He was long active at Brandeis University serving as trustee and trustee emeritus and where he launched the Lown School of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies. Lown was a major figure in the evolution of Hebrew College in Brookline, serving as trustee, president and chairman of the board. The college established the Philip W. Lown Division of Education in 1972 and designated Lown as the first recipient of its medallion for leadership in Jewish education.

He also underwrote three facilities in Jerusalem--the Lown Community Health Center, the Library of the School of Education of the Hebrew University and a special Hadassah program to help immigrants from North Africa.

Active In Many Groups

Lown was an honorary fellow and later a member of the board of governors of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He was a pioneer in the development of camping to provide Jewish experience and knowledge for young Jews and was honorary president of both the American Association for Jewish Education and the Camp Lown Association.

Lown was a national leader of the Hillel Foundation and served as treasurer of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Commission for many years. He was a fellow of the Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences and received the Jewish Theological Seminary of America's medal for distinguished contributions to Jewish education.

GOLDMANN RAPS U.S. JEWS FOR ANTAGONIZING USSR ON JEWISH ISSUE By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA)--Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, last

night criticized American Jewry for antagonizing the Soviet Union over the Jewish emigration issue. He said that he agreed with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger that the adoption of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment caused the present decrease in Jewish emigration from the USSR.

Goldmann's remarks were made in response to questions from Rabbi William Berkowitz during the Dialogue '76 lecture series at Manhattan's Congregation D'nai Jeshurun. The WJC leader said that the Jews in the United States should continue their propaganda for the right of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union as well as for Jewish cultural, educational and religious rights within the USSR.

But, Goldmann stressed that he opposed such "extreme" methods as comparing the Soviet Union to Hitler's Germany, picketing and violence against Soviet diplomats. He said that the Soviet Union is still one of the three major powers in the world and Jews must maintain diplomatic relations with it. He said that while the USSR could not alone impose peace in the Middle East it could sabotage any peace attempt.

Too Much Stress On Public Role

Goldmann said he was also concerned that American Jewry stressed its public role too much while not concentrating on its religious, cultural and educational life, which he said was essential for Jewish survival. He said in this connection that he had always been concerned that the leadership of American Jewry was dominated by the wealthy. He said that American Jewish intellectuals feel they cannot participate in the Jewish leadership because they cannot afford the necessary financial contributions.

Asked about the Middle East, Goldmann said that now was the most opportune time for the United States to seek to bring about a final peace settlement. He said such a settlement would require Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories. As for Jerusalem, Goldmann said that the city should remain under Israeli administration but that the Old City should have a special status such as the Vatican has in Rome with its residents carrying special passports.

COURT RULING ON RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE OF EMPLOYEES IS HAILED BY COLPA

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA)—A Supreme Court ruling today affirming the application of a federal law requiring employers to make "reasonable accommodation" to the religious observances of employees was hailed by the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs as one of the "most significant steps forward" in the protection of the rights of Jews and other religious minorities.

The four-to-four split of the Supreme Court had the effect of sustaining the similarly-split ruling of a federal Court of Appeals, according to Sidney Kwestel, president of COLPA, which filed a brief with the Supreme Court on the issue on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish community.

The legislation involved a 1972 amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Act which required such accommodation unless it would create an "undue hardship" on the employer. The COLPA brief was prepared by Nathan Lewin, a COLPA vice-president.

Kwestel said the principal application of the federal law had been to bar employers from refusing to hire or to dismiss workers who were Orthodox Jews, Seventh-Day Adventists and

members of the World Wide Church of God, which forbade labor during their Sabbaths. The employer was forbidden to take such action against Sabbath observers even if the employer conducted business during that period and regularly required other employees to work.

Did Not Prove Undue Hardship

The Supreme Court ruling came in the case of Cummins v. Parker Seal Co. involving a member of the World Wide Church of God. Cummins was fired because he refused to work on Saturdays, a regular work-day at the company. He sued in federal court.

The federal Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit rejected the firm's contention that the law requiring such an accommodation violated the First Amendment ban on establishment of religion on grounds that it was forced to take some action against its will to enable Cummins to practice his religion.

The Appeals Court held that protecting a person's right to religious observance did not "establish religion." The lower court also held that Parker Seal had not demonstrated "undue hardship" because it had only shown that other employees objected to working on Saturdays while Cummins did not. The lower court held this did not constitute "undue hardship," Kwestel noted.

UDALL: NO COMPROMISE ON ISRAEL

CINCINNATI, Nov. 2 (JTA)—Rep. Morris K. Udall (D, Ariz.) declared here that there must be "no compromise on the survival of Israel" on the part of the U.S. and expressed hope that this country would "stand firm" in support of "a real friend" which is the State of Israel. Udall, addressing 600 delegates at the 11th National Board Conference of the Women's American ORT here, also called for a "flexible foreign policy" that would be selective in giving aid to countries in which the U.S. has a true interest.

The history of the Jewish people, he said, reflected "an unquenchable belief in the human spirit" predicated on the knowledge that "when the bell tolls for one man or one nation, it tolls for all." He praised the ORT's 97-year record of vocational training and education all over the world.

ORT's chief of operations in Geneva, David Alberstein, told the delegates that the organization will be teaching more and more "sophisticated skills that will be necessary for life in the year 2000." In order to keep up with the rapid advances in technology ORT will "keep raising the levels of study. It is a quintessential part of ORT's program to constantly offer advanced skills to its students," he said. Alberstein spoke of ORT's operations in Latin America, particularly its creative education programs in Chile and Venezuela.

Dvora Tomer, a former commander of Israel's women's army with the rank of colonel, spoke of the need to "change the image of women as it is at present reflected in the kind of skills taught to women in ORT-Israel." She said the status of women in Israel could well be altered by the kind of vocational education they received at ORT schools and predicted a "new era" in the making for Israeli women.

Resolutions adopted by the conference included an endorsement of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), support of the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate and a condemnation of terrorism.

CJF ASSEMBLY WILL REPRESENT MOBILIZATION OF NORTH AMERICAN JEWRY TO MEET URGENT NEEDS

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA)--Jerold C. Hoffberger of Baltimore, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds (CJF) said today that the CJF's 45th General Assembly to be held in Philadelphia Nov. 10-14 will represent a mobilization of North American Jewry to meet the urgent needs of Jews at home and abroad.

In a pre-Assembly statement released here, Hoffberger said the Philadelphia agenda "reflects our commitment to the vital needs of Jews in North America, Israel and in every country where Jews reside--needs that deny so many their right to live dignified lives as Jews and free men."

He said that "At home, the basic needs of the elderly, the sick, the poor, of families in trouble and newly arrived immigrants must be met. Abroad, our support for Israel and for Jews still suffering persecution and deprivation in other lands must not falter. Our commitment is ancient and inherited. Our response must continue to be vigorous and contemporary."

Hoffberger will deliver the opening address of the Assembly to 2000 delegates from the United States and Canada. His subject will be "The State of Our Federations." He will be ending his first term as CJF president. Hoffberger, president of Carling Breweries of Baltimore, is a former vice-president and chairman of the CJF's Advisory Committee on Community Relations in the Middle East and is a national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and a member of its National Cabinet.

He is also a member of the boards of the Jewish Agency for Israel, chairman of its committee on immigration and absorption and a member of the board of the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Funds of Baltimore.

11 Key Policy Issues

Harris K. Weston, of Cincinnati, chairman of the CJF's resolutions committee, announced that the General Assembly would be asked to act on 11 key policy issues which will be presented to it in the form of resolutions.

These include securing commitments of support for Israel by the U.S. and Canada in Middle East peace-making efforts; U.S. military and economic aid for Israel to deter Arab aggression and to aid in housing and social services; legislation by the U.S. and Canada to combat the Arab boycott of Israel; efforts to secure free emigration for all Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union and full civil rights for those who choose to remain; assistance in resettling Soviet Jewish immigrants who come to the U.S. and Canada; and moves to secure the human rights of Jews in Syria, including their right to emigrate.

The Assembly delegates will mark three anniversaries: America's Bicentennial; the 75th anniversary of the host Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia and the Assembly's own 45th session.

NOVEMBER 6 DESIGNATED BY AZF AS 'ZIONIST SHABBAT'

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA)--Saturday, Nov. 6 has been designated as "Zionist Shabbat," by the American Zionist Federation which has called on synagogues and community centers throughout the U.S. to devote the Sabbath to Zionism. Mrs.

Faye Schenk, AZF president, said that the Nov. 6 Shabbat is the closest to the historic Nov. 2, 1917 Balfour Declaration and it occurs before the infamous Zionist resolution passed by the UN General Assembly Nov. 10, 1975.

Noting that Jews in the U.S. and all over the world have rallied to Zionism, Mrs. Schenk said she hoped that the Zionist Shabbat would be a permanent part of the synagogue calendar. She also said that November is a very significant month in Zionist history, for in addition to the Balfour Declaration, the UN General Assembly approved the recommendation for the partition of Palestine on Nov. 29, 1947.

The AZF in cooperation with various rabbinic groups, has urged rabbis to offer a sermon on Zionism and that the congregations hold a discussion on Zionism by members of their synagogue. The AZF prepared Zionist Shabbat kits which included program suggestions and background material for sermons and for discussions on Zionism.

UN DEBATE ADJOURNED TILL NOV. 4

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 2 (JTA)--Israel will address the Security Council Thursday when the debate on the situation in the West Bank and Hebron, requested by Egypt two weeks ago, is resumed. The Council adjourned after meeting briefly last night. The Palestine Liberation Organization was given the right to participate in the debate over the opposition of the United States. The decision on PLO participation is not a subject for a veto since it is a procedural matter. In his address last night, the PLO's permanent observer at the UN, Zehadi Labib Terzi, accused Israel of violating the human rights of the Arabs in the West Bank.

MERNA BARRY PINE DEAD AT 51

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA)--Funeral services were held today for Merna Barry Pine, one of the two singing Barry Sisters, whose Yiddish recordings were popular among Jewish audiences throughout the world. She died Sunday at the age of 51.

Merna and her sister, Claire, recorded and made stage appearances singing songs in English and other languages. But they were best known for their songs in Yiddish. They were the first American entertainers asked to perform for Israeli troops after the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War.

Known originally as the Bagelman Sisters, they began their career in 1932 on the Jewish Children's Hour radio program in New York when Merna was seven and Claire was nine. In the early 1940s they changed their name to the Barry Sisters. They appeared frequently on radio and television, including 16 times on the Ed Sullivan Show and sang in concert halls and night clubs, making a number of international tours.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A delegation of the European Parliament was scheduled to arrive in Israel Tuesday, headed by George Spenale, President of the Parliament. Spenale is a leading member of the French Socialist Party. The delegation includes Parliament members from Germany, Belgium, Britain and Italy. This is a return visit for a Knesset delegation, visit led by Abba Eban to the European Parliament last December. The delegation, which will be here for four days, intends to bind Israel's ties with the European body on a parliamentary level.