



daily news bulletin

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

Content copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XLIII - 59th Year

Wednesday, December 22, 1976

No. 243

MOSCOW SYMPOSIUM LEADERS ARRESTED; U.S. RAPS MOVE AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE ACCORDS SIGNED IN HELSINKI

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (JTA)--The arrest in Moscow today of at least 10 of the Jewish organizers of the cultural symposium that was scheduled to begin today and end Thursday was criticized by the U.S. government as inconsistent with the Helsinki accords.

According to reports from Moscow, the organizers were arrested as they left their homes on their way to the symposium. Among those reportedly arrested were Prof. Benjamin Fein, the symposium's chairman, Grigory Rosenshtein, Pavel Abramovich, Leonid Volynsky, Vladimir Prestin, Alexander Lerner, Joseph Ahe, Felix Kandel and Arkady Mai.

At the same time, none of the foreign scholars who had been scheduled to participate in the symposium had arrived for today's opening meeting, apparently because they had been refused visas. The foreign scholars were from the United States, Israel, Britain and Sweden.

'Disturbing And Regrettable'

Commenting on the developments, a State Department spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "We find these Soviet actions disturbing and regrettable. We have on two occasions urged the Soviet Embassy to grant visas to eight American scholars who worked to attend this symposium. It is certainly not consistent with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki agreements) whose provisions call for the development of human contacts and cooperation and exchanges in this cultural area."

The Association of Jewish Studies, an organization of more than 800 Jewish and non-Jewish scholars at colleges and universities, had protested to the U.S. Commission monitoring Soviet compliance with the Helsinki accords after the Soviet government had rejected the visa applications of four American scholars representing the Association to attend the symposium.

On Dec. 15, the day of the Commission's hearing on the Association's protest, the State Department took up with the Soviet Embassy the matter of the rejection of the visas for the Association representatives and four other members who had sought to present papers at the symposium. Two days after the hearing, the Department raised the level of its protest to the Soviet Union. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, Jack Armitage, discussed the visa rejections with the immediate subordinates to the Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin.

Report 110 Jews Arrested

Late this afternoon, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported in New York that at least 50 Moscow Jews and 60 from other Soviet cities were detained to prevent them from participating in the symposium, according to reports reaching the SSSJ and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. None of the organizers were able to reach the gathering attended by 50 persons, including Prof. Andrei Sakharov, in a Moscow apartment, the SSSJ reported.

After seven papers were presented, those present voted to close the symposium, which its organizers had hoped would last for three days, according to the SSSJ. Three attorneys from Norfolk, Va. who had come to participate, were expelled from the USSR it was reported. In addition, 15 more phones of Jewish activists were disconnected.

Meanwhile, the SSSJ reported, the symposium organizing committee released a Chanuka message "to Jewish people everywhere." It stated: "The deep crisis through which Soviet Jewry is now going reminds one of the distant past when Jews were facing mass Hellenization and spiritual subjugation. The events of the last few years such as the desire of a part of Soviet Jewry to retain its entity shows there is still a possibility to build a Jewish life so that the words 'I am a Jew' will be filled with meaning and a Jew would not remember his origin only while facing an anti-Semitism."

In events related to the Moscow symposium, solidarity conferences were held in a number of cities across the country, including New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Berkeley, Philadelphia and Cambridge, Mass. (Story on these events will be in Dec. 23 issue of the Bulletin.)

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

THE PROSPECT OF EARLY ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL FINDS MOST OF THE PARTIES UNPREPARED TO GO TO THE POLLS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21 (JTA)--The prospect of early elections which loomed suddenly following the resignation of Premier Yitzhak Rabin's government last night finds most of Israel's political parties woefully unprepared to go to the polls. The elections, originally scheduled for late next year, probably will not be held before June. (See related story P. 3.)

But first the major political parties must solve numerous internal problems and disputes while the many splinter factions try to improve their strength by mergers and the newly formed groups seek to establish their identities with the electorate. A party-by-party survey by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency indicated the position of the various parties as they stand today.

* Labor Party: While Premier Rabin's ouster of the National Religious Party from his Cabinet enhanced his stature in his own party, it by no means ended the challenge to his leadership from within. His most serious rival is Defense Minister Shimon Peres who has not given up his bid to head the Labor Party list in the next elections.

Peres has been feuding constantly with Rabin in recent months. He felt slighted when the Premier failed to consult with him over the ouster of the NRP. He, and several other senior ministers, learned of the decision only after Rabin had discussed it with former Premier Golda Meir, who holds no office, and with Chaim Zadok and Israel Galili, ministers who are junior to Peres in point of Cabinet rank.

* Mapam: While the leadership issue is the most serious one confronting the Labor Party,

its platform may make it difficult to preserve the alignment with Mapam. The latter has made it clear that it will not appear on a Labor Alignment list unless major changes are made in the platform. These include language indicating the Alignment's willingness to make territorial concessions in the Judea and Samaria districts (West Bank) as part of an overall peace settlement with the Arabs. The platform, as it stands, does not mention Judea-Samaria.

There is a strong faction within Mapam that has been lobbying for months to break away from the Alignment and present a separate list to the voters. A group headed by MK Aharon Efrath is already preparing a separate election campaign.

Prospects For Other Parties

* **Likud:** The opposition faction seems to be ready, in general, for early elections which its leaders have been demanding for some time. It is a well established political body with a staff and machinery that can be mobilized swiftly for an election campaign. But Likud also faces internal leadership difficulties. There is a group within Likud opposed to having veteran Herut leader Menachem Begin automatically at the head of its election list. Opposition to Begin was one of the reasons Gen. (Res.) Ariel Sharon gave last month when he quit Likud, a party he had helped to found.

* **Independent Liberals:** The ILP is also a well established party with an experienced staff. But it is a small faction and the failure of its recent attempt to extract concessions from the Labor Alignment may have tarnished its image. The ILP is one of those factions that seeks alignments, mergers or parliamentary blocs with other small factions. Ideologically, it is closest to the Free Center and the Civil Rights Party but efforts to form a coalition with these and other factions in the Knesset have been unproductive so far.

* **National Religious Party:** The NRP is the largest and, relatively, the most moderate of the religious factions. But it too has been strained in recent months by disputes between its militant "young guard" and its veteran leadership. It is constantly being pushed to the right by the ultra-Orthodox Aguda bloc, the so-called "Torah Front" which accuses the NRP of being insufficiently zealous in pressing for State enforcement of religious practices.

The NRP and Aguda are supported by a hard core of religious nationalists, represented by the Gush Emunim who claim that the entire West Bank belongs to Israel by divine right. The NRP was instrumental in preventing the government from acting against the illegal settlers at Kadum in Samaria. Unauthorized Jewish settlements in the administered territories is expected to be a major issue in the next elections.

Splinter Factions And New Groups

* **Splinter Factions:** The so-called splinter factions are just that. They have been unable to coalesce into an effective Knesset bloc due to differing philosophies and leadership rivalry. Shulamit Aloni's Civil Rights Party, Shmuel Tamir's Free Center and Dr. Benjamin Halevy, an independent MK who defected from Likud, could comprise a liberal center bloc along with the ILP.

On the other hand, a left-Socialist bloc could be created with the new Independent Socialist Movement consisting of Arye Eliav and Marcia

Freedman and Moked, headed by Meir Payil.

The extreme left is represented by the New Communist or Maki faction which often votes with Moked, and the pro-Moscow Rakah Communist faction.

* **New Groups:** Two new groups emerged on the political scene during the past few months--Sharon's Shlomzion faction and the Movement for Change headed by Hebrew University archaeologist Yigal Yadin. Sharon has been a strong advocate of early elections. But so far he appears to be a lone wolf. His own name appears on his party list but he has yet to hint who his partners will be.

Yadin is ideologically a "dove" and his new movement may be a natural partner in a liberal center bloc. He is not seeking a coalition at this time but apparently is waiting for other factions to approach him. In any event, the Movement for Change is still in its early stages and it remains to be seen if it can gain support and momentum in time for the early elections.

BROWN DESIGNATED AS DEFENSE CHIEF

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (JTA)--Harold Brown, the precocious Bronx High School of Science student who became the first Jewish Secretary of the Air Force and is now president of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, was designated today by President-elect Jimmy Carter to be his Secretary of Defense.

Brown, a scientist and administrator with a long series of notable achievements in military and educational services, was graduated from high school at age 15 and received his doctorate in physics from Columbia University before he was 22. He is the son of A.H. and Gertrude Cohen Brown and was born in New York City September, 1927.

Brown's Jewish origin was reported by Time magazine when he was being considered by Carter for a Cabinet post. Who's Who named his parents including his mother's maiden surname. In the Los Angeles area, leaders of Jewish communal organizations told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in telephone interviews that he is "nominally Jewish" and not identified with the Jewish community's efforts. "He may do things quietly we don't know about but in terms of public identification, I know of none," one leader said. "He noted, however, that Brown 'may be a better Jew than you or me.'"

A basis for his comment was that he lent his name and prestige to break the anti-Jewish barrier at the prestigious California Club in Los Angeles, one of two "downtown" groups whose membership is limited to top corporation leaders. When the California Club was founded some 70 years ago for chairmen of corporation boards, one or two Jews are believed to have been members but for decades no Jew has been admitted. Three years ago Brown's name was proposed for membership in the California Club but his name is "still in the works," the JTA was told.

Another instance of Brown's views was that he became involved in the Soviet Jewish struggle, a communal leader observed to JTA. Brown invited the Soviet government to allow Benjamin Levich, the famous Soviet physicist and leader in the struggle for emigration and civil rights for Soviet Jewry, to come to Cal Tech. Brown wrote to the highest levels of the Kremlin, a communal leader said, in his fruitless effort to

bring Levich to the school for special study.

ADL 'TROUBLED' THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL-DESIGNATE IS MEMBER OF CLUBS EXCLUDING JEWS AND BLACKS

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said today that it was "most troubled" to learn that U.S. Attorney General-designate Griffin Bell is a member of two private clubs that exclude Blacks and Jews from membership and urged him "to immediately withdraw" from them.

Bell, whose nomination to head the Justice Department was announced yesterday by President-elect Jimmy Carter, reportedly confirmed through a Carter spokesman that he belonged to the Piedmont Driving Club and the Capital City Club in Atlanta, Ga. He acknowledged, through the spokesman, that the Piedmont Driving Club did not accept Jews or Blacks for membership but allowed them to use the club facilities as guests.

In a statement issued here, Benjamin R. Epstein, national director of the ADL, said: "ADL is firmly opposed to clubs which discriminate on the basis of religion and race. Such practice is insulting and a degradation of American minority groups. We are most troubled to learn that the Attorney General-designate holds membership in discriminatory clubs. It would be difficult for a person who holds such membership and is charged with enforcing the laws against discrimination to do so. We strongly urge Mr. Bell to immediately withdraw from any discriminatory clubs in which he is a member."

KATZIR TO TAKE STEPS TO FORM A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21 (JTA)--President Ephraim Katzir will begin consultations with various party leaders next Sunday and will eventually ask one of them to form a transition government to govern Israel until elections are held. The Knesset is expected to dissolve itself late next week and set an election date, probably in mid-May.

But judging from developments today, the transition regime will not be a peaceful one. A major battle is looming in the Labor Party where Defense Minister Shimon Peres is about to launch an all-out challenge against Premier Yitzhak Rabin for leadership of the party. If he wins, he will head the Labor list on election day and, assuming a Labor victory, would probably become Israel's next Premier.

Likud, meanwhile, is seeking a temporary coalition with other factions to build sufficient support to convince President Katzir to name it to head the transition government. Likud reportedly was trying to woo the Rafi faction of the Labor Party, headed by Peres, to bolt Labor and form a bloc with it.

But sources close to Peres said today that the Defense Minister has not been approached by any other party. The sources said that Peres will formally announce his candidacy for Labor Party leadership and claimed he had a good chance to defeat Rabin whose stewardship has been criticized from within the party.

Peres Free To Seek Premiership

In fact, one of Rabin's closest supporters, Justice Minister Chaim Zadok, appeared to modify his previous opposition to a challenge by Peres. Only a few weeks ago, Zadok stated that it was

improper and undignified for a sitting Cabinet minister to run against the Premier and that anyone with such ambitions should first resign.

But on a radio interview today, Zadok noted that the Cabinet is now a caretaker government from which no minister can resign under Israeli law. According to observers, Zadok implied that Peres is now free to contest party leadership with Rabin without relinquishing his portfolio and that he, Zadok, would do nothing to prevent him from doing so.

Rabin officially announced his government's resignation to the Knesset today. During the debate that followed, Likud leader Menachem Begin demanded that Rabin cancel his January trip to Washington to meet with President Carter. He told Rabin, "On Jan. 20 Carter will legally represent the majority of Americans who elected him President but you, when you go to meet him, will represent a minority in the Knesset and a minority of the people in this country."

YUGOSLAVIA IN LAST MINUTE MOVE AT UN TO ENHANCE COMMITTEE OF 20 By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 21 (JTA)--In a last minute move before the General Assembly adjourns tomorrow, Yugoslavia introduced today a draft resolution calling for the enlargement of the 20-member Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People by adding three non-aligned countries to the committee--Nigeria, Mali and Guyana. These three and 16 other members of the Committee have no diplomatic relations with Israel.

Israel protested today to the UN Secretariat about the Yugoslavian move, which involves reintroducing Item 27--Question of Palestine--as contrary to the UN Charter. According to diplomats here, the Yugoslavian draft is inspired by the Palestine Liberation Organization which seeks to enhance the credibility of the Committee by widening its base.

Meanwhile, it was reported here that the General Assembly will not conclude its session tomorrow and will only adjourn in order to reconvene in the spring to discuss world economic problems. It was learned today that Israeli Ambassador Chaim Herzog will leave soon for consultation in Israel on future Mideast developments and ways to counter the recent "peace offensive" by the Arabs.

JEWS ATTACKED BY NEO-NAZIS

BRUSSELS, Dec. 21 (JTA)--Jewish demonstrators against the resurgence of Nazism in Western Europe were manhandled by neo-Nazis in the small Belgian town of Braine-le-Comte yesterday. Several Jewish demonstrators were slightly wounded when members of the neo-Nazi Flemish organization, "Vlaamse Militante Order," attacked them with iron bars and sticks.

The Jewish demonstrators, who came to protest against the publication of Nazi literature by one of the village printing presses, had marched through the city first and laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Jewish Students Union of Belgium has lodged a complaint against the neo-Nazi assailants.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Kudat, a prominent Soviet conductor and founder of the Moscow Chamber Orchestra has been given permission to emigrate to Israel, it was learned Tuesday.

HASIDIM KILLED AND INJURED IN HIGHWAY ACCIDENT ARE IDENTIFIED

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (JTA)--The names of the five Hasidic rabbis who were killed yesterday in a highway accident near Downingtown, Pa. were released last night to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by Rabbi Nachum Yosefy, a spokesman for the Council of Jewish Organizations of Boro Park in Brooklyn. The five were Menachem Krauss, Shlomo Berkowitz, Asher Zelig Kahana, Elchanan Spiegel and Shmuel Hecht. A sixth victim, Rabbi Yosef Gootman, was reported in very critical condition in a hospital in Coatsville, Pa.

According to Yosefy, all of the victims were ritual slaughterers or kashrut supervisors. All resided in the Boro Park of Williamsburg sections of Brooklyn. The accident occurred at around 4 a.m. while they were on their way to a kosher packing plant in Lancaster County. The car in which they were riding skidded into an oncoming tractor-trailer when the car hit an ice patch at the intersection of Routes 30 and 113.

Yosefy did not know the ages of the victims. However, a spokesman for the Shomrei Hadas Chapels in Brooklyn said Krauss was 57 years old; Spiegel, 46; Hecht, 38; and Kahana, 56.

ADL PROTESTS KKK ACTIVITY

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today called for Congressional investigation of the Ku Klux Klan and other extremist groups operating in the United States Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton, Calif. and elsewhere.

In letters to Sen. John C. Stennis (D.Miss.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Rep. Melvin Price (D.Ill.), his House counterpart, the ADL pointed out that recent racial violence at Camp Pendleton was reportedly due to the presence of a clandestine Ku Klux Klan organization and units of other hate groups on the base.

The letters, signed by Arnold Forster, ADL's associate director and general counsel, asserted that "there is no room within the armed forces of the United States for organized bigotry and extremism."

Stating that the Klan "has long been a blight on American society," Forster also expressed concern about another group linked to the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton, the National States Rights Party, which "has a long record of promoting racial and religious discord and hatred." He noted that the alleged Klan leader, Sgt. Randall Clouse, who has since been transferred to the Naval Air Base in Dallas, Texas, told the press that the NSRP is one of several hate groups with units at Pendleton.

In calling for the Congressional probe, Forster said that while members of the armed forces, like all other citizens, have a right to their personal views, the propriety of allowing "undemocratic, violence-prone organizations to infiltrate the armed forces for the purpose of promoting chaos and disorder," is highly questionable.

JEWS PAY TRIBUTE TO MAYOR DALEY

CHICAGO, Dec. 21 (JTA)--The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago paid tribute today to Mayor Richard J. Daley. Chicago's Mayor for more than 20 years, who died of a heart attack yesterday at the age of 74. In a message expressing condolences to Mrs. Daley, the Federation characterized the late Mayor Daley as "above all a man of compassion and concern for the less fortunate. We shall always remember," the mes-

sage said, "how he stood with other government leaders, together with the Jewish community and people from all walks of life, at the time the State of Israel was attacked on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year." Other Jewish groups in the city joined in tribute to Daley and in condolences to Mrs. Daley.

5000 HASIDIC JEWS PROTEST UNFAIR RACIAL BALANCE IN HOUSING PROJECT

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (JTA)--More than 5000 Hasidic Jews from the Williamsburg area of Brooklyn demonstrated outside City Hall for two hours yesterday to protest what they claimed was an unfair racial balance in a new low to middle income housing project.

The Roberto Clemente Plaza, a five-building development containing 432 apartments, has been earmarked by officials for 75 percent occupancy by Blacks and Puerto Ricans and 25 percent white. The high-rise is located in the center of the Hasidic neighborhood where, the protesters pointed out, the population is 70 percent Hasidic and 30 percent Black and Hispanic. They insist that the project reflect the ethnic mix of its immediate surroundings.

According to Rabbi Efroim Stein, "A balance of 75 percent minorities and 25 percent white in this project will destroy the Hasidic community and force us to move out of Williamsburg. Such an upheaval would be catastrophic to a people who have already suffered so much," he said.

Father Bryan Karvelis, board chairman of the Roberto Clemente Plaza, has suggested a 50-50 balance between minorities and whites, reflecting the people who were displaced from their original homes when the project was built. "We are now trying to achieve a proper balance. It is our hope that this matter can be settled amicably," Karvelis said. The dispute is currently before the U.S. Federal District Court for the Southern District.

ASSER-LEVY TO BE HONORED

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (JTA)--The New York City Council is expected to approve a measure to re-name part of Seaside Park in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn in honor of Asser Levy, reputedly one of the first Jews permitted to settle in Nieuw Amsterdam in 1654. A bill to that effect was adopted by a 7-0 vote by the City Council's Parks Commission yesterday.

The legislation climaxed a 10-year effort by Murray Tate, a student of American-Jewish history and former district commander of the Kings County Jewish War Veterans, to honor the pioneer Jewish settler in an area of the city that today is closely identified with the Jewish community. Tate, who died earlier this month at the age of 65, founded the Asser Levy National Council to make others aware of Levy's contributions.

These included winning the right for Jewish settlers to help defend the Dutch settlement on lower Manhattan against Indian attacks; contributing money for its defense against the British and himself fighting against the forces of the British Crown; struggling for equality for fellow Jews and for civil rights generally and contributing money for construction of the first Lutheran church in what was to become the city of New York. Levy, who died in 1681, was honored a number of years ago by the naming of a plaza for him on East 23rd St. in Manhattan.