



# daily news bulletin

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## VANCE REPORTED TO HAVE PROMISED THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL PROBE USSR'S BAN ON MATZOH IMPORTS

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA)--The Synagogue Council of America (SCA) said today that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has promised to have the State Department investigate the Soviet Union's ban on the importation of matzo. Vance gave his assurance to Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive vice-president of the SCA, at a private meeting at the State Department last Friday.

The Soviet action was in the form of a note the Moscow authorities sent to the Universal Postal Union in January asking that it notify post offices throughout the world that the Soviet Union forbids the import of "alimentary doughs and products of flour converted into bread in any postal item whatsoever." The SCA said Siegman pointed out to Vance that since few other products containing flour are shipped into the Soviet Union, the regulation effectively bans the shipment of matzo to that country for Passover which begins April 2.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), which called attention to the Soviet ruling last week, said it was promulgated shortly after Soviet officials in the West had given assurances that matzo packages would be permitted entry. The ban was characterized by the NCSJ as a new "assault" on the cultural and religious tradition of Jews in the Soviet Union.

According to Abraham S. Karlikow of the American Jewish Committee's Paris office, "some 25,000 individual packages were in preparation for shipment to the USSR for Passover" by firms that specialize in sending packages to the Soviet Union.

## Concern Over Jews In Small Towns

In Chicago, the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry called on Christians and Jews to join in a protest against the Soviet decree. A statement issued by Sister Margaret Traxler, Prof. Andre Lacocque and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, co-chairpersons of the Task Force, expressed "dismay" that the Soviet authorities had reversed their earlier decision.

"While we were encouraged to hear that the Soviet government will allow the baking of matzo in Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev, we are concerned that Jews in small towns and outlying areas will not have sufficient supplies for the eight days of Passover," they said. The SCA also noted that Jews in small towns and villages in the Soviet Union depend on matzo packages shipped from the U.S. and Western Europe.

## British Jews Rap Ban

In London, the office of British Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobowitz described the ban as "a grave violation of basic religious rights." A spokesman said, however, that there should be no shortage of locally produced matzo in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Georgia. But he had no information about the supply in Odessa, Kharkov, Kishinev, Minsk and many smaller Jewish population centers.

Anglo-Jewish leaders, meanwhile, have asked the government to intercede with Soviet authorities to lift the matzo ban. They noted that parcels of matzo have to have been sent to smaller Jewish communities on the strength of an agreement by Soviet authorities to permit the import of matzo when Jakobowitz visited Moscow last year.

## 2 SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVISTS SEIZED ON THEIR WAY INTO U.S. EMBASSY

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA)--Two Jewish activists were seized by Soviet plainclothes police yesterday afternoon while being escorted to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow by an American diplomat, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) reported today. Prof. Benjamin Fein, who was chairman of the aborted Moscow Jewish Cultural Symposium last December and his companion, Isosif Begun, were released last night after several hours' detention at different police stations, the SSSJ said.

According to the SSSJ the two had an appointment at the Embassy to present documents about the symposium and an appeal on Jewish emigration rights to be conveyed to the U.S. Congressional committee which monitors Soviet compliance with the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Agreements. They were escorted by Larry C. Napper, Third Secretary at the Embassy. The escort was necessary because Moscow police who guard the Embassy bar entry to any Soviet national without official authorization.

The SSSJ said the plainclothesmen hustled Fein and Begun into cars, ignoring Napper's explanation that they were expected at the Embassy. They told Napper that the two Jews were "dangerous criminals." Fein and Begun were interrogated at different police stations for about six hours before they were released.

The Symposium on Jewish Culture that Fein helped organize last year was banned by the Soviet government on grounds that it was an anti-Soviet activity. Most of the organizers were placed under house arrest and visas were denied to scholars from abroad who had planned to participate. The symposium convened nevertheless but was forced to adjourn after a brief meeting. Fein and Begun have been refused exit visas to emigrate to Israel.

## VANCE RULES OUT HAVING UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLVE PROBLEM OF PLO AS A PARTY AT GENEVA MIDEAST TALKS By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 1 (JTA)--Secretary of State Cyrus Vance today flatly ruled out a suggestion that the United Nations Security Council "resolve the problem of recognition" of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a party in the Middle East settlement process at a Geneva conference.

The suggestion was posed to Vance by Rep. Millicent Fenwick (R,NJ) while questioning him on U.S. relations with the UN during the hearing by the House International Relations Committee on anti-Arab boycott legislation.

Three weeks ago, retired Israeli Maj. Gen.

Matti Peled urged at the Conference of the American Friends Service Committee here that the U.S. press for a resolution in the Security Council to bring the PLO into the Geneva process. Peled said Israel could not refuse such an American move.

Vance, however, told Fenwick that both he and UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim "agree you cannot negotiate a peace agreement in the Security Council." Vance also said he and Waldheim are "working together very closely" on a continuing basis to solve the Middle East situation.

Regarding Fenwick's query as to the feasibility of a UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, Vance replied that this is up to the Lebanese. "If they really feel it will be useful, they should raise it in the United Nations," he said. "We have an open mind."

When Rep. George Danielson (D. Calif.) observed that without talking to the PLO it would be like talking to two sides of a triangle, Vance did not respond directly, but said "everybody agrees, including the Israelis, that no settlement can be made without resolution of the Palestinian element." The Secretary said that Arab governments do not have a unified view on how the Palestinian question should be settled.

#### No Initiative For Guarantees

Vance told Committee Chairman Clement Zablocki (D. Wis.) that the U.S. has "not at this point" taken any initiative in the direction of guarantees for Israel. The Secretary said that if that issue arises it will come up in the peace treaty and Congress would have to act on it.

Rep. Paul Findley (R. Ill.) congratulated Vance for testifying that the U.S. view "is consonant with international law" in opposing Israel's drilling for oil in the Gulf of Suez. Vance called the issue "explosive" between Egypt and Israel and said he was trying to "contain it." The Secretary also said that the movements across borders between Jordan and Israel is "a very positive factor." He also praised the cooperation by Egypt and Israel in the Sinai as an "excellent experience" that is "a good omen for the future."

Vance told Rep. Berkeley Bedell (D. Iowa) that the "consensus" among "senior officers" of the government is that the U.S. policy on the sale of arms abroad should be governed by foreign policy objectives rather than economic purposes. Bedell had asked whether a reduction in U.S. arms sales would not damage the U.S. balance of payments in international trade.

#### ILP PARLEY CALLED UPON TO DEVELOP A NEW LEADERSHIP

TEL AVIV, March 1 (JTA)--Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol was re-elected chairman of the Independent Liberal Party at a stormy closing session of its convention here last night at which strong demands were made by some members for new leadership. Kol said he had not decided whether to stand for re-election to the Knesset May 17 but observers noted he has used this tactic before to get his supporters to persuade him to remain on the list.

Nevertheless, criticism of the present ILP leadership was rampant at the convention. Some delegates insisted that the party must show new faces if it is to gain voter support in the elections. The ILP holds only four seats in the present Knesset. At one point fluticuffs erupted on the floor over a proposal to limit the term of office

of party MKs. The motion was defeated.

The ILP tried unsuccessfully to leave Premier Yitzhak Rabin's coalition government last year. It was prevented from doing so when the Supreme Court ruled that the resignations of its ministers were invalid because they became effective only after the Rabin government was transformed into a care-taker regime. Nevertheless, the ILP convention supported the Labor Party's election platform which states Israel's readiness to negotiate territorial concessions in all sectors in exchange for peace.

The ILP platform supported reconvening the Geneva conference at which, it said, the Palestinian issue should be dealt with by Israel and Jordan and a Palestinian delegation that recognized Israel. It stated that the issue should be resolved within the context of a Jordanian-Palestinian state in which the Palestinian entity would find self-expression.

#### LEBANESE CHRISTIAN WOMAN DONATES \$3000 TO ISRAEL VOLUNTARY FUND

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 1 (JTA)--The Israel Voluntary Defense Fund has received a donation of \$3000 from a Lebanese Christian woman. She sent in a check saying that her brother had been treated at the "good fence" on the Israel-Lebanon border.

The fund has also announced the receipt of the largest single donation, IL 300,000. It came from Shmuel and Yocheved Aharonowitz, the parents of Yitzhak Aharonowitz who was the captain of the Exodus, the famed ship that sought to bring in illegal immigrants to Palestine in 1947. The Aharonowitz's said their four children are well off and they don't need the money which was deposited in a bank.

Contributions to the fund, which goes for scientific development for the Israel Defense Force, went into high gear after the Israeli rescue mission at Uganda's Entebbe Airport last year and continue to flow in.

Israeli youth movements are contributing the funds they earn from their annual week of work on kibbutzim and student associations are collecting money on campuses. At least 65 kibbutzim have already contributed to the fund and workers in new immigrant towns have donated almost IL 250,000. Kibbutzim also have decided to double any contribution, that is, for any IL 100 contributed, the kibbutzim will contribute IL 200.

Many Israeli artists have contributed their works to the fund and former Premier Golda Meir heads a committee to sell them. Contributions also come in from abroad. One group of Jewish youngsters from abroad in sending in a donation requested that the receipt be in Hebrew. Meanwhile, Moshe Gilboa, who heads the fund, has announced that contributions from now on will be tax deductible.

#### SUPREME COURT RULES 7-1 AGAINST HASIDIM ON VOTING DISTRICTS ISSUE

WASHINGTON, March 1 (JTA)--A 7-1 decision by the Supreme Court today quashed an attempt by 30,000 Hasidic Jews in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn to reverse a 1974 realignment of voting districts by the New York State Legislature which they claimed infringed upon their rights as a religious voting bloc.

The decision, from which only Chief Justice

Warren Burger dissented, ruled that it was constitutional to create voting districts aimed at ensuring the numerical superiority of a racial group provided that it could be shown that past election procedures had resulted in racial discrimination.

The realignment, which established a number of districts with Black or Hispanic majorities, divided the district in which the Hasidim had been in the majority. Earlier, the U.S. District Court and the Court of Appeals both ruled that the Constitution did not protect the rights of specific religious groups. At that point, the Hasidim appealed to the Supreme Court on grounds that their rights as whites had been infringed.

The Supreme Court noted in its decision that even after realignment, most voting districts in Brooklyn had white majorities. An investigation undertaken by the Justice Department after the voter turn-out in the 1968 Presidential elections fell below 50 percent in some areas of Brooklyn found that literacy tests had kept down the number of Black and Hispanic registrants.

In his dissent, Justice Burger argued that mathematical devices to remedy past discrimination could only lead to a ghetto mentality. He said "This retreat from the ideal of the American melting pot is curiously out of step with recent political history." Justice William Brennan, who went along with the majority, warned, nevertheless, that the decision went further than any other to apply a racial solution to remedy past discrimination. Justice Thurgood Marshall did not participate in the case.

#### VANCE DISPELS UNCERTAINTY OF U.S. STAND ON ASPECTS OF ARAB BOYCOTT By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 1 (JTA)--Uncertainty over the Carter Administration's position on aspects of the anti-Arab boycott legislation proposed in Congress was largely dissipated today after Secretary of State Cyrus Vance testified for the second consecutive day on new laws to block Arab attempts against free trade by Americans with Israel.

In his testimony yesterday before the Senate Banking subcommittee on international trade, Vance declined to define Administration objections to the bill and pressed for a new measure which Administration experts would help to write. Today, however, he agreed to the legislation as prepared in identical bills in both houses with some modifications that were received with little or no objection from the members of the House Committee on International Relations.

The chief change suggested by Vance concerned the extraterritorial provision that deals with binding American companies' subsidiaries abroad to the same restrictions that would govern the parent concern in the U.S. His other announced modifications were mainly technical. The most important related to the kind and amount of information a company would be required to provide to the Department of Commerce which controls exports.

#### Issue Of Foreign Subsidiaries

As Vance was telling Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D,NY) the "specific recommendations" he desired in the House bill proposed by Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D,NY), Rosenthal interjected "So far, you are in pretty good agreement" and "so far no problems." On the extraterritorial matter, however, Rosenthal said "we disagree" but "we lawyers can work it out." Vance and Ros-

enthal are both lawyers.

Rosenthal said that the extraterritorial provision has among its purposes to prevent depriving Americans of jobs by contracts given to overseas plants. When Rep. Charles Whalen (R,Ohio) said he saw a possibility of foreign subsidiaries being used "in a manner intended to circumvent the law," Vance testified that if a subsidiary is "merely a conduit to avoid the law that situation should be prohibited."

Vance also told Whalen, who is concerned about enforcement of this aspect, that "intent" on the use of a subsidiary "is one of the most difficult aspects of this legislation." Vance said he tended to agree with Bingham that companies should be prohibited from providing the Arabs with information about their dealings with Israel. But Vance said he wanted "to think about" a prohibition provision. Bingham had pointed out "the boycott law will be of no use" if the Arabs knew about details of business with Israel.

#### Assurances On Arab Reactions

Vance also testified that Saudi Arabia "is not seeking in any way" to use its boycott against race or religion and described that position as "a very constructive step." Rep. Stephen Solarz (D,NY), who said the Administration now agrees 95 percent with the Bingham bill, asked Vance whether he agreed with the statement of former U.S. Ambassador Richard Nolte and Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheikh Yamani and others that the anti-boycott legislation would be an impediment to Mideast peace negotiations.

"The answer is no," Vance replied. The Arab governments, the Secretary added, "won't be happy with it" but if the legislation were adopted "along the lines we discussed this morning it would be understood by the Arabs" and "not impede" prospects for a settlement.

#### REPORT ARABS WILL ACCEPT MINOR CHANGES ON ISRAEL'S WEST BANK BORDER

WASHINGTON, March 1 (JTA)--Arab leaders will accept "minor rectifications" on Israel's border on the West Bank but not on the Golan Heights, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said today.

Testifying in the House International Relations Committee on the anti-boycott legislation, Vance was asked by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D,NY) whether there are "differing views" among the Arabs on the extent of a withdrawal by Israel from territories it occupied in the Six-Day War.

The "only thing" the Arabs indicated were "acceptable" to them is "minor rectifications" on the West Bank. Asked by Solarz if the Arabs were contemplating any changes on the Golan Heights, Vance said "no." Later Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Alfred Atherton said that Jordan had proposed "minor rectifications" on the West Bank but with "reciprocity" from Israel, meaning both Jordan and Israel would trade lands. However, neither Vance nor Atherton spelled out their views.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A National Arbitration Council to adjudicate labor disputes in the public sector was officially established Monday under the chairmanship of former Supreme Court Justice Zvi Ben-Shimon. Its first case will involve wage demands by 300 administrative employees of the Broadcast Authority.

**STERN IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT**

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA)--The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) reported today that it has learned that Soviet Prisoner of Conscience Mikhail Stern has been placed in solitary confinement. Dr. Stern, a noted endocrinologist, was sentenced to eight years imprisonment in 1975 on trumped-up charges brought because his sons wanted to emigrate to Israel. His sons, August and Viktor, also physicians, are now in Israel and campaigning to obtain their father's release from prison and reunite his family in Israel.

Eugene Gold, NCSJ chairman, told a meeting of the NCSJ board of governors that Stern's confinement must be viewed "with grave concern." Stern was recently transferred to hard labor in the intensified regime camp to which he was sentenced, Gold reported. In view of Stern's age, 58, and his ill-health, "we view this latest development as a deprivation of Stern's rights," Gold stated.

In another development, the NCSJ reported that Pesia Chapkovskaya, one of the oldest Soviet Jewish "refuseniks" has received an exit permit to Israel after waiting for 16 years. Upon first applying in April, 1961, the family was told that they would not receive a visa because a member of the family had served in the armed forces. They are expected to leave for Israel shortly.

**NON-JEWISH GROUP AIDS SYNAGOGUE**

HARTFORD, March 1 (JTA)--A group of non-Jews has rallied to support a new synagogue in the township of Norfolk which the local Planning and Zoning Commission tried to close down and now limits the days when religious services may be held. The case, involving Beit Haverah, is before the Common Pleas Court, the Connecticut Jewish Ledger reported.

The congregation was established in 1975 by a group of young Jewish professionals. It became embroiled in a controversy with neighbors who objected to the use of their 18-room house as a religious retreat. The Zoning Commission denied the congregation access to the building on grounds that it was "not a house of worship." That ruling was overturned by the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Zoning Commission since then decreed that the synagogue could be used only on the Sabbath and major holidays.

A letter signed by some 30 community members, most of them non-Jews, protested what they termed "thoughtless violation of First-Amendment religious rights." They charged that the restrictions on Beit Haverah were "discriminatory" and that the town was violating the religious freedom of the congregants.

One of the non-Jewish signatories, Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, told the Jewish Ledger that the Zoning Commission violated "the American way of life" and called the congregation an asset to the community. Another signer, Mrs. Richard Hasbrouk, a member of the Church of Christ Congregational, said the synagogue was "good for the kids." Mrs. Richard Barstow, also affiliated with the Congregational Church, said the real issue seems to be "property values."

**HEBRAICA COLLECTION WORTH SOME \$2 M GIVEN TO NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA**

MONTREAL, March 1 (JTA)--Jacob M. Lowy of Montreal has presented his collection of Hebraica books and manuscripts to the National Library of Canada in what is believed to be the largest

single gift ever made to the library, it was reported by the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC). The gift is conservatively estimated at \$2 million.

Prof. Chimen Abramsky, Goldsmid Professor of Jewish History and head of the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the University of London, described the collection as one of the three most important Hebraica libraries in private hands on the American continent. Lowy is a past president of the United Israel Appeal and the Allied Jewish Community Services in Montreal. He was also a member for many years of the CJC national executive.

The CJC initiated the Judaica Section of the National Library by presenting the library in 1959 with a collection of Judaica books in many languages as a bicentennial gift of the Canadian Jewish community made possible through special allocations of central local community funds. The collection was supplemented in 1967 in marking the centennial of confederation.

A few years ago the CJC received a grant from Secretary of State John Roberts to purchase manuscripts and microfilms of rare materials from libraries in the USSR and some East European countries. This microfilm collection was dedicated by the National Library to Saul Hayes in recognition of his assistance and help in obtaining the collection. Hayes participated throughout in an advisory capacity in the arrangements for Lowy's gift to the library. Roberts cooperated fully and facilitated the project.

The Lowy collection includes 1560 titles consisting of 1727 volumes of Hebrew Incunabula, Latin Incunabula, very rare Bibles, Talmud Editions and Codes, very rare Liturgy, a Flavius Josephus collection and extremely rare Hebrew books from the 16th to the 19th Centuries, consisting, inter alia, of rabbinic books, philosophy, Kabbalah and Bible Commentaries. Various other books will be donated by Lowy in the near future.

**OLIM FROM NORTH AMERICA UP 8%; RETURNING ISRAELIS UP 17%**

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA)--The number of North Americans who emigrated to Israel in 1976 showed a slight upswing, according to statistics released by the Israel Aliya Center. More dramatic, however, was the increased number of Israelis who returned home to Israel in the same period. According to statistics, 2545 North Americans were processed through the 16 offices of the Israel Aliya Center in the United States and Canada in 1976 compared to 2357 in 1975.

A spokesman for the center pointed out that the overall increase from North America was actually greater than the eight percent indicated because these statistics reflected only those North Americans who left for Israel with A-1 immigrant visas (temporary resident) as a result of processing through an Israel Aliya Center and included neither those who immigrated without assistance nor those already in Israel as students or tourists who changed their status to A-1. The number of Israelis who returned to Israel with the assistance of the Israel Aliya Center increased 177 percent from 842 to 2334.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Israelis will pay 23 percent more for their Passover matzoh this year than last year. A standard 5 1/2 pounds of matzoh will cost IL 9.70 compared with IL 7.90 last year.