



daily news bulletin

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AT LEAST 11 JEWS KILLED IN RUMANIAN EARTHQUAKE, 5 SYNAGOGUES RUINED

NEW YORK, March 7 (JTA)--At least 11 Jews are known to have perished in the earthquake which devastated Rumania last Friday, according to Rabbi Arthur Schneier, spiritual leader of the Park East Synagogue, who received this information in a call yesterday from Dr. Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania.

In addition, three synagogues in Bucharest were badly damaged and two synagogues in Krayova, some 150 miles southeast of Bucharest, were completely demolished, Rosen told Schneier. Some Passover food supplies were also destroyed when the warehouse in which they were stored was demolished. An effort to replace the supplies is now under way.

Schneier, who is also the president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, said that among the 11 Jews known so far to have been killed were three intellectuals surnamed Prof. Marcu and Mr. and Mrs. Porambu, both writers. Funeral arrangements were being made this morning for the 11 dead and searches were being conducted in the rubble of Bucharest to find other victims. The earthquake, Rosen reported, left many Jewish families without homes.

Rosen said it might be days before all the Jews who perished in Bucharest and other cities could be found and identified among the estimated 750 bodies found so far. There is also thought to be many Jews among the reported 5645 injured, nearly half of them seriously. It is believed that the final death toll will be between 1000 and 2000 in Bucharest alone.

Schneier said that Rosen told him that the main synagogue in Bucharest, the Choral Synagogue, though badly damaged was used for Sabbath services during which Rosen offered prayers for the well-being of the community. The Malbin and Central Synagogues in Bucharest were too damaged to be used for Sabbath services. Four Jewish community buildings in Rumania's capital were also totally destroyed. Those synagogues that were not too badly damaged will be used as temporary housing quarters for Jews who lost their homes.

JDC Offers Aid

Meanwhile, the Jewish community of Bucharest was assured today by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of any special assistance it may need as a result of last weekend's earthquake. In a message to Rosen, who is also the president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Rumania, Jack D. Weller, JDC president, expressed condolences and promised to send additional assistance to the Jewish community over and above current programs which will cost \$3,280,000 this year.

There are about 60,000 Jews in Rumania, of whom 40,000 live in Bucharest. JDC-supported programs aid about 16,000 of Rumania's Jews, most of them aged and ill. JDC receives its funds mainly from the United Jewish Appeal. Donald M. Robinson, JDC vice-president and president-elect, and Ralph I. Goldman, JDC executive vice-president, who are now in Europe conferring with

Jewish leaders, immediately ordered a team of relief workers into the country to recommend specific aid programs. Since the earthquake, the JDC-supported communal kitchen in Bucharest served more people than it usually does.

In 1975 when Rumania was inundated by devastating floods, the JDC donated funds for general relief, Weller noted. Five years before that, he added, the JDC also contributed funds for flood relief.

Aid-Continuing From Israel

(In Tel Aviv, the Red Magen David was busy collecting and packing medications urgently needed in Rumania according to a list received from that country. The material is being flown to Bucharest by El Al and Tarom, the Rumanian state airline. It includes anti-typhoid and anti-cholera vaccines, hypodermic needles, and various medical instruments, surgical tools, dietary foods for diabetics and baby food. The first consignments were shipped yesterday.)

(A special fund has been started by the Association of Rumanian Immigrants, headed by Itzhak Koren, which opened a bank account to deposit cash contributions. Special efforts are being made to send Passover foods and clothing to Rumania in time for the holiday which begins April 2. Mayor Lehat of Tel Aviv announced that the municipality was prepared to shelter 200 children from Rumania.)

CARTER TELLS RABIN U.S. SEEKING MIDEAST PEACE WHICH WOULD GIVE ISRAEL DEFENSIBLE BORDERS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 7 (JTA)--President Carter welcomed Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin today with a minimum of ceremony but with warm words for both Israel and Rabin. The President stressed that the United States was seeking a Middle East peace which would give Israel "defensible borders" while Rabin emphasized Israel's desire to work for peace.

Following the official welcome, the two leaders held a 90-minute discussion in the White House after which Rabin left for the State Department and discussions with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

"This is a different kind of visit," Carter said in welcoming remarks on the White House lawn to the Premier and Mrs. Rabin. "This is going to be a series of working sessions. Because of the crucial nature of the problems that face the Middle East and the close historic ties between Israel and the United States we decided to minimize the amount of time spent on ceremony."

"We will have a meeting tonight at a banquet, but it will be a working banquet and I believe this is the kind of interrelationship that will demonstrate to the world the seriousness with which we address the problems of the Middle East, our commitment to Israel, our long-standing friendship, our sharing of democratic principles and human liberty and our constant search for peace."

1977 Is The Year For Peace

Carter pointed out that Vance's visit to Israel and five other Mideastern countries last month was "to try to explore some common ground for future permanent peace there so that Israel might have defensible borders, so that the peace commitments can never be violated and there can be a sense of security about this young country in the future."

Speaking extemporaneously throughout, Carter said: "1977 is a year that might very well bring a major step forward to an ultimate and permanent peace." He added that "to a great degree the success of this year's negotiations and hopes rest on the shoulders of a man (Rabin) who in the past has demonstrated his capability of dealing with complicated problems in a frank and courageous fashion." He said Rabin "has a vision that is very closely compatible with the visions of the people of the United States."

Israel's Highest Aspiration Is Peace

Rabin, in his response, said, "let me emphasize to you Mr. President that I have come from Jerusalem--the city of peace--with a sense of dedication to build a structure of peace between Israel and our neighbors. Peace is our highest aspiration."

Rabin said that "it is toward this end that Israel commits all its energy, for peace is the essence of the heritage we share and the goal of policy we pursue. It is a heritage as old, as eternal, and as living as the Bible. Everything our peoples stand for--everything we believe in--derives from the Biblical definition of what is right and good. In the words of Solomon in the Book of Proverbs: 'Righteousness exalts a nation.'"

The Israeli leader declared that "it has been the moral standing of America that induces hope among millions, longing for a better, a more decent and more peaceful world. It is the understanding and support which America has, throughout, displayed for the security and welfare of my own nation that moves me now, to express to you --and through you to the American people--our deepest gratitude."

Rabin closed with a second reference to Jerusalem. "Knowing that our aspirations and goals are one," he said, "it is in this very same spirit that I bring to you from Jerusalem our sincere greetings of shalom."

Carter Lauds Rabin

Earlier in his remarks, Carter lauded Rabin and spoke of his political success. He referred to Rabin as the "strategist, tactician and commander" of Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. Carter recalled that when he was Governor of Georgia and Rabin was the Israeli Ambassador in Washington, Rabin visited him in Atlanta. "He had political aspirations then, I imagine, in the back of his mind," the President said. "His success in politics was much more than I achieved."

The President noted that in a two or three-hour meeting on another occasion, Rabin explained to him the "inner workings and hidden mechanism of the Israeli political structure." Carter said "I believe this long-standing relationship with him and a personal knowledge of him and his deep commitment to peace in a courageous way will stand us in good stead as we explore the future of our two countries."

In contrast to the expected pomp and ceremony

of a state visit, the welcome to the Rabin was "an official visit" and the usual review of the military honor guard was absent along with the attendance of the thousand or more persons usually invited to the ceremony. About half the size of the regular Marine band played the national anthems of the two countries. But the 19-gun salute for a Prime Minister was sounded.

In addition to the 36 members of the Marine band present, the color guard consisted of four Army men holding Israeli and U.S. flags. Surrounding the lawn were members of the various armed services. About 70 men, women and children from the Israeli Embassy witnessed the ceremony. The usual small flags passed out to guests were absent.

IAI WORKERS PROTEST U.S. REFUSAL TO LET ISRAEL SELL KFIR PLANES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 7 (JTA)--Several hundred employees of Israeli Aircraft Industries demonstrated peacefully near the U.S. Embassy here today to protest America's refusal to permit Israel to sell its Kfir jet fighter planes to Ecuador. A petition requesting the Carter Administration to reverse its opposition to the sale was presented to the American Charge d'Affaires who promised to transmit it to Washington.

The IAI employees said the American attitude could strike a death blow to Israel's aeronautical industry causing unemployment for thousands of workers. The U.S. has refused to authorize sale of 24 Kfirs to Ecuador on grounds that it would be contrary to its policy of not introducing sophisticated weaponry to Latin American countries. The Kfir is powered by General Electric engines for which the U.S. must issue re-export licenses before they can be sold abroad.

Meanwhile, sources close to IAI indicated that several countries are inspecting the Kfir with a view to buying one or more squadrons. Negotiations with Austria and with several Latin American countries were said to be in advanced stages. The names of the Latin American countries were not disclosed. The deals are being held in abeyance, however, pending U.S. approval. A request for approval has already been submitted to the White House.

ARAB PROPAGANDIST, OUSTED BY ARGENTINA, NOW IN VENEZUELA

NEW YORK, March 7 (JTA)--Hussein Triki, an Arab propagandist ousted by the Argentine government in 1964 because of his inflammatory anti-Semitic actions, is now in operation in Venezuela, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Triki, as head of the Arab League office in Buenos Aires in the early 1960s, worked closely with Tacuara, a right-wing, anti-Semitic group, and other neo-Nazi elements in Argentina.

Gerald M. Qufat, vice-chairman of ADL's Latin American affairs committee, said that Triki is using the same tactics in Venezuela as he did in Argentina and has the same goals --to promote the Arab cause through hatred of Jews and Israel.

Triki launched his propaganda campaign in Venezuela in January with a lecture on "International Zionism" at the School of Journalism of the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas. He also began distributing his book, "Zionism Unmasked," which has a foreword

by Dr. Domingo Alberto Rangel, a Venezuelan economist who is a fierce opponent of the present government.

Insidious Attack On Jews

Although he denies being anti-Jewish, Triki says in his lectures that he "cannot speak of Zionism without speaking of Judaism." He attacks what he describes as the Jews' efforts to dominate the world and cites the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" as proof. Advocating that Israelis should be returned to the lands from which they came, he declares that "we cannot make peace with those who have robbed our homes."

Just as he did in Argentina, Triki tells Venezuelan audiences that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the countries in which they live. He takes credit for Tacuara's propaganda tactic to gain public support by attacking Jews as "Zionists," and therefore subversive, Quist reported.

According to the ADL official, Triki's Nazi leanings date back to World War II when he belonged to the "Neo-Destour," an organization in Tunisia, which operated with the consent of German authorities during the Nazi occupation. He also did propaganda work against the Allies in collaboration with the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, who was in charge of Nazi broadcasts to the Middle East, and with pro-Nazi Arab emigres in Germany.

Quist said that Triki poses a threat to the 15,000 Jews in Venezuela. "In view of his record as an anti-Semitic agitator," the ADL official said, "we hope that the government of Venezuela will take appropriate measures to prevent his stimulating internal discord."

ISRAEL, IRELAND MAY IN TIME EXCHANGE RESIDENT AMBASSADORS

By Maurice Samuelson

DUBLIN, March 7 (JTA)--Israeli diplomats believe it's only a matter of time before Israel and Ireland exchange resident ambassadors. This view was strengthened during the four-day farewell visit here of Gideon Rafael, the outgoing Israeli Ambassador to Great Britain and Ireland. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Dublin and Jerusalem Dec. 12, 1974, Rafael has represented his country in the Irish Republic from the Israeli Embassy in London. He has made periodic visits to the Irish capital, however.

Asked by journalists here over the weekend if resident ambassadors might be exchanged, Rafael said there would be no impediment from the Israeli side. In his talks with Irish officials he repeatedly mentioned Israel's willingness to open an embassy here. He is understood to have brought up that matter in his private talk with President Patrick Hillery and alluded to it at a luncheon tendered in his honor by the Irish Foreign Ministry.

Rafael noted on that occasion that although Israeli-Irish relations were formalized only two years ago, each country had begun to court the other much earlier at the United Nations where the Irish and Israeli delegations sat side-by-side and "held hands." Now, Rafael observed, "the relationship is legalized but the young couple are still living with their in-laws in London and Berne," a reference to the fact that the Irish Embassy in the Swiss capital is responsible for relations with Israel. A Foreign Ministry spokesman explained that costs had kept Ireland

from opening embassies in many countries with which it had diplomatic relations.

Rafael gave a luncheon for the Irish Finance Minister, Ritchie Ryan. The latter congratulated the Israeli envoy for having pleased the Court of St. James without having run afoul of the government of Ireland. "Anyone who can do that deserves special praise," he said. Rafael stressed in his remarks that the most important aspect of Israeli-Irish relations has been trade, which reached eight million Pounds Sterling last year of which five million Pounds represented Israeli exports to this country. He said their trade relations were improved by Ireland's entry into the European Common Market.

YADIN'S MOVEMENT IN TROUBLE OVER STATUS OF RELIGION IN ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 7 (JTA)--Prof. Yigal Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change (DESH) is encountering internal difficulties over the perennially explosive issue of the favored status of religion in Israel. The movement, seeking the broadest possible base in the May 17 elections, has endorsed the unwritten status quo that has governed the government's relationship with the religious establishment since the State was founded.

But members of the strongly secular "Shinui" (Change) movement, headed by lawyer-writer Amnon Rubinstein, which joined DESH recently are reportedly restive over Yadin's apparent concessions to the religious elements. On the other hand, those favoring an accommodation, express concern that DESH has taken on an anti-religious image since the merger with "Shinui."

Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld, a close associate of Yadin, said DESH seeks to be a "mainstream party that can unite the religious and non-religious" elements in society and, as such, "takes a tolerant stand on religious issues." DESH obviously hopes to win support from Orthodox voters, especially since the National Religious Party and the Aguda bloc have both been weakened by internal conflicts.

The DESH platform declares that "Israel, as a Jewish society, should retain the principles of the halacha in matters of personal status while striving to correct the moral distortions." The platform also backs continued State provision of religious services and kosher in State institutions, such as the armed services, although the party's Knesset members would be free to follow their consciences on religious issues. But the "Shinui" and other secular groups who regard State enforcement of religious practices as coercion say the platform betrays the party's stated objective of instituting changes in Israeli society.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The rate of unemployment in the latter half of 1976 was 25 percent higher than in the first half, a Treasury memorandum shows. At the end of last year, unemployment reached 3.8 percent of the labor force. Thus, the number of persons seeking jobs increased by 9 percent since the end of 1975. Daily unemployment went up by 37 percent and the number of job seekers who were not even referred to employers rose by 23 percent. Most of the unemployed are in the building trade. Economists say these figures are indicative of an economic slowdown trend.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT STRONGLY DEPLORES BOOK BY BUTZ

CHICAGO, March 7 (JTA)--Northwestern University (NU) President Robert H. Strotz, in a letter to Raymond Epstein, chairman of the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) of the Jewish United Fund, strongly deplored the thesis advanced in a book by Northwestern University associate professor, Arthur R. Butz, which claims that the planned extermination of Jews by the Nazis was a Zionist inspired myth. Strotz said in his letter that "as a matter of general policy" he does not comment on the substance of publications of faculty members and that "in the ordinary case" correction of erroneous views is best left to scholars in the particular field.

Continuing, the letter stated "This is not an ordinary case. The associate professor published a conclusion which is an insult and affront not only to the living survivors of the Holocaust and to their families, friends and others with religious or ethnic ties, but to all of us who share their deep feelings of moral outrage. Once the publication did receive notoriety, this became an extraordinary situation in which officers of the university did express their personal indignation.

"First Amendment and other rights of faculty members raise complex questions which warrant lengthy discussions. But I do not want such discussions to obscure my personal strongly-held view, which is shared by Thomas G. Ayers, chairman of our Board, deploring the thesis advanced by Mr. Butz and the notoriety and pain which has resulted."

The letter was a follow-up to an earlier meeting between Strotz and NU provost Raymond Mack with a delegation of eight Jewish community leaders representing the PAC, and headed by Epstein.

*Series On Holocaust Scheduled

At the meeting, Strotz indicated to the PAC delegation that NU is planning to sponsor a series of four lectures on the Holocaust beginning March 28. Arrangements for the lectures have been made in consultation with Rabbi Marc Gellman, director of Northwestern Hillel which is affiliated with the Jewish Federation's College Age Youth Services. The university will subsequently publish the four papers.

In a related development, the Hillel Foundation Ad Hoc Committee on the Holocaust ran an ad in the Daily Northwestern, asking students not to register for Butz' spring quarter courses in Electrical Engineering. "It's not a boycott to get Butz fired--it's simply an action for students to be able to express their moral outrage," said David Straus, president of the Hillel student steering committee.

SOME 1000 MOBILE EXHIBITS ON THE HOLOCAUST ARE READY FOR DISPLAY

NEW YORK, March 7 (JTA)--Nearly 1000 mobile exhibits on the "Holocaust and Resistance" have been prepared and are now ready for shipping to colleges, student organizations, institutions, community centers, synagogues, libraries and schools. It was announced by Solomon Zynstein, president of the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims. The exhibits will be ready for mailing in time for Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah, Heroes and Martyrs Remembrance Day, April 15.

Zynstein said that "the exhibit will serve to show that the Holocaust is not a hoax. There are people who have attempted recently to deny the Holocaust. This documented exhibit proves to the world that the Holocaust--in all its starkness and inhumanity--was real; a nightmare, but real." The exhibit contains 33 boards of authentic photographs outlining Jewish history in Nazi-occupied Europe from 1933 to 1945.

Depicted throughout text and photos--many of them captured from the Nazis--are the periods of the rise of Hitler in 1933, the persecution of Jews and discriminatory laws, Crystal Night, the outbreak of World War II, deportations, death camps, resistance and liberation. The exhibit was set up five years ago by Eli Zborowski, founder and first president of the Federation, who commissioned Yad Vashem to construct the display.

Holocaust Material In Canada

In Canada, a programming kit for Yom Hashoah was distributed by the National Holocaust Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress to Holocaust committees, schools and community organizations across the country. This kit comprised resource material on the Holocaust and programming suggestions. The mobile exhibit, "Holocaust and Resistance," which is sponsored by the National Holocaust Committee, was recently displayed at York University in Toronto, as part of a Holocaust Remembrance Week sponsored by the Jewish Student Federation.

USSR DENOUNCED FOR CIA CHARGE

NEW YORK, March 7 (JTA)--Two major organizations active on behalf of Soviet Jews denounced the Soviet Union today for accusing several leading emigration activists in Moscow of being in the service of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Brooklyn District Attorney Eugene Gold, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said the latest Soviet attack on Jewish activists was "a test of the American peoples' resolve on behalf of basic human rights."

He was referring to an open letter and an accompanying article in the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia last Friday alleging that the activists were trying to engage other dissidents in espionage for the CIA. "In fact," Gold said, "the Izvestia article is a shoddy smokescreen to cloud the fact that hundreds of Jewish activists have been refused their requests for exit visas. The struggle of these refusniks for the last decade has been for the right to leave, to be reunited with their families and to live as Jews in Israel."

Bronx Borough President Robert Abrams, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, charged that the latest crack-down "represents the Soviet Union's way of telling President Carter to back down on his firm stand on the issue of human rights." Gold said, "The new wave of persecution of Soviet Jews, including charges that some activists are engaged in espionage, the searches of the apartments of Jewish leaders, threats of imprisonment and the Soviet ban on the importation of matzos signal a possible showdown between the USSR and Soviet Jewish activists."

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Israel Pound was devalued again by close to two percent, from 8.96 to 9.14 Pounds per dollar. In line with previous mini-devaluations, the prices of fuel, basic commodities and public transport will remain unchanged.