



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036
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Vol. XLIV - 60th Year

Wednesday, March 9, 1977

No. 47

WJC GIVING \$10,000 TO AID ROMANIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS; JEWISH AGENCY TO ASSIST IN REBUILDING 3 SYNAGOGUES

GENEVA, March 8 (JTA)--The World Jewish Congress announced today that it is contributing \$10,000 to the relief fund for victims of the Rumanian earthquake disaster. The donation is being made through the offices of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Rumania which will convey it to the appropriate authorities in that country.

The WJC has also launched a world-wide appeal to its member communities and organizations urging them to contribute to the Rumanian disaster relief fund as a humanitarian gesture to a country that has given its Jewish community full religious and cultural freedom.

(In Jerusalem, the World Zionist Organization Executive announced today that it will assist in the reconstruction of three synagogues damaged by the Rumanian earthquake. The WZO learned that no damage was suffered by the Jewish community in Transylvania and that the kosher restaurant in Bucharest was open for business. WZO chairman Yosef Almoget expressed regret on behalf of the Executive over the Rumanian disaster. At the same time, Israel's Ministry of Health donated IL 100,000 to purchase medical supplies for the earthquake victims. The first shipment will leave for Bucharest tomorrow.)

UAHC Establishes Relief Fund

(In New York, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, announced that the UAHC has established a relief fund for Rumania among its 720 Reform synagogues and 1.2 million members in the U.S. and Canada. He said the UAHC's 13 regional offices have been asked to search for "badly needed" medical supplies for shipment to the Rumanian Red Cross.)

(Jacob Birnbaum, director of the Center for Russian and East European Jewry in New York, said that Radio Free Europe has made available two telephone numbers for those who want to get through to relatives in Rumania. He said direct phone calls and cables are not possible because of earthquake damage. The numbers to call are: In New York--(212) 867-5200; in Munich, West Germany--011-498-9-210-2513.)

EX-SS OFFICER DEPRIVED BY COURT OF RIGHT TO PRACTICE AS LAWYER

BONN, March 8 (JTA)--A former SS officer accused of participating in the deportation and murder of numerous French Jews has been deprived by a court in Oldenburg, north Germany, of his right to practice as a lawyer. The action against Hans-Dietrich Ernst, wartime regional commander of the German Security Service and Security Police in France, followed representations by the French anti-Nazi lawyer, Serge Klarsfeld.

Ernst was sentenced to death four times by French courts, in absentia. The sentences were not recognized by West Germany although the Cologne State Prosecutor is currently investi-

gating Ernst's wartime activity. A spokesman for the Oldenburg court said the court assumed that Ernst, because of his senior position, was responsible for the deportation of elderly people, mothers and children and others to various concentration camps.

CARTER REAFFIRMS PLEDGE OF STRONG, CONTINUING U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA)--President Carter gave another pledge of strong and continuing American support for Israel at the working dinner at the White House for Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin last night. Speaking of their earlier meeting yesterday morning, Carter said he and Rabin discussed "the possibilities in 1977 of helping to carve out for Israel and for Israel's neighbors the time of permanent peace, of mutual respect, trade, better understanding and of the acceptance of differences that in the past have been divisive."

The President, in welcoming Rabin to the White House yesterday morning, said the United States was exploring "some common ground" with the leaders of the Middle East so that "Israel might have defensible borders." Within hours, Presidential News Secretary Jody Powell told reporters that the phrase defensible borders "should not be construed as any sort of departure or breaking of new ground." He said the President was "thinking in broad terms as always" and was referring to the U.S. position taken prior to the Carter Administration. (See related story P. 3.)

Asked to define defensible borders, Powell said he wished to avoid "a narrow definition" in geographic terms. "Secure borders," he said, "must include a broad range of considerations," including "the overall political climate" and "the obligations of the countries of the Middle East."

Carter's reference to defensible borders was not the first time that phrase has been used by an American President. Nixon used that phrase in a television interview in July, 1970. In the recent past, however, U.S. officials have usually spoken of Israel's need for "secure and recognized boundaries," which is the language of Security Council Resolution 242.

Importance Of Security

Speaking at the working dinner last night, Carter said: "We understand very clearly in our own country--strong and powerful and secure--that security is important, and is the essence of what Israel can expect from us and from the rest of the world--a recognition of their existence now and in the future."

Later, in his toast to Rabin, Carter recalled that President Truman recognized Israel 12 minutes after the Jewish State came into existence 29 years ago. "And that recognition and that friendship has never wavered," Carter added. "As long as I have any influence on our own government, as long as these other gentlemen from our government (the American officials at the dinner) have any influence, that

recognition and that strength and that friendship and that sense of mutual purpose will never waver."

Carter declared further, "Many people in our own country have looked on our relationship with Israel as one of support and one of friendship that was to Israel's benefit. I have never looked on it that way. I consider it to be an equal partnership that has derived for our country and for the cause of freedom tremendous benefits for us and this is a time of sharing of plans for the future."

New Beginning Seen

In his response to the President, Rabin said that "the unique relationship that has been developed between our two countries" results from their "spirit of freedom, the belief in democracy and the permanent search for peace and happiness." He said "your initiative" to start the talks with the Middle Eastern leaders "this time will allow us to build the kind of thinking and I hope also action with coordination with other leaders of the area that will bring about an end to a long futile war and will start a new beginning for Israel and for all the countries in the area."

Rabin also said that this is the first time a Premier of Israel "has come to the United States without a shopping list, without the need to make an imminent decision because of the pressure of events." In keeping with the scaled-down formal programming, the dinner was limited by the President to 35 guests. They included the Israeli visitors and Embassy officials, the President's principal aides and prominent members of Congress.

Earlier yesterday, Rabin met with Defense Secretary Harold Brown for more than an hour at Blair House following a long working lunch with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. On leaving the meeting, Brown described it as "useful and productive."

ORTHODOX RABBI RAPS U.S. SOVIET JEWRY GROUPS FOR THE WAY THEY HAVE HANDLED SOVIET MATZOH BAN By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA)—A prominent American Orthodox rabbi was sharply critical today of the methods employed by American Jewish organizations active on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Rabbi Pinchas Teltz, of Elizabeth, N.J., claimed the methods were "wrong" that they "defeated the purpose" and "do a disservice to Russian Jews" resulting in such acts as the Soviet ban on the shipment of matzoh parcels to Jews from abroad.

Addressing a press conference at the Roosevelt Hotel here, Teltz named two organizations, Al-Tidom and the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry (NYCSJ). He said the restrictions on matzoh parcels from abroad was the response by Soviet authorities to the political campaign that Jewish organizations in the West are waging on behalf of Soviet Jews.

"The matzohs became a political message," he said, adding "We use a religious article and wrap it in a political wrapper." He said he was opposed to using religious symbols in the struggle for Soviet Jews.

Claims Ample Supplies

Teltz indicated that most Soviet Jews would have ample supplies of matzohs for the Passover

holiday. He said he spoke by telephone last night to Shalom Kleinman, president of the Moscow Synagogue, who informed him that the Soviet authorities increased the allotment of flour for baking matzohs this year and reduced the price for a package of matzohs from 2.5 to 2 rubles. He said that as of yesterday, Jews in Moscow had already baked over a quarter million pounds of matzohs and that the Jewish communities in Leningrad, Kiev, Riga, Vilna and Tashkent received increased allotments of matzoh flour.

He said, however, that Jews in smaller communities in the USSR might be denied matzohs because they have always relied on parcels from abroad. He said these Jews were not aware of the ban and so might not seek supplies from other Jewish communities in the Soviet Union.

Teltz disclosed that he himself sent 1000 pounds of matzohs to Soviet Jews and the parcels were received without interference. He said he would send another 1000 pounds in the next few days. Asked why the ban did not apply to his shipments, Teltz replied, "I sent it as a religious item and you can understand it as you want." He appeared to be intimating that the Soviets were prepared to allow shipments that had no political strings.

Organizations Respond To Teltz

Responding to Teltz's statement, Rabbi Walter Wurzbarger, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, in conjunction with the NYCSJ, said the Soviet ban on the importation of matzoh "cannot be seen in isolation" but "is part of a mounting campaign against the Jewish people in the Soviet Union launched in the last few months." They referred to the recent allegations in the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia that Jewish activists were working for the CIA, the showing of anti-Semitic films in the USSR and the threat of "new show trials" of Soviet Jews.

They stated that "Soviet Jews ask us to maintain Western pressure against all these attacks and to continue to be forthright despite Soviet attempts to intimidate the Soviet Jews and their millions of friends around the world."

With respect to matzoh baked in the Soviet Union, Wurzbarger and the NYCSJ said it had "no assurance" that they "would ever reach Jews in the many medium and small-sized cities and towns throughout the Soviet Union" or that "they will be made freely available to Jews living in cities where they are being baked."

Rabbi Chayim Levin issued a similar statement on behalf of Al-Tidom. Rejecting "all allegations that matzohs sent to the Soviet Union were or are being used as a political issue," he cautioned, "Before we rejoice at the fact that the 1000 pounds of shmurah matzoh shipped by Rabbi Teltz reached the Soviet Union, we must and will ascertain whether or not these packages will actually be distributed gratis to 1000 Orthodox families, or whether they will suffer the same fate as other religious articles shipped to the synagogue officials" in Moscow.

BUDAPEST (JTA)—A new rabbi was ordained here this week and appointed to serve in the city of Szeged which has a relatively active Jewish community. The new rabbi, Istvan Zucker, was ordained by Budapest's Chief Rabbi Mordcheai Schwartz in the presence of Jewish community representatives from all over the country.

RABIN SAYS THAT THE 1967 BORDERS ARE NOT DEFENSIBLE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA)--Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin declared today that "defensible boundaries" for Israel do not coincide "in any way with the lines before the Six-Day War." Responding to a question about the term used by President Carter yesterday, Rabin said, "I believe defensible boundaries can be interpreted in different ways by different people. For me it allows Israel to defend itself by itself."

Answering questions at a crowded news conference at Blair House, Rabin said "legally we have a right to negotiate boundaries." He stressed that the only lines that existed in 1949 were those that the Arabs stressed were demarcation lines for military purposes and not necessarily boundaries that would be reached in a peace agreement. He said the 1967 lines "were not defensible."

Rabin met with the press following a one-hour meeting in the White House Oval Office with Carter this morning. It was his fourth meeting, and one of two that were unscheduled. The other was a one-hour and 45-minute discussion late last night in the President's private quarters at which only the two leaders were present. White House News Secretary Jody Powell said the meeting last night, which was at Carter's request and followed the working dinner for Rabin, "covered core issues of the Middle East."

Before last night's dinner ended, Carter told the 35 guests that he wants to see Israel remain secure for a thousand years and he will do everything in his ability toward that end.

'We Talk Of Genuine Peace'

Rabin also told the press conference that there is "no need to add words to Israel's desire for peace and to achieve peace." But, he decried "false solutions" and emphasized that "we talk of genuine peace--the kind every man in the street will call peace."

The Israeli Premier stressed that "only parties to the conflict can negotiate, sign and maintain" an agreement in the Mideast. He said that "we will see what is possible and what is not possible" in regard to reconvening a Geneva conference this year. Noting that Israel has lived for 29 years "in limited agreements and sometimes without agreements," Rabin said "if our neighbors are not ready" for "real peace" then "I am sure we will agree to something."

Rabin agreed that there is a Palestinian question, but emphasized "it is by no means the heart or the crux" of the Mideast conflict. He reiterated that "what prevents peace is the reluctance of the Arab governments to recognize Israel as a viable, independent Jewish State." He said once this recognition is achieved all the other problems will be easily solved. The Palestinian issue could thus be solved through negotiations with Jordan, he said.

Powell told reporters yesterday after Rabin and Carter held their 90-minute conference that the "question of the PLO did not come up." Powell noted that the U.S. "has said as long as the PLO does not accept the existence of Israel and the Security Council resolutions we do not see a way for the PLO to fit into the peace process."

Israel's Arms Sales Discussed

Powell said today that Carter and Rabin have

agreed to a formulation of policy that will preclude situations where Israel is prevented from fulfilling orders from foreign countries for military equipment produced under U.S. license. He was referring to the U.S. refusal to issue re-export licenses for 24 Israel-made Kfir jet fighters to Ecuador. The Kfir's are powered by General Electric engines.

At his press conference, Rabin confirmed that he and Carter "agreed to develop machinery" to obtain agreement before Israel concluded a sale of arms to a foreign buyer. He said that "while the U.S. may not agree to every country to which we might sell" military equipment, the number of countries to which Israel will be allowed to make such sales will be greater than the number where the U.S. would object.

He said "it would be better for Israel not to come to the U.S. about every item" it wants to sell. He stressed that it was in his country's interest to export part of its arms production, but that Israel was not seeking to become "a merchant of arms."

U.S. Will Sell Israel F-16s

Powell said that Carter had re-affirmed to Rabin that the U.S. will sell Israel F-16 fighter planes, originally promised by the Ford Administration, although the numbers and timing of deliveries has not been decided. He said the U.S. reversal of the Ford Administration's offer to sell Israel concussion bombs did not come up during the Rabin-Carter talks. Rabin also said that he had not heard from Carter any demands to reduce the present level of U.S. arms shipments to Israel.

CABINET APPROVES IL 31.8 BILLION FOUR-MONTH INTERIM BUDGET

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA)--The Cabinet approved an IL 31.8 billion four-month interim budget today to cover government expenditures through Israel's May 17 general elections. A special session was held for the purpose, in the absence of Premier Yitzhak Rabin who is in Washington, in order to get the budget before the Knesset without delay. Its approval is virtually certain since the interim measure was drafted by a special committee on which both the government and the opposition were represented.

It contains no innovations, no new taxes and no changes in the linkage between wages and the cost-of-living index. The latter had been a feature of the original IL 122.5 billion budget for fiscal 1977-78 for which Rabin's minority government failed to gain Knesset approval last month. A budget for the full year is expected to be drafted when the next government takes office after the elections.

JUDITH MANDELBAUM DEAD AT 70

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA)--Funeral services were held yesterday for Mrs. Judith Pinta Mandelbaum, 70, honorary national vice-president of the American Mizrahi Women. She died Sunday night. Mrs. Mandelbaum was editor of the Mizrahi Women Journal and was the group's secretary and national cultural chairman before becoming vice-president in 1957. Born in New York, she was a graduate of the teachers institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary. She taught at East Midwood Jewish Center and Flatbush Yeshiva in Brooklyn.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES WOOLING FRENCH JEWISH VOTERS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 8 (JTA)--A French Jewish delegation is due to meet next month with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing for an overall review of the Jewish community's problems and aspirations. Jewish leaders say they intend to use the opportunity to stress the Jewish community's attachment to Israel and to ask for a more balanced approach to the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The delegation, which will be led by Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan and will include the president of the Representative Council of French Jewish Organizations (CRIF) Alain de Rothschild, will be entertained for lunch by the President at the Elysee Palace. Observers here believe the invitation is part of an overall attempt to woo the Jewish voters.

Traditionally, France's Jews were not considered an electoral pressure group because of the deep split between the traditional right-wing and central parties and the Socialist-Communist opposition. Former Premier Jacques Chirac's entrance into the electoral arena where he is challenging Giscard's authority, has prompted the two governmental parties, the Chirac Gaullists and the pro-Giscard Independent Republicans, to vie for the Jewish vote.

With municipal elections to be held March 13, the two parties and the left are now actively competing for Jewish voters, especially in certain Paris districts in which Jews represent over 20 percent of registered voters.

Jewish Candidates On All Lists

This struggle is especially bitter in the Paris "Pletzel," the old Jewish quarter once inhabited by East European Jews and now a stronghold of North African Jewish families. All three parties, the Gaullists, the pro-Giscard Republicans and the left, present electoral lists which include several Jewish candidates.

The Gaullist list is led by a Jewish professor, Mrs. Nicole Chouraqui; the Socialist-Communist list is headed by a Jewish senior government official, Georges Dayan; and the Independent Republicans, by a non-Jew, Jacques Dominati, who is a member of the executive committee of the Franco-Israeli Friendship Association and prominent in the Franco-Israeli Alliance and the Association for Christian-Jewish Friendship. Second on this list is Jacques Finel, a local Jewish businessman.

The municipal elections are considered as especially important in view of the in-fighting in the governmental camp and as a curtain-raiser to the legislative elections due to be held next year. As part of this wooing by all parties of the Jewish electorate, Jewish delegations have already met with Socialist, Communist and pro-governmental leaders. This will be the first time, however, that the President himself will confer with France's Jewish representatives as such.

DEMAND SOVIET AUTHORITIES PRODUCE SANYA LIPAVSKY

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA)--The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ) are demanding that the Soviet authorities produce Dr. Sanya Lipavsky "to face the world press and state himself that he indeed wrote the accusations against

Vladimir Slepak, Alexander Lerner and Anatoly Sharansky. If he cannot be produced, we must assume foul play and the false use of his name." This demand was cabled by the two groups to Soviet Procurator-General Roman Rudenko.

Lipavsky is a former Soviet Jewish dissident who purportedly wrote an open letter that appeared last Friday in Izvestia accusing Soviet Jewish emigration activists and dissidents of working for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The two groups said that their demand was prompted by the fact that they just received letters dated Feb. 25 from Lipavsky to Reps. Dante Fascell (D., Fla.) and Robert Drinan (D., Mass.) asking their aid to emigrate to Israel. The SSSJ and the UCSJ noted that the Izvestia attack came on Purim "which recalls the evil Haman's accusations against the Jewish people. Just as the Jews were then saved, we are confident that justice will triumph even if Lipavsky is ultimately discovered to have been a KGB agent."

Sverdlin Gets 1-Year Suspended Sentence

In another development, the SSSJ and UCSJ reported that Leningrad activist Vladimir Sverdlin was given a one-year suspended sentence last Friday. He had been charged with "stealing ammunition" after several 17-year-old bullets from the time he was a student sportsman were found during a search of his home last August. Leningrad Jews asserted he was persecuted because he led an informal weekly "Shalom Club" to study Jewish subjects and celebrate Jewish holidays.

Sverdlin was restricted to Leningrad for the year and warned that if convicted again on any charge, the suspended term would be added to his sentence. A former chief engineer of a chemical projects office, Sverdlin, 42, applied to leave the Soviet Union in 1974 but was refused an exit visa on the grounds that his brother was employed in a job with national security clearance.

THOUSANDS OF PURIM KITS, MEGILLOTH DISTRIBUTED HERE AND ABROAD

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA)--More than 500,000 Purim kits were distributed nationally by the Lubavitch Youth Organization (LYO). It was reported by Rabbi Shmuel Butman, organization director. At the same time, thousands of Megilloth with Russian translations were distributed in the United States, Canada, Israel, New Zealand and many other countries by the Al Tidom Association, according to Rabbi Harry Bronstein, president of the Association.

Butman said that the Purim kits were distributed in elementary schools, high schools, colleges, army bases, hospitals, nursing homes and on the streets. Lubavitcher Hasidim even went "behind bars" to bring the Purim observances and holiday spirits to Jewish prisoners. Thousands of people also received Purim kits through the Mitzvah Mobiles or "tanks against assimilation."

Bronstein reported that Megilloth in Hebrew and Russian were distributed to synagogues, Jewish centers, day schools, yeshivas, universities and organizations aiding recently arrived Soviet Jews. He said that many requests came in from private individuals requesting Megilloth in Russian for customers or neighbors.