



daily news bulletin

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STERN FREED FROM LABOR CAMP...

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA)--Dr. Mikhail Stern, who was arrested in May, 1974 and sentenced in December, 1974 to eight years in a labor camp on charges of "bribery and swindling," was released yesterday by the Ukrainian Supreme Court on "humanitarian grounds," it was reported today by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ). The court stated that it had taken into consideration the 58-year-old endocrinologist's ill health, age and the fact that he was a "first offender."

The SSSJ and UCSJ said Stern was suffering in the labor camp from tuberculosis, ulcers, bladder stones and spinal and heart disorders. A month ago, he was placed in a punishment cell for 10 days for writing a letter which was never delivered to his wife, Ida, describing the horrors of the camp conditions, the two groups reported.

"Dr. Stern was a scapegoat in the classic sense," the SSSJ and UCSJ said. "He was tried because his sons had applied for exit visas to go to Israel. It was a clear warning to all Jews in the Ukraine who might seek exit." Furthermore, they said, his conviction followed a two-week "kangaroo court" trial in Vinnitsa in which the sentence was already common knowledge before the proceedings ended and at which almost every prosecution witness recanted his testimony on the stand. "The release of Dr. Stern vindicates the widespread Western campaign on his behalf," the SSSJ and UCSJ said.

Stern's release came 11 days before sympathizers were to have held an international tribunal on the case. Among those who were expected to participate were Jean-Paul Sartre, whose committee for the release of Stern included 50 Nobel Prize winners, exiled Soviet dissidents Viktor Nekrasov, Alexander Galich, Leonid Plyushch and Stern's two sons.

...SHARANSKY ARRESTED

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA)--Anatoly Sharansky, one of the Soviet Jewish activists who was recently accused in an Izvestia article of working with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), was seized by eight secret police today as he was accompanying two American reporters from the apartment building where he had been staying, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. His immediate whereabouts could not be learned, according to a report from Moscow to the NCSJ.

Sharansky, 29, a member of a group monitoring Soviet implementation of the human rights sections of the Helsinki agreement, was talking to the reporters about the release of Dr. Mikhail Stern when the police moved in. The activist has been under close surveillance by the secret police as he moved about the city. While police held back the reporters, Sharansky was pushed into a waiting car.

Sharansky, together with Vladimir Slepak in whose apartment he had been staying and who had also been accused of working with the CIA, was one of 250 signers of a statement several days ago which warned that anti-Jewish prejudice is

ready to erupt in the Soviet Union. Slepak was also one of the signers.

WALDHEIM INVITES PLO TO ATTEND UN SESSION AT WHICH CARTER WILL SPEAK

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 15 (JTA)--Secretary General Kurt Waldheim sent an invitation this morning to the Palestine Liberation Organization observers at the UN to be part of the audience when President Carter addresses the General Assembly Thursday and at the reception that will follow. A United Nations spokesman said today that Waldheim's decision was reached after consultation with the United States Mission to the UN. All representatives with observer status who have offices in New York were also invited. The PLO has an office in Manhattan.

Meanwhile, members of the Security Council, who held informal consultations today, decided to accept Egypt's request for a debate on Waldheim's report on his recent Mideast mission, but no date for the meeting was set and it is not likely that the meeting will take place before next month because the Council will be dealing with the question of South Africa and Benin.

Egypt had previously asked for a Security Council meeting on a complaint of delay in reconvening the Geneva peace conference. It was understood that the debate to which the Council agreed today will include that complaint. This afternoon, Israeli Ambassador Chaim Herzog met with Waldheim at the Secretary General's request to discuss the situation in the Middle East.

EXTRA SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN AS B'NAI B'RITH WORKERS RETURN TO JOBS

Therapy Sessions Will Be Conducted For Workers Who May Have Been Traumatized By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 15 (JTA)--Nearly all of the 150 employees at B'nai B'rith national headquarters here were back at work today, including those who were held hostage by gunmen of the Hanafi Moslem sect who seized the eight-story building last Wednesday morning. Extra security precautions have been taken, however.

An additional armed guard is on duty at the building's single entrance and all visitors must sign a register in his presence. Security experts are exploring the building with a view to recommending further security measures. Most of the offices, including those severely damaged by the gunmen, are back in use. But repair to the damage, estimated minimally at \$250,000, is still going on. Bullet holes are visible in some of the walls and smashed doors, walls and furniture are being repaired or will be replaced. Blood-stained carpeting has been removed and bloodstains have been washed from the walls.

Meanwhile, two specialists from the National Institute of Mental Health will be conducting therapy sessions and group and private observation among employees who may be affected by the trauma of last week's events. A B'nai B'rith

spokesman said that project may not be completed for years.

The specialists were present at a meeting of B'nai B'rith employees at the Mayflower Hotel this morning. They were addressed by B'nai B'rith president David Blumberg and executive vice-president Daniel Thursz. Both officials lauded the employees for their courage under severe stress and reassured them about the security measures being taken. The employees were told that they could resume their work at a pace commensurate with their personal psychological and physical conditions. Only a few failed to report for work today. At least one employee is still hospitalized.

DENY MOROCCAN JEWS LEFT ISRAEL LAST YEAR TO RETURN TO MOROCCO

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency denied a news service report today that substantial numbers of Moroccan Jews left Israel last year to return to Morocco. Yehuda Dominitz, deputy director of the Agency's immigration and absorption department, claimed that not a single Jew emigrated from Israel to Morocco last year. Dominitz recalled similar reports last year of a large-scale departure of Moroccan Jews. He said an investigation showed that only eight families left, two of which subsequently returned to Israel.

The Associated Press story was based on an interview with a person identified as Moris Simon who said he immigrated to Israel in 1972 but left three years later. He claimed that hundreds of other Moroccan Jews had also returned to their country of origin. But according to the Jewish Agency, there is no record of a Moris Simon having immigrated to Israel from Morocco at any time since 1970.

MASTER PLAN FOR NEGEV DEVELOPMENT

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA)--A master plan for the development of industry, power stations and transportation in the Negev has been submitted to the Knesset by a voluntary group headed by Yosef Tekoah, Ben Gurion University president and former Ambassador to the UN, and Eli Moyal, Deputy Minister of Communications. The plan, the target date for which is the year 2000, is aimed at increasing the population of the Negev by improving services and increasing agricultural and industrial productivity.

The promoters of the project noted that while the Negev, Israel's southern region, contains 60 percent of Israel's land area, its growth and development has lagged behind the rest of the country. Their program includes:

Construction of a cross-desert pipeline to carry sea water from the Mediterranean to power stations in the Dead Sea region; a 300,000-acre industrial zone in the northern Negev; industrial and desalination plants; an international airport at Beersheba; a railroad from Eilat to the Mediterranean to facilitate the movement of freight for transshipment; construction of a major seaport at Yamit south of the Gaza Strip; and the expansion of Ben Gurion University at Beersheba as the focal point for applied research in the Negev and a source of professional manpower for the region's development.

ISIDOR SCHIFRIN DEAD AT 87

CINCINNATI, March 15 (JTA)--Isidor Schifrin, an advertising executive and a former board member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency who was

active in national and local Jewish affairs, died here today after a long illness. He was 87. Services will be held Thursday in Indianapolis.

Schifrin was a vice-president of the Schindler-Howard Advertising Agency here for 50 years. He was a member of the board of directors of the JTA during the 1960s and served as its secretary for a time. He was a member of the national board of the American Association for Jewish Education and the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and an honorary vice-president of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Born in Rochester, N.Y., Schifrin graduated from the University of Rochester and did postgraduate work at the University of Cincinnati and the Hebrew Union College here. He served as a chaplain with the armed forces during World War I and II. Locally, Schifrin was a member of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise Temple and served as principal of its religious school and the Rockdale Temple.

He was a former president of the Jewish Community Center, the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Cultural and Arts Committee. He headed the local Israel Bonds drive and was a member of the boards of the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Cincinnati Community Hebrew Day School. Schifrin was active in the Boy Scout movement locally for 50 years and had been chairman of scouting for the National Jewish Welfare Board.

PAULINE KOHN DEAD AT 81

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA)--Funeral services were held today for Mrs. Pauline Redlich Kohn who personally helped 250 Austrian and German Jewish refugees come to the United States in the late 1930s. She died Sunday at the age of 81. Her humanitarian activities started in 1938 when the then Mrs. Milton Redlich received a letter from an Austrian stranger, Hansi Redlich, appealing for an affidavit of support to enable her to emigrate to the U.S. She complied and after receiving requests from others filled out affidavits for 250 between 1938 and 1940.

Mrs. Kohn was a former national vice-president and member of the board of governors for the Women's League for Israel. Her husband, Milton, died in 1945. In 1952 she married George Kohn who died in 1967. Mrs. Kohn was born in Poland as Pauline Durst and brought to the United States at the age of seven.

KISSINGER: JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED MOST FROM ABSENCE OF PEACE

WASHINGTON, March 15 (JTA)--Former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, accepting an honorary Doctorate in Philosophy from Israel's Weizmann Institute, said that "no people have suffered more" from the absence of peace "than the Jewish people."

Urging peace and "reconciliation" in the Middle East, Kissinger said that the Weizmann Institute, located initially at the desert's edge in an area that is now cultivated, "can symbolize not only the past of Israel, but the future of the Middle East at a time when we must be concerned with security and dare not yet be certain that peace is possible. It symbolizes what must be the future for all the peoples in the Middle East."

Kissinger, making his first address since

leaving the State Department seven weeks ago, spoke at a dinner here last Thursday attended by 160 persons after receiving the degree that was awarded him three years ago. The honor was conferred upon him by Dr. Michael Sela, Weizmann Institute president, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first President. Among those joining the convocation was Sir Marcus J. Sieff, chairman of the Institute's board of governors, whose parents were the Institute's original founders.

"As the first Jewish Secretary of State, my relationship with the State of Israel and sometimes with the Jewish community in the United States has inevitably been complicated," Kissinger said in his extemporaneous remarks. "Yet none of us who are conscious of the travail and the suffering and the future of the Jewish people can ever forget that the future of the Jewish people is inextricably linked with the future of peace and justice and freedom and security for all people."

A pre-recorded address was heard from Meyer Weisgal, the Institute's Chancellor and a disciple of Weizmann who was ill in Israel and could not be present. In paying tribute to Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy, his daily exertions on our behalf," Weisgal recalled an arduous 11-day peace mission into the desert near Aqaba made by Weizmann in 1918--the basis of an historic but short-lived concord reached with Emir Faisal, then leader of the Arab world and later King of Iraq--and characterized Kissinger's "almost superhuman efforts" in the Middle East as a continuum that sought "to restore the spirit that was created between Weizmann and Faisal"--nearly 60 years ago.

LIPSHUTZ SAYS PLIGHT OF HANAFIS, PALESTINIANS ARE ANALOGOUS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 15 (JTA)--Presidential Counsel Robert J. Lipshutz told the annual meeting of the Zionist Organization of America's executive committee in Washington last weekend that "a large percentage of the Palestinian people feel they have been deprived of their rights and whether such an attitude is justified or not, we would ignore this situation at our peril."

Lipshutz, who is one of President Carter's closest advisors and presides over White House staff meetings, stated that "the resolution of this problem is of utmost importance to the State of Israel, to the Arab countries, to the United States and indeed to the world."

Reflecting His Personal Thoughts

Emphasizing he was reflecting "my own personal thoughts," Lipshutz said he found "important analogies" between the feelings of the Hanafi Moslems who last week seized three buildings here and held 134 persons as hostages for 39 hours and the "hundreds of millions of people in this world, particularly Africa and Asia" who "feel they are deprived of an equal opportunity to life as compared with other peoples of the world."

He noted that the Hanafis have "a belief that our system has not properly rendered justice" to those persons for the 1973 slayings of the wife and children of the Hanafi leader, Khalifa Hamnas Abdul Khaalis, by what the Hanafis claim was a rival Muslim group. Discussing the "spectac-

ularly successful teamwork" in the release of the hostages, Lipshutz drew attention to the participation of the ambassadors of Egypt, Pakistan and Iran and "the deep religious beliefs of the person (Khaalis) who held our people captive."

He suggested that while in the past "deep religious convictions might have been the basis for strife between persons of different beliefs," they "might well become a common bond" and bring together "all of the people of the world."

3-Point Mideast Program Urged

In another address at the meeting which marked the ZOA's 80th anniversary, Rep. Clement Zablocki (D,Wisc.), chairman of the House International Relations Committee, urged a three-point program for the Middle East, including a formal American security commitment to Israel. He urged that the U.S. scale down its sale of arms to the Mideast and that peace efforts "complement the reduction."

In addition, Zablocki suggested an economic development bank for the area by a consortium, including the Arab states. The Palestinian question, he said, "is the heart of the conflict and it will not go away," adding that "unless the issue is faced by all sides unemotionally it will not be solved." ZOA committee members peppered both Lipshutz and Zablocki with questions, some tinged with criticism.

Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, ZOA president, said the latest U.S. expressions on Mideast policy, by President Carter and the State Department "can only lead to confusion." He urged the Administration, Congress and the American public to "firmly dispel the myth of the Palestinians as an historical and national entity and to reject the concept of yet another Arab state located between Israel and Jordan."

Declaring that it is "absolutely necessary" to "convey the truth of the American Jewish community's overwhelming support" of Israel's position of rejecting negotiations with the terrorists, Sternstein observed that "unless we do this, there will be a continued exploitation of a fictionalized division in our ranks."

JERUSALEM MONTH IN MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON, March 15 (JTA)--Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts has proclaimed March as "Jerusalem Month" throughout the state. It will be marked by photographic exhibitions prepared by the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, lectures by such prominent personalities as Elie Wiesel, Moshe Safdie and Haim Topi, dance performances, films and daily food demonstrations. All events are open to the public through March 31.

"Jerusalem Month" was opened officially last week by Deputy Mayor Edward Sullivan of Boston in historic Faneuil Hall in the presence of local political and religious leaders of all faiths and several hundred guests. The invocation was offered by Magr. Edward Murray, Vicar for Ecumenical Affairs of the Boston Archdiocese, who declared, "In this world torn by strife, we ask the Almighty to give us something of the spirit of unity of Jerusalem."

Raanan Sivan, Consul General of Israel, observed that to many millions throughout the world, Jerusalem is synonymous with high ideals, purity of spirit and the vision of universal peace. Daily attendance at the events is estimated at 10,000.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**WHITE COLLAR-CRIME IN ISRAEL**

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA)--White collar crime has become a serious social phenomenon in Israel and although its rate is less than in many Western countries, the authorities and the public are gravely concerned, according to a senior police official, Benjamin Ziegel, who heads the fraud investigations department of the Israeli police force.

Addressing a symposium on the subject, Ziegel noted that while white collar crimes do not involve physical violence or cause large-scale material damage, they do great harm to public morale and blemish the image of the country. Ziegel himself has been involved in investigations of crime by important public figures, such as Asher Yadin, a prominent member of the Labor Party and former head of Kupat Holim who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment last month for accepting bribes.

Ziegel said that since the Yom Kippur War, the trend has been to report white collar crimes because the public is now convinced that the police will undertake a serious investigation in each case no matter how highly placed the accused individual may be. Prof. Shlomo Shoham of Tel Aviv University, another participant in the symposium, agreed that the trend is to try to root out corruption rather than cover it up.

However, he said, it is still difficult to gauge the extent of white collar crime because there are many corporations and organizations that fail to report offenses by officials because it might tarnish their image or harm their business. District Court Judge Dov Levin told the symposium that punishment should be severe for perpetrators of fiscal crimes such as bribery and fraud and especially where public servants embezzle public funds.

Cites Lack of Cooperation

Ziegel addressed the subject further in an article in the current issue of the Police Journal. He said there was insufficient cooperation between the public and police and even among the various police agencies. He said, for example, if a public servant reports the theft of tens of thousands of Pounds from his home, the police will investigate the alleged robbery but it will not usually question how a public servant happened to have so much cash in his home. It may have been stolen money or black market money, Ziegel wrote.

Similarly, he said, when a traffic policeman writes a ticket for a driver whose car is not registered in his name, there is always the possibility that the person has been evading taxes, a matter of interest to the fraud investigations department but rarely followed up. Ziegel said that his department had in its possession in 1976 some IL 11 million in forfeited illegal foreign currency compared to IL 4 million in 1975, an indication of how fiscal crime has increased.

The police official discussed the role of the press and communications media in exposing white collar crime. He found the record spotty. In some cases, premature press exposure gave advance warning to perpetrators who were able to dispose of evidence before the police reached them, he wrote.

In other cases, the press brought charges against innocent people. But there have been instances where the press was a step ahead of

the police and presented facts that led to police investigations, Ziegel said. In any event, the public seems to be fed up with crime and corruption, especially on the part of officials who have held the public's trust. White collar crime is increasing but so is its exposure. In fact, it has become an election campaign issue with every party promising a relentless drive against white collar criminals.

ISRAELI, U.S. SCHOLARS TO PROBE ISRAEL'S NEEDS IN ERA OF PEACE

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA)--In anticipation of a possible major easing of Middle East tensions in the near future, leading Israeli and American scholars will be meeting March 20 at an all-day symposium at 515 Park Avenue to evaluate political and social changes which will confront Israel as it moves into an era where it will have to confront political, social and economic problems in a setting of non-conflict, rather than in an armed camp.

"Unfortunately nearly 30 years of war and near conflagration have prevented Israel from preparing for any normalization," said Prof. Melvin I. Urofsky of Virginia Commonwealth University and chairman of the Zionist Academic Council (an arm of the American Zionist Federation) which is sponsoring the event in cooperation with the Herzl Institute.

Mrs. Faye Schenk, AZF president, focussing on the reasons for the symposium, said: "Israel and her Arab neighbors now have a greater chance of achieving a lasting peace than ever before. Should this peace come about in the near future, serious social and political challenges will confront Israeli society as it shifts to new priorities. New ideological and social problems can surface with unprecedented fury once defense concerns diminish. And Israel has not adequately prepared herself to confront these challenges."

Furthermore, Mrs. Schenk observed, "the overwhelming concern of diaspora Jewry--which in many cases has been based on a garrison image of the Jewish State--can easily wane once peace is achieved, much to the material detriment of Israel and the spiritual detriment of world Jewry. In this light, it is necessary to begin exploratory talks among distinguished American and Israeli intellectuals concerning these possibilities and the means whereby to cope with them."

Those participating in the symposium entitled "Toward the Year 2000: Israel, Zionism and the Jewish People," will be: Prof. Uriel Tal of Tel Aviv University, currently lecturing at the University of Pennsylvania; Prof. Shlomo Aronson of Hebrew University, currently on sabbatical at the Brookings Institute; Rabbi Charles Sheer, Columbia University chaplain; Jacques Torczyner, Herzl Institute chairman; Prof. Richard Stone, Columbia University Law School; Milton Himmelfarb of Commentary Magazine; Arthur Hertzberg, American Jewish Congress president; and Urofsky.

GENEVA (JTA)--Rabbi Alexander Safran, Chief Rabbi of Geneva, has urged the International Red Cross and the Ecumenical Council to use their influence with the Soviet government to lift the ban on importing matzo to the USSR. He also urged major world figures to raise the matter with the Soviet delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights.