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SHARANSKY HELD IN LEFORTOVO PRISON; UNDERGOING QUESTIONING ON ALLEGATIONS OF ESPIONAGE, TREASON

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--The National Conference on Soviet Jewry confirmed today that Anatoly Sharansky is presently being held at Moscow's notorious Lefortovo Prison where he is undergoing preliminary questioning pending a full investigation of allegations of espionage and treason that could lead to his trial. The NCSJ said that while no formal charges have been made yet, if tried and convicted Sharansky would face the death penalty or 15 years in a forced labor camp.

The 29-year-old emigration activist was arrested on a Moscow street yesterday by eight Soviet secret police operatives. The allegations against him stem from a March 4 article in the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia which linked Sharansky and fellow-activists-Vladimir Slepak and Alexander Lerner to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). All three have denied the allegation.

The three men and their families have been seeking emigration visas for years without success. Sharansky's wife, Natalia, has been in Israel for the past two years waiting for her husband to be allowed to leave the USSR. She is coming to the U.S. Sunday under NCSJ sponsorship to plead his case.

The NCSJ noted that the last time treason charges were brought against Jewish activists was at the 1970 Leningrad hijack trial. Two of the defendants, Edouard Kuznetsov and Aleksei Murzheuko, were sentenced to death but their sentences were later commuted to 15 years' hard labor after a wave of protests from the West.

Fanning Anti-Jewish Hate

Sharansky had been under daily surveillance in recent weeks by 6-8 secret service men prior to his arrest. He and Slepak recently filed a suit for defamation against the authorities based on the screening of an anti-Jewish television documentary titled "Buyers of Souls." The program was aired twice in the past month during prime time and appears to be aimed at the Soviet masses.

This act, among others, is causing serious concern among Jews who fear that the Soviet authorities are deliberately trying to create a climate for anti-Jewish acts among the populace. According to the NCSJ, a number of Moscow Jews are talking about a "climate of fear" presaging a wider crackdown by security forces against Jewish activists.

They believe that the KGB has been given a freer hand to persecute Jews as evidenced by a series of actions that have taken place in the last few weeks. They include the escalation of anti-Jewish propaganda, such as the TV documentary, threats of arrests made to at least a half dozen Jews and the ban on the import of baked goods which appears to be directed against parcels of Passover matzo's sent to Jews from abroad, the NCSJ said.

ALLEN: USSR INCITING ANTI-SEMITISM

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA)--Foreign Min-

ister Yigal Allon accused Soviet authorities today of "unleashing the latent--and perhaps not so latent--sentiments of anti-Semitism which exist in large parts of Soviet society."

Speaking from the Knesset rostrum, Allon referred to "scurrilous attacks" on emigration activists published in the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia, specifically a March 4 article alleging that Anatoly Sharansky, who was arrested yesterday, Prof. Alexander Lerner and Vladimir Slepak and others were in the pay of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Izvestia also accused Prof. Vitaly Rubin and Dr. Alexander Luntz, who are in Israel, and Prof. David Azbel, now in the U.S. Allon said that those not yet arrested were being subjected to "demonstrative tailing" by the KGB.

The Foreign Minister declared that "There is no need for imagination to understand what effect such anti-Jewish allegations have, especially when they are printed in a publication like Izvestia which reaches every corner of the Soviet Union. Such allegations are tantamount to unleashing the latent--and perhaps not so latent--sentiments of anti-Semitism which exist in large parts of Soviet society," he said.

Allon described a Soviet-Jewish physician, identified as Dr. Sanya Lipavsky, who signed the Izvestia article which appeared in the form of an open letter as a "police informer" who had insinuated himself into the aliya movement by pretending to be a "refusnik" when he was, in fact, an agent provocateur.

(Jewish groups in London who had maintained telephone contact with Lipavsky and other activists, have described Lipavsky as a bona-fide "refusnik" who was fired from his medical job when he applied for a visa but buckled under pressure out of fear for himself and his family. They said Lipavsky could not have deceived the aliya activists during the long period he was associated with them. His whereabouts have been unknown since the Izvestia article appeared.)

All Knesset factions except the Rakah Communists joined in an expression of "solidarity" with the aliya activists in the USSR and called on "all the parliaments of the world" to protest their treatment. The Knesset urged the Soviet authorities to abide by its undertaking at Helsinki to permit all Jews so desiring to reunite with their families abroad. (By David Landau)

PERES CONCERNED OVER WHAT HE SEES AS U.S. CHANGE TOWARD THE PLO By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres said today that statements made at the Palestine National Council meeting in Cairo this week left no doubt that the PLO's goal is the destruction of the State of Israel. He expressed concern over what he saw as a change of U.S. attitude toward the PLO, particularly the failure of the Administration to oppose an invitation to the PLO to attend a reception for President Carter at the United Nations. (See related story P. 3.)

Addressing students at the agricultural school of the Hebrew University in Rehovoth, Peres said that Farouk Kadoumi, sometimes described as the PLO's "foreign minister," made it clear in Cairo that what the Palestinians want is Israel's destruction and the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan is the beginning of a move to push Israelis into the sea. He said that whoever supports the idea of establishing a Palestinian state is supporting the annihilation of Israel.

He also expressed concern that one of President Carter's closest aides has said recently that the Palestinian question is a central component of the solution of the Middle East crisis. Peres did not mention the aide by name. Presidential Counsel Robert J. Lipshutz, addressing a meeting of the Zionist Organization of America executive committee in Washington over the weekend, stressed that the Palestinian question could not be ignored.

Peres said the Palestinians have repeated their unbending, extreme attitude which is the destruction of Israel. "I hope that we shall have the power to stand fast and speak clearly without stuttering against this attitude," he said.

WJC APPREHENSIVE OVER ANTI-JEWISH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION

GENEVA, March 16 (JTA)--The Executive of the World Jewish Congress expressed "grave apprehension" today over "the recent increase of anti-Jewish occurrences and measures in the USSR" and urged Soviet authorities "to facilitate the exit of Jews who so wish and to enable the Jews to develop their own culture and religious life in the USSR."

The manifestation of concern over recent developments in the Soviet Union was contained in a statement released to the press following a lengthy discussion of the condition of Soviet Jews at the WJC Executive's meeting here. The situation of Jews in Arab countries, particularly Syria, was also discussed and plans were made for the WJC General Council meeting in Washington next fall.

The statement on Soviet Jewry noted in particular a March 4 article in the government news paper Izvestia "levelling the accusation of CIA-linked espionage against several Jews prominent in the struggle for Jewish rights, including the right to emigrate to Israel."

The statement also said that "other manifestations of this escalation of pressure on Soviet Jews have been the arrests of prominent Jewish activists, the showing of blatantly anti-Semitic films on Soviet television, anti-Semitic articles in the press and the suppression of an attempt by Jewish scholars to call a symposium for the discussion of Jewish cultural problems with a view to reviving cultural activities."

The statement noted that "Meanwhile, the number of exit permits for Jews wishing to emigrate in order to reunite with their families is not increasing. The Executive voices a most serious warning that these manifestations may create an atmosphere of widespread anti-Jewish prejudice and urges the Soviet government to halt this campaign immediately in order to avert tragic consequences for the Jews in the USSR." A similar statement was issued earlier this week by the Presidium of the Brussels World Conference on Soviet Jewry meeting here.

The WJC Executive meeting was chaired by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the WJC. Par-

ticipants included Philip M. Klutznick, chairman of the WJC Governing Board; Leon Dulzain, chairman of the General Council; Yosef Almog, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives; WJC vice-presidents Nessim D. Gaon and Samuel Norich; regional branch chairmen Lord Fisher of Camden for Europe and Itzhak Korn for Israel; and WJC secretary general Dr. Gerhard Riegner.

SAKHAROV HITS SHARANSKY DETENTION

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today that Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel Laureate in physics, charged that by detaining Anatoly Sharansky, the "Kremlin is attempting to blackmail the West before (Secretary of State Cyrus) Vance's visit." Vance is scheduled to meet with Soviet officials in Moscow at the end of the month.

Sakharov also reported that both Jewish activists and non-Jewish dissidents gathered today in Moscow to protest the detention of Sharansky, the leading press spokesman of the Soviet Jewish activists and a member of the unofficial Helsinki watchdog commission in Moscow set up to monitor Soviet compliance with the humanitarian provisions of the Helsinki accords signed in 1975.

Bronx Borough President Robert Abrams, Conference chairman, called the Sharansky detention "yet another brutal attempt to suppress the Jewish freedom movement inside the Soviet Union. But we must remember Sharansky's own words of only a few days ago: 'Whatever happens to us, we remain in the same position; that Western pressure is the only possible way of saving the movement.'"

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL ON STERN TO GO AHEAD DESPITE HIS RELEASE

AMSTERDAM, March 16 (JTA)--The international tribunal on the imprisonment of Dr. Michael Stern will go ahead here March 24 as planned despite the report from the Soviet Union that Stern has been released. This was announced today by Wil Steeman, organizing secretary of the tribunal; Rabb Avraham Soetendorp, honorary secretary of the Dutch Solidarity Committee for Soviet Jewry; and Stern's son Victor. They said the organizers are not only concerned with Stern but with all other Soviet prisoners.

Stern, who was arrested in May, 1974 and sentenced in December, 1974 to eight years on charges of "bribery and swindling," was released Monday on "humanitarian" grounds by a Ukrainian Supreme Court. The court noted the 58-year-old endocrinologist was in ill health. Victor Stern, who learned of his father's release when he arrived last night from Israel, credited pressure from the West for the Ukrainian court's decision. "Continuous pressure from the West remains the best protection for my father," he said.

AJCWF SENDS EMERGENCY GRANT OF \$25,000 TO B'NAI B'RITH TO HELP COVER COST OF REPAIRING BUILDING

BALTIMORE, March 16 (JTA)--The Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund of Baltimore (AJCWF) has sent an emergency grant of \$25,000 to B'nai B'rith to help cover the cost of repairing the damages to its national headquarters in Washington caused by the

Hanafi Moslems who invaded the building last week. Jack Pearlstone, AJCWF president, stated that the grant was given from the Associated Legacy and Endowment Fund which was created to meet unforeseen emergencies which could not be met through the fund's annual campaign.

"We believe that the attack by the terrorists was not against the B'nai B'rith as such," Pearlstone said. "It was a direct attack on the Jewish people. This was anti-Semitism in its most virulent form and the hostages were physically and verbally abused because they were Jews. While we cannot help those unfortunate men and women who may be psychologically and emotionally scarred by the experience, we can do something to express our concern. We believe that the B'nai B'rith, already financially hard-pressed, should not have to assume the full responsibility of repairing the damages to the building which has been estimated to be in excess of \$250,000."

The emergency grant to the B'nai B'rith is, Pearlstone added, "at once an expression of regret about this most despicable act and an acknowledgement that we stand together with our fellow Jews when they are in need."

WHITE HOUSE SAYS STATE DEPARTMENT, WALDHEIM ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING PLO AT CARTER'S APPEARANCE AT UN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA)--The White House today put responsibility on the State Department and United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim for the attendance tomorrow of the Palestine Liberation Organization UN observers at President Carter's address at the world body and a reception following. Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell also declared that "no political significance" is attached to the presence of the PLO.

PLO representatives were invited by Waldheim as one of the observer delegations at the UN following consultations with the State Department. At a hearing before the House International Relations Committee this morning, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said in discussing other matters that he was involved in the Department's decision that it was up to Waldheim to decide on the PLO presence.

Several governments that are not UN members have observer missions at the UN. These include states like Vietnam, North and South Korea, Monaco, Switzerland and the Vatican. The PLO is not a state or a government but has been given observer status as has the Southwest Africa People's Organization which opposes South African rule in southwest Africa known as Namibia.

Carter Not Involved In Decision

The President was "not even involved," Powell, said in the State Department decision to tell Waldheim the U.S. would not be in the position of telling him whom he might invite to the two functions under UN auspices. Asked whether Carter would "see" PLO representatives at the UN or elsewhere, Powell replied, "There are absolutely no plans" for the President to "meet with the PLO or any other delegate or observer or member."

He said Carter has made no plans to see anyone in particular at the reception "to which the Secretary General invited those he saw fit." Powell added, "There is no more than meets the eye in terms of contact or signal."

Despite disclaimers at the White House and State Department on the PLO presence tomorrow, reporters reflected deep skepticism that the U.S. did not willingly approve the decision formally made by Waldheim. There was a feeling that had the U.S. said "no" on the non-governmental organizations being represented but that it would accept the missions of non-member UN states like Switzerland and the Vatican, it is doubtful that Waldheim would have issued the invitations to the PLO.

One reporter asked State Department spokesman Frederick Brown whether he was "serious" in saying the departmental gesture to Waldheim reflected no political significance. Brown replied "The White House was very specific on that point this morning and I will be equally specific, namely, there is absolutely no political significance tomorrow or to the attendance at the speech itself--absolutely no political significance." He also denied that the U.S. is now in a process of changing its policy not to contact the PLO. "That's correct, not in the process," Brown said.

Ban On Photos At Reception

In New York, Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, took a dim view of the invitations. "Of course we are not pleased to see the PLO invited this time or any other time to the UN." At the same time, the Israel Mission to the UN is awaiting instructions from Jerusalem whether to attend the reception for Carter tomorrow night. Tuvia Saar, a Mission spokesman, said today. He added, however, that the Israel UN delegation will attend Carter's address.

Meanwhile, a UN spokesman confirmed today that the White House had requested that newspaper photographers and television cameras be banned from the reception where all those present, including the PLO representatives, are expected to be individually greeted and shake hands with Carter.

Arthur J. Levine, acting chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, sent a telegram to Carter expressing "concern" over the invitation to the PLO. He asserted that "Even as we recognize that your presence at the reception denotes no change in the clearly enunciated policy of this and previous Administrations of refusing to recognize or deal with the PLO, we can only feel discomfort and chagrin that our President should find himself at a social function to which this destructive and murderous force should be honored with an invitation."

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, said it is "regrettable" that Carter "should permit himself to be placed in the position of personally greeting a representative of the PLO. We honor President Carter's active search for peace in the Middle East. But we respectfully suggest that lending dignity to the PLO can only be harmful to this cause and detrimental to American interests." Since this is merely a social occasion, we trust that the President's act represents no change in the well established policy of the United States--most recently reaffirmed by Secretary Vance--not to recognize or deal with the PLO."

LONDON (JTA)--Britain is considering what action it can take over a Soviet decision to ban mail parcels from abroad.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW ZIONIST MEMBERSHIP DRIVE RESUMES By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA)--Zionist federations all over the world are currently embarking on a renewed membership drive, with the ultimate hope of registering more than one million diaspora Jews as committed Zionists, pledged to uphold the "Jerusalem Program" which includes among its five principles the centrality of Israel.

The drive is the first stage in the World Zionist Organization's preparations for the World Zionist Congress, now scheduled for February, 1978. It had been launched in some countries last year, when the Congress was set for February, 1977. But after the Zionist "Supreme Court" ruled that elections for the Congress must be held in every country and cannot be circumvented by agreements between the parties, the movement as a whole realized that an all-embracing and much more energetic drive would have to be held.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Avraham Shenker, head of the WZO information and organization department, observed that the court decision is being turned from a drawback into a springboard for action. He explained that last year's drive, even in the countries where it had gotten under way, was a fairly half-hearted affair because most national federations hoped to send an agreed slate of delegates to the Congress, without holding elections. Shenker himself, and Mapam, of which he is a member, always opposed the majority decision enabling elections to be circumvented--and he was therefore pleased at the court's ruling.

4 Channels For Membership Drive

Discussing how the membership campaign will be conducted, Shenker explained that there are four main channels: one is for ongoing Zionist activities, such as Independence Day or Jerusalem Day events, to be used by local leaders and activists as campaigning opportunities to enlist new members to the Zionist movement and to ensure that old members renew their membership and pay their dues.

Another is to have the "world organizations" (the parties) conduct their own membership campaigns, assuming, with good reason, that people who join the WZO through one of the parties will give their support to that party in the voting for Congress delegations. An individual, Shenker explained, can become a member of the Zionist organization either by joining his national federation directly or by joining a Zionist "world organization" (party). In each case he/she must pay dues and sign the "Jerusalem Program."

The third channel is the various Jewish non-party organizations that have joined the WZO in recent years: Maccabi, the World Sephardi Union, the Reform Synagogue Movement. Their individual members have not automatically become members of the Zionist movement, and Shenker hopes the leaders of these organizations will encourage the rank and file to join the Zionist movement--if they have not done so already.

He said there has already been notable success among the branches of the Sephardi Union. In Argentina, France and Canada, for instance, the Sephardim will be putting up their own slates for the Congress elections in the fall. Lastly, the membership drive is channelled through the youth movements and young adult organizations.

Notes Several Innovations

One new departure, Shenker reported, has occurred in Belgium, where leaders of the United Jewish Appeal campaign have specifically decided to encourage members to join the local Zionist federation. While the old generation of fund-raisers around the world felt in the main that their giving was in itself a sufficient expression of commitment, the rising generation is seeking other channels in which to be active--and the Zionist movement can supply those channels, Shenker observed.

The drive, he said, is under way in 40 countries. Elections will be held in 28 countries. Some of the others are too small for elections, and in some, local conditions do not permit elections.

The WZO's organization chief says he is sure the elections will produce a much younger Congress than ever before--and the changes will certainly be reflected in the new Zionist Executive, too, both among its Israeli and its diaspora members. Another new departure in this Congress will be the participation of the representatives of the newly affiliated organizations--Reform, Sephardim, Maccabi. They will account, Shenker says, for at least 100 of the 650 delegates.

Israeli delegates will be chosen on the basis of the party key in Israel--and presumably the upcoming elections here, too, will wreak their changes in the composition of the Zionist conference contingent. Israelis account for 38 percent of the delegates to the Congress, the U.S. accounts for 29 percent. In the Israeli contingent, for the first time, there will presumably be a sizeable representation of Yigal Yadin's new Democratic Movement for Change which might well lobby for changes in the Zionist movement as well as in the government.

ANNE FRANK STATUE UNVEILED

AMSTERDAM, March 16 (JTA)--A statue of Anne Frank was unveiled here this week just around the corner from the canal house where the then 15-year-old Jewish girl and her family were sheltered from the Nazis. The six-foot high statue bears the simple inscription "Anne Frank, 1929-1945." "It's a beautiful tribute to my daughter," Otto Frank, 88, said as he came from Switzerland for the unveiling ceremony. Anne recorded her two years of hiding in a diary. The diary, which was discovered after the war in the house from which Anne and her family were taken by the Nazis in 1944, became famous and was turned into a play and a film:

ISRAELI PRODUCTS TO THE U.S.

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA)--Koor, the giant Histadrut company, has announced that its subsidiary, Koor Intertrade-America, which introduces Israeli products to the United States, is expected to earn \$100 million this year. Its turnover last year was \$84 million. Koor also said that its pharmaceutical company, Plantex, has received American approval to export \$4.5 million of new drugs to the United States, including medicine for heart treatment, anti-inflammation and Parkinson's Disease. The company's total exports to the U.S. is expected to reach \$50 million in 1977. Koor Intertrade-Europe has also been selected by the International Telephone and Telegraph Co. to market in Europe electronic devices produced by ITT's subsidiary.

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