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2 ARMED MEN SEIZE WEST GERMAN
EMBASSY; LEAVE AFTER SEVERAL HOURS
By Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, April 14. (JTA) -- Two armed men who seized two rooms at the West German Embassy here this afternoon, left the building quietly at nightfall as they had promised to do and surrendered their pistols to waiting police. German Ambassador Per Fischer said he would not press charges.

The men, claiming to be Holocaust survivors, entered the Embassy at gunpoint today wearing yellow Stars of David, the emblem of concentration camp inmates. They said they were using the occasion of Holocaust Memorial Day, celebrated all over Israel today, to protest the long duration of the Maidanek war crimes-trials which have been going on for several years in West Germany without the conviction of any former Nazi for crimes-committed at that concentration camp. They also protested the fact that the German Embassy was kept open on Memorial Day.

Apparently they had no violent intent. The rooms they occupied were empty. Police Inspector General Haim Tavori negotiated with the pair during most of the day. He said they promised to leave peacefully when Holocaust Memorial Day ended officially at dusk. Police sources said a television broadcast here last night critical of the way the Maidanek trials are being conducted may have triggered the men's actionand that all they sought was publicity. They demanded radio coverage.

Afterwards, the West German envoy said that while he could not condone the unlawful occupation of sovereign German territory, he understood the motives behind it.

MRS. RABIN INDICTED

TEL AVIV, April 14 (JTA)--Mrs. Leah Rabin was indicted by a Tel Aviv District Court today for illegal possession of foreign currency. The charge sheet referred to a joint bank account kept by Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Mrs. Rabin in Washington, D.C. after 1973 when Rabin's tenure as Ambassador to the U.S. ended and they returned to Israel.

According to Israeli law, all funds held abroad by Israeli nationals must be re-deposited in Israel when they return. The charge sheet said the Rabins' account amounted to \$21,101 until it was closed last month. If convicted, Mrs. Rabin will face a prison term of up to three years and a fine amounting to three times the amount of the illegally held currency. According the legal sources, however, Israeli courts have never imposed prison sentences for this sort of offense.

Rabin himself will not be prosecuted. Under an arrangement worked out between Treasury officials and Attorney General Aharon Barak, he was given an administrative fine of IL 15,000.

MIKHAIL STERN COMING TO THE U.S. By Maurice Fine

VIENNA, April 14 (JTA)--Dr. Mikhail Stern, released last month from a Soviet prison camp

where he had served two years and eight months of an eight-year sentence for alleged bribery, arrived here yesterday and announced that he plans to settle in the United States. The sentencing of the 58-year-old endocrinologist from Vinnitsa, Ukraine on obviously false charges, had aroused a world-wide wave of protest, especially from leading physicians and scientists in Europe and the U.S.

The protests were credited with obtaining his early release from the labor camp and permission for him to leave the Soviet Union on an emigrant visa for Israel. Stern was reunited here with his son, Victor, 30, who told reporters, "We will leave immediately for the United States," adding, "What my father needs now is peace and to forget."

Stern was arrested in 1974 for allegedly accepting bribes from patients for drugs after he refused to block applications by his sons Victor and August to emigrate to Israel. Soviet law requires the confirmation of parents for their adult children who want to emigrate. Both sons emigrated and went to Israel in 1975. They campaigned there and in the U.S. and Europe for their father's release. Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria was among the many prominent figures who intervened with Soviet authorities on Stern's behalf.

Victor confirmed that his father's health suffered during his prison ordeal. "My father is ailing but I am confident his health will improve now as he is safe in the West," he said.

DISCLOSE DUTCH POLICE HELPED NAZIS ROUND UP JEWS, OTHERS DURING WW II

AMSTERDAM, April 14 (JTA)--Hitherto unpublished disclosures of how Dutch police helped the Nazis round up Dutch Jews and others for deportation to concentration camps during World War II, appear in the current issue of the weekly "Accent" which has obtained the secret files of the post-war Police Criminal Investigation Department (PRA).

In the first of a series of articles on Dutch collaborators, "Accent" reported that some 17,000 Jews in The Hague were arrested and deported by Hague police who, in some cases, appropriated Jewish property for their own use. They also assisted Amsterdam police to round up Jews in Amsterdam's old Jewish quarter, the report said.

None of these policemen was ever prosecuted after the war, except for a few who were officially members of the Dutch Nazi Party. According to "Accent," several police collaborators were appointed to PRA after the war to conduct investigations into the wartime activities of other Dutch collaborators. Future articles in the series will deal with police in other Dutch cities during the Nazi occupation.

RABIN TO'GO ON VACATION; WILL ASK THAT PERES BE ACTING PREMIER By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin will take a vacation immediately after the celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut next Thursday and will recommend that the Cabinet

appoint Defense Minister Shimon Peres as Acting Premier, Israel Radio announced tonight. Rabin will still remain legal Premier and will be responsible, under law, for all government actions. There was no indication of how long he will be away.

The announcement came as pressure mounted from within the Labor Party and the public for Rabin to hand the reins of government to someone else. Rabin had decided earlier this week to stay in office until the next government is formed after the May 17 elections. He based that decision on the law which forbids a minister to resign from a caretaker regime. Although a loophole exists that would permit him to step down, Rabin chose to ignore it.

Yediot Achronot reported this morning that Rabin was planning to take a leave of absence, a move suggested by several LaborParty ministers. Until this evening's radio announcement there was no comment from the Prime Minister's Office on the Yediot Achronot report.

Rabin resigned one week ago as leader of the Labor Party because of the joint bank account he and his wife kept in Washington, D.C. in violation of Israel's currency laws. Peres was chosen by the party on Sunday to replace him at the head of Labor's election ticket. There are elements within the party who fear that it will suffer in the elections if Rabin serves out his tenure.

Former Justice Minister Dov Joseph said in a signed article in Maariv today that Rabin could legally take a vacation and have another minister run the government. Although he would remain Premier officially and would continue to be responsible for government decisions, a leave would be the best and quickest way 'to satisfy the many people who believe that a man who committed an offense should not serve as Premier," Joseph wrote.

FRANCE, ISRAEL EMBARK ON JOINT PROGRAM OF CANCER RESEARCH By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 14 (JTA)--Israel's Weizmann Institute and France's 'Institut Pasteur'' embarked today on a joint program of intensive cancer research. France's Health Minister Simone Veil said the project "is a symbol of what scientists can do when they place themselves above national ambitions."

Mrs. Veil was addressing a press conference at which the project was announced. The Minister also said Leonard Bernstein will conduct the French National Orchestra next month at a gala performance to help raise money for the program. The Weizmann-Pasteur project is a private venture but, Mrs. Veil said, it is being conducted within the framework of existing Franco-Israeli scientific agreements.

Nobel Prize winner Francois Jacob said the two institutes would be investigating the relation between embryonic and cancerous cells and study the organic substances which stimulate the production of anti-bodies.

Another Nobel Prize Laureate, Prof. Andre Lwoff, said the two institutes will work separately on complimentary projects. He announced that the two organizations will draw equal shares from the projected fund drive and expressed the hope that all people will realize the importance of the study.

MAPAM ANNOUNCES KNESSET CANDIDATES

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA)--Mapam an-

nounced today the names of its nine candidates who will appear on the Labor Alignment's Knesset list in "realistic positions." The Mapam list is headed by Meir Talmi, the party's Secretary General, who will receive the No. 5 position on the Labor Alignment list and Naftali-Feder, Mapam's political secretary, who will get 10th place.

The others are Mrs. Chaike Grossman, a member of the present Knesset, 19th place; Moshe Amar, 26th place; Omri Ron, 33rd place; Avraham Shavat, 40th place; Dov Zakin, presently an MK, in 46th place; and Victor Shemfov. Minister of Health in the present government and an MK in 59th place.

SOVIET UNION RAPPED FOR WARNING JEWS AGAINST YOM HASHOA EVENTS

NEW YORK, April 14 (JTA)--Eugene Gold, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, accused Soviet authorities today of trying to deny Jews in the USSR the right to commemorate the deaths of six million Jews in the Nazi Holocaust.

"Soviet ideologists view remembrance of the Jewish dead as an act of Jewish bourgois nationalism, in other words, a Zionist act," Gold said, adding that "In fact, Soviet Jews certainly have a right to remember their own agai st the dictates of Soviet authorities who have engaged in a conspiracy of silence denying for decades Jewish martyrdom in World War II."

Gold made his remarks in response to reports by the Soviet news agency Tass that Jews have been warned against holding Yom Hashoa (Holocaust Remembrance Day) ceremonies in the Moscow Synagogue tomorrow. According to Tass a small number of Jews "connected with foreign Zionist centers' planned to use the occasion for anti-Soviet propaganda.

"Obviously Zionists and their patrons do not stop at speculating on the memory of victims of Fascism for the purpose of raising an anti-Soviet hue and cry," Tass said. It observed that the Soviet Union lost 20 million lives in World War II and it could not understand why homage should be paid to Jewish victims separately.

Gold said "The Soviet government's official stand...is simply a perpetuation of their denial of Jewish history and culture. Soviet Jews do not attempt to deny that millions of non-Jews who were also anti-Fascist died at the hands of the Nazis."

ECUMENICAL HOLOCAUST SERVICE

NEW YORK, April 14 (JTA)--The Cathedral Church of St. John The Divine will mark Holocaust Day (Yom Hashoa) for the first time with a Service of Remembrance for the six million Jewish martyrs and heroes who perished under Nazism. The one-hour observance tomorrow afternoon is sponsored by the Episcopal Cathedral in cooperation with the New York regional board of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Highlights will include a sermon on the meaning of the Holocaust by the Very Reverend James Parks Morton, dean of the Cathedral; the lighting of six commemorative candles by Christians and Jews, and the start of a one-month display in the Cathedral of ADL's new poster series, "The Holocaust: 1933-1945."

In making the announcement, Dean Morton said: "The Cathadral is honored to join our Jewish brothers and sisters in recalling the tragic acts of the Holocaust and the lesson they hold for

today. The service is an expression of our commitment to the fullest solidarity with the Jewish people, continuing in the tradition of the two great menorahs that grace our altar." Joseph I. | and I will speak out when I have the authority." Sonnenreich, chairman of ADL's New York board called the event "a demonstration of the Episcopal Diocese's deep sensitivity toward the Jewish community. This historic occasion is another milestone in our mutual efforts to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two faiths.'

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO MEET WITH CARTER, VANCE IN WASHINGTON

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 14 (JTA)--In an unexpected Middle East development, the State Department and the Syrian government announced today that Syrian Foreign Minister Abdal-Halim Khaddam will visit Washington April 21-23 for meetings with President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. His visit is at the invitation of Vance and will be part of the "continuing discussions of their efforts for a just and lasting peace' in the Mideast, the State Department said.

The Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter said the Khaddam visit "is not in lieu" of Carter's planned meeting with President Hafez Assad of Syria in Europe mid-May. Asked if the visit was in connection with the situation in southern Lebanon over which the State Department expressed serious concern yesterday, Carter said "There are many components in what is necessary for peace" in the region. He pointed out that Syria is a "key participant" in the search for peace. Khaddam, who is also Deputy Premier. has visited Washington twice before--in August, 1974 and June, 1975.

The Damascus announcement of his trip said it with concerned with political and diplomatic efforts related to the Middle East question." The State Department spokesman would not specify Lebanon is a major topic but insisted that Khaddam's visit was part of the U.S. discussions to obtain views "on the proper way peace can be achieved."

The announcement of the visit came at a time when the U.S. has been active in seeking what it calls "stabilization" of the situation in southern Lebanon. In Beirut today, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Butros summoned the U.S. Ambassador, Richard Parker, to discuss events in southern Lebanon. Parker said afterwards, "We reviewed the general situation." He gave no details.

STRAUSS AND SOVIET TRADE By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 14 (JTA)--Former Democratic Party National Chairman Robert S. Strauss, President Carter's chief foreign trade negotiator with the rank of Ambassador, does not give a positive "yes" of support to the Jackson-Vanik section of the U.S. Trade Reform Act.

In line with expressions, usually private, of other high Administration officials. Strauss indicates that the law tying U.S. trade benefits to the Soviet Union's emigration policy is an open issue. This also is the known position of Arthur Hartman, the Assistant Secretary of State for Europe.

Before coming to his present post, Strauss told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview: "I could have emotional and historical views and the prejudices from that. Now, with my present responsibilities, I must be absolutely certain that I am looking at it (Jackson-Vanik) from the standpoint of the whole America. I will take a purely critical and analytical look

Strauss, who is Jewish, did not say he opposed Jackson-Vanik and neither did the officials who briefed reporters just before they left Washington for Moscow with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance for his meeting with Soviet leaders that floundered over nuclear weaponry.

Like other subjects of prime U.S. importance, the trade law and the Export-Import Bank restrictions on credits to the Soviet governmentare under review within the Administration. Strauss' comments to the JTA came after the Soviet-American meetings in Moscow. He was confirmed to his present post two weeks ago.

No Sign Of Seeking Revision

At the Capitol, Congressional sources emphasized that the Administration has given no indication of seeking a revision of these legal measures affecting trade and human rights. They observed Carter's firmness on human -rights while acknowledging his belief that human rights is an issue by itself. The implication of this, it was acknowledged, may be a separation sof emigration from trade policy.

In what may be another clue to Strauss' thinking, he told another interviewer prior to his chat with JTA that free trade is not an end in itself but involves trade-offs and options in

the economy.

Congressional sources believe that in view of the current state of Soviet-American affairs, the Administration would not want to arouse Congress on Soviet trade "at least for the time being," as one source put it. From all accounts thus far, the Jackson-Vanik and Export-Import Bank restrictions did not arise in an important way during Vance's talks in Moscow. Like the Carter Administration, the Kremlin does not seem to want to arouse Congress either, analysts indicated.

This analysis seems to be borne out by the content of Soviet commentaries that concentrate on nuclear weaponry and opposition to "internal interference" but without emphasis on the U.S. laws that affect trade.

PERES PROPOSES JOINT, ISRAEL-JORDANIAN WARNING SYSTEM

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres suggests the erection of a joint Israel-Jordan warning system along the Jordan River, similar to the warning system operating in the Sinai between Israel and Egypt. The suggestion is in a book to be published shortly. In one chapter of the book which appeared today in the military publication, "Ma'arachot," Peres wrote. "I am afraid that those who demand that Israel present a peace plan with geographical maps are dreamers who can push us all toward a new war" because neither the Arabs nor the Israelis are about to accept each other's maps.

Thus Peres suggests: "Rather than draw an agreed borders map, I regard it as more sensible to build a joint warning system along the Jordan River, and subsequently build the infrastructure for economic cooperation between the three main factors in the West Bank (Israel, Jordan, and the local population." Peres also. wrote that the development of means of warfare, in the Arab-Israeli conflict is reaching what he noted was a balance.

HOW 77 LENINGRAD JEWS CELEBRATED PASSOVER DESPITE KGB HARASSMENT

NEW YORK, April 14 (JTA)—The dramatic story of how a group of Leningrad Jews celebrated Passover despite harassment by Soviet authorities was reported today by Mrs. Lynn Singer, president of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry. The information of the event was related to her by Jewish refusniks in Leningrad whom she called. They provided her with the following information.

One hundred Jewish refusniks wished to celebrate the Passover holiday together. Since there was no home large enough to accommodate them, they rented a cafe in Leningrad, paid the rental fee, and made plans to conduct a seder. As they arrived at the cafe on the eve of Passover, they

found the place closed.

When they complained to the management, stating they had paid a fee and had been promised the use of the facility for the evening, they were told, "the cafe was closed for inspection. It was the right of the Soviet authorities to decide when a building was to be inspected, regardless of whether it had been rented."

Disheartened at the prospect of not being able to hold the celebration as a group, and frightened by the knowledge that the cafe had been closed on orders of the Soviet police, who had somehow learned of the planned seder, the mood of the refusniks was somber. Yet, 77 of the original 100 decided to walk to Vosstaniye Square and enter the public dining area in the Oktyabrskaya Hotel. This section of Leningrad is best known for the march of workers shot down by the Czarist police during the 1917 February revolution.

Response To The Effort

Arriving at the hotel, the group was denied admission at the hotel entrance. After explaining that they were justified in seeking admission because they wished to dine in the public dining room, the hotel manager called the KGB to report the attempt of the Jews to enter the hotel. Following lengthy negotiations between the hotel manager and the KGB, the 77 were allowed into the hotel dining room.

As the group entered, members of the orchestra, evidently aware of the encounter, suddenly began to play a traditional Yiddish song, Frailach. Whereupon the manager of the restaurant promptly dismissed the orchestra. The music stopped as suddenly as it had started. But, there was to be music in the dining room of the Oktyabrskaya Hotel on the eve of the first seder night of Passover. Seated at tables in the now overcrowded dining room. Jewish voices broke out in song.

Soviet Jews do not know the words nor the meanings of the songs of the seder. They are not allowed to study the ritual, nor to learn the order of the seder. What they sang were the songs of modern Israel, songs that were taught them by Jewish tourists who visit the USSR, songs learned from records that tourists bring as

gifts for Soviet Jews.

Undaunted By Authorities

rant joined in and began to clap their hands and stamp their feet as the 77 Jews burst into song. A group of Rumanians interrupted their dinner, to sing Rumanian songs, encouraged by the Jews. The dining room manager, by this time thorough-

ly frightened by the possibility of reprisals against him by the Soviet authorities for permitting the celebration, ordered the orchestra to return and to play loud patriotic Russian music to drown out the sounds of the singing, and to stifle the holiday atmosphere.

Undaunted, the 77 Jewish refusniks proceeded to pass out pieces of matzoh they had brought to all the tourists in the restaurant who had attempted to celebrate with them. Finally, at 10 p.m., the group was asked to leave the hotel. Normal closing time for the restaurant is 11 p.m., but this night of Passover the hotel was ordered to close the restaurant one hour early.

As the group of Jews left, the orchestra which had continued to play loud Russian patriotic music, began to play a popular Russian ballad titled: "It Is Not Our Fault," or loosely translated, "We Are Not To Blame." "It was the musicians' way of telling us that they were sorry we could not conduct a proper service." Mrs. Singer was told over the telephone.

Free Jews For A Few Hours'

The group of 77, which included long-term refusniks Mikhail Bargman, Lina and Arcady Rabinow, Felix Aronowich and Aba and Ita Taratuta, "performed an exceptional action in the Soviet Union where conducting a religious ceremony is illegal and dangerous even when performed in secret," Mrs. Singer commented.

lingers as a pleasant memory for American
Jews. In Leningrad, strong-willed and courageous Jews will remember Passover 1977 as
the Passover during which, despite the KGB
and against the threat of tremendous repercussions, they acted as free Jews for a few hours."

KNESSET CANDIDATE GOES TØ-JAHL

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA)--Charlie Biton, a Black Panther leader who has the third spot on the Rakah Knesset election list, may spend election day in jail. He was sentenced today to three months in prison for his part in a theft of food which was distributed to poor families in Jerusalem.

Biton admitted at the time that he participated in the food warehouse break-in together with other Black Panthers who expropriated IL 10,000 worth of food products. However, he argued that it was a political act to protest against the government's policy of reducing food subsidies for poor families. The District Court judge who sentenced him today conceded that the act was not a regular burglary but said that the motives could not justify breaking the law.

The Rakah list is expected to win at least six seats in the coming elections. Thus, Biton may be the first Knesseter to celebrate victory behind bars.

SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON CALMER

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA) -- The situation in southern Lebanon has considerably calmed down, according to Israeli sources. This information was reinforced by reports originating in the Lebanese forces stationed in the town of Marjayoun which said that despite minor fire exchanges, including artillery shells, the whole area was calm. However, the border between the two countries continued to remain tense, and a relatively high degree of alertness was maintained in the area.