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'SOLIDARITY SUNDAY' A HUGE SUCCESS

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--Some 200,000 persons, Jews and non-Jews, marched almost two miles today from City Hall to Battery Park to protest against the continued jailings and harassment of Soviet Jews and the increased use of anti-Semitism in the Soviet media. Speaker after speaker, as well as the massive audience attending "Solidarity Sunday" for Soviet Jewry pledged to voice its concern for the rights of Soviet Jews. Today's event initiated "Solidarity Month" for Soviet Jewry which will continue to June 12. (See full story P. 3.)

PERES: U.S. MIDEAST POLICY REMAINS BASICALLY CONSISTENT WITH ISRAEL'S

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres, who has assumed the duties of Premier, said at today's Cabinet meeting that U.S. policy toward the Middle East remains basically consistent with Israel's policy although Arab propagandists are trying to create the impression that it has shifted.

Peres said that according to briefings he has received from Washington the U.S. still opposes participation by the Palestine Liberation Organization at the Geneva conference, is opposed to a Palestinian state on the West Bank and tends to share Israel's definition of the nature of a peace settlement and rejects the idea of an imposed settlement. Peres said the Arabs were deliberately spreading false information about alleged changes in American Mideast policy.

He also said that Israel should not bind itself to the concept of an overall settlement of the Middle East conflict. A stubborn adherence to that concept could lead to an undesirable deterioration of the situation in the region, he warned his colleagues. He said the Cabinet should postpone political debates until after the next government is formed.

HIMMLER'S LEGAL ADVISOR WILL NOT FACE TRIAL IN WEST GERMANY

VIENNA, May 1 (JTA)--Horst Bender, the legal advisor of Heinrich Himmler, who was the leader of the Nazi SS, will not face trial in West Germany although he advocated the thesis that the killing of Jews for political reasons was not a crime.

Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna, said Friday he was informed by West German authorities they cancelled investigation measures against Bender, who is currently a practicing lawyer in Stuttgart, West Germany. German justice authorities said evidence was not sufficient to continue legal proceedings.

Wiesenthal said he informed German authorities in April, 1974 of Bender's activities and together with Robert Kempner, the deputy prosecutor of the Nuremberg trials, induced West German authorities to start an investigation. Wiesenthal presented a legal brief by Bender to Himmler which said the shooting of Jews without prior order was not a crime if the shootings were done "for purely political reasons."

TAPES REVEAL NIXON COMPLAINED THAT HE WAS SURROUNDED BY JEWS

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--Hitherto unpublished transcripts of Watergate tapes reveal that former President Nixon was worried that Jews on the White House staff were leaking information to Jewish reporters and complained to his press secretary, Ron Ziegler, that he was surrounded by Jews, the New York Daily News reported today.

According to the News, Nixon, "talking about the tapes of conversations he had with his one-time counsel, John Dean, told press secretary Ron Ziegler "...and I talked about Jews....I said we're not going to--there's now a Jewish seat (on the Supreme Court)....I said I've got them all around me. I've got Kissinger and I've got (Herbert) Stein...uh, and I said, and I pointed out our Jewish friends--even on our White House staff--leak to Jews. But Dean says, there'll never be a leak out of me. I just don't know how to leak."

The transcripts which show that Nixon was aware of "hush money" for the Watergate burglars more than a year before he resigned from the Presidency in August, 1974, were excerpted today in the Washington Post, the New York Times and the News. The News was the only paper to publish the section containing references to Jews.

LEGAL GUSH SETTLEMENT ON WEST BANK

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA)--The first families to inhabit Mesha, a new settlement some seven kilometers east of the "Green Line" near Petach Tikva, moved to the site today with official blessing. The families are the spearhead of a Gush Emunim settlement group which has long campaigned to be allowed to settle the area and recently won the approval of the Ministerial Settlement Committee headed by Minister-Without-Portfolio Yisrael Galili.

A nahal unit has been preparing the ground for the past several weeks. The area is sparsely populated and is considered close enough to the old border to be within the "minor rectifications" that Israel has in mind along that border, especially at its narrowest stretch near the center of the country. Gush Emunim says it has some 500 people on the Mesha waiting list, but the Housing Ministry told newsmen it has a budget for only 15 families at present.

SUAREZ SAYS CHANGES MUST OCCUR IN THE MIDEAST BEFORE SPAIN WILL DEVELOP DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 1 (JTA)--Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez indicated Friday that changes must occur in the Middle East before his government would recognize Israel and enter diplomatic relations with the Jewish State. He implied that fruition of the United Nations resolutions constituted a pre-condition to recognition.

Spain has never recognized Israel. When the anti-Zionist resolution was being voted in the United Nations General Assembly in November,

1975, Spain was one of three countries absent, the others being Rumania and South Africa. Israel has diplomatic relations with both.

Suarez, after having met with President Carter and his aides here, said at a news conference at the National Press Club that "we are building the basis for a more agile, flexible Spanish foreign policy." The Jewish Telegraphic Agency asked him why, in view of his statement, Spain had not recognized Israel although when his party took power it promised to open relations with the Soviet Union, Mexico and Israel.

Suarez, who spoke in Spanish, replied, according to the English interpreter, that "my government has been in office only nine months but sometimes from the questions that are asked you assume we have been in office at least nine years. The statement of the government that was issued at the beginning of our administration stated Spain expected to have diplomatic relations with all countries in the world regardless of their ideological basis. This is still and continues to be our aim--an aim that is being implemented gradually--and it is being implemented on the basis of Spain's national interests. We hope there will be changes in the Middle East so that our objectives will be carried out in its entirety."

Another reporter later asked that in view of Suarez's statement on "changes" being "a precondition" for recognition of Israel, what was required before Spain took that step. "I simply referred to resolutions of the United Nations," Suarez replied. He did not elaborate.

U.S. TO PAY UP ITS UNESCO DUES

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 1 (JTA)--The United States delegation to UNESCO announced here Friday that it will pay its outstanding dues to the United Nations organization. Ambassador William Jones, chief U.S. delegate, said that America's decision to pay the outstanding \$43.11 million was greeted by the organization's General Conference meeting here "with pleasure and satisfaction."

A UNESCO spokesman said he expected the funds to be transferred within a couple of months. The decision to pay the outstanding American dues for 1975 and 1976 was recently voted by Congress. The U.S. decided to stop paying its dues in October 1974 when the UNESCO General Conference adopted a number of anti-Israeli resolutions, condemned Israel for its archaeological diggings in Jerusalem and for its educational system in the occupied territories and barred Israel from all its regional groups.

At its recent Nairobi conference, UNESCO managed to find a compromise solution enabling Israel to attend the European regional group and avoiding a debate on racism and Zionism.

Practically all attending delegations, including the Eastern bloc and the non-aligned countries, privately expressed relief at America's decision to become a full-paying member. These delegations feared that a continued American financial boycott would have endangered further UNESCO activities.

Israeli diplomats were also partially satisfied as the U.S. delegation is Israel's main backer at UNESCO meetings and a loss of America's voting rights would have indirectly prejudiced Israeli interests.

EL AL STRIKE CAUSES NEAR RIOT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 1 (JTA)--A strike by maintenance crews grounded El Al last night and a near

riot occurred at Ben Gurion Airport this morning when hundreds of passengers, unaware of the strike, found that their flights had been cancelled. The angry crowds converged on the El Al ticket counters which had to be closed for a time. But airline officials managed to transfer the passengers to foreign carriers and by the end of the day the pressure was eased.

The workers agreed to resume normal work as of midnight tonight after Histadrut promised to deal with their claims without delay. Airline officials said that if the strike ends, flights will be resumed tomorrow morning. Nevertheless, El Al chartered five Boeing jets today to pick up its passengers stranded at airports in the U.S. and Europe.

The strike stemmed from a demand by maintenance crews that the airline ease their workload by hiring more maintenance workers. El Al said it could not possibly afford that because it had a poor year financially and barely escaped losses.

23-Day Merchant Marine Strike Ends

Meanwhile, the 23-day strike by licensed merchant marine officers ended over the weekend. It had cost Israel's shipping companies an estimated IL 50 million. The officers returned to their duties just as the government was about to issue back-to-work orders. They agreed to refer their dispute to a committee of experts which includes legal representatives of the union and shipping companies. The outstanding issue is the pay differential between officers and ratings. The union agreed that if the committee is unable to resolve that matter, a final ruling will be left to Histadrut.

The retreat by the ships officers was viewed in some circles as a possible turning point for Israel's strike-plagued merchant marine with repercussions on the national labor scene. The officers clearly lost. Their union chief, Capt. Yehoshua Groman, acknowledged this. He told reporters "We found ourselves isolated." But he expressed hope that there will now be a period of labor peace.

The government is worried, nevertheless, about a work slowdown begun by computer programmers which has delayed the monthly pay checks of government employes. Arrangements have been made with local banks to advance part of the pay to the workers but the delay has already caused resentment among public employes.

KAHANE TO BE BARRED FROM WEST BANK

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA)--The Military Government announced today that it will bar Jewish Defense League leader Rabbi Meir Kahane from the West Bank because his sorties into that territory have been deliberately provocative toward the Arab population.

The announcement came after Kahane published advertisements in local newspapers stating that he was going to Nablus to lay the foundations of a "Jewish city" there and that he intended to do the same in Jericho and Hebron. Two weeks ago, Kahane turned up in Nablus with five armed bodyguards and caused a disturbance outside the town hall. There have been serious riots in Nablus since then requiring the intervention of Israeli troops with tear gas.

Political observers believe Kahane's deliberately provocative acts recently are aimed at getting publicity for his Kach (Thus) faction that will be seeking Knesset seats in the May 17 elections.

MASSIVE 'SOLIDARITY SUNDAY' RALLY PLEDGES IT WILL NOT FORGET SOVIET JEWS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO EMIGRATE

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--Soviet Jews were promised today that Americans will not forget them as long as their efforts to emigrate remain unrealized. This was the pledge of the estimated 200,000 Jews and non-Jews who marched down Broadway from City Hall to Battery Park at the tip of Manhattan in what Robert Abrams, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, called the largest turnout for Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry in its six-year history.

It was also the pledge made by speakers at the demonstration, including Midge Constanza, President Carter's Assistant for Public Liaison, and Sen. Howard Baker (R. Tenn.), the Senate Minority Leader.

Ms. Constanza, the first representative from the White House to speak at a Solidarity Sunday demonstration here, did not mention Carter by name. But she said the American government will "seek every productive way to promote human rights here and abroad." She said while the U.S. wants detente, human rights "will assume a position of importance" in all dealings with foreign countries. She said peace must be combined with justice.

Ms. Constanza, the former vice-mayor of Rochester, N.Y., spoke from a platform from which the Statue of Liberty could be seen not too far off in New York harbor. She noted that the United States was a nation of immigrants and Americans were united in the belief that people should be allowed to leave their country and return to it whenever they wanted to. In her only direct reference to Soviet Jews, she declared "I want to say to Soviet Jews we have not forgotten them."

Baker said that as the Senate Minority Leader he pledges that the Republicans in the Senate will work for the freedom of Soviet Jewry and others who seek freedom in the USSR. He said today was not important because of the number of demonstrators or the speakers "but because of the courage of those in the Soviet Union--whose determination is far more eloquent than our mere words."

Part Of Month-Long Actions

The demonstration at Battery Park was one of many held throughout the United States and is part of a month-long series of activities which culminate in National Solidarity Day in Washington on June 12. The event today was also the first time that the Conference held its demonstration in Lower Manhattan rather than along Fifth Avenue and eastward to the United Nations.

Margy-Ruth Davis, Conference executive director, said earlier that the change was due to the fact that "people no longer see the United Nations as the seat of the world's conscience" and because of the symbolism of Battery Park with the Statue of Liberty and the recently dedicated Jerusalem Garden.

But the spirit of the marchers was the same as they sang Hebrew songs and chanted slogans. The march began with youngsters dressed in Soviet prison costumes surrounded by banners saying "Their Fight is Our Fight"; "Free Iosif Begun," and "Free Anatoly Sharansky."

Abrams, who declared on the platform that "We pledge to Soviet Jews we shall never forget you; we are one people," pointed out that today's demonstration was particularly dedicated to Sharansky and Begun, two Moscow Jewish activists who have been arrested and are threatened with trials

on trumped-up charges.

One of the most colorful contingents in the march was a large group from the Oceanfront Council for Soviet Jews in Brooklyn which carried blue flags with white stars of David--the banner of Soviet Jews. There were also banners urging freedom for Syrian Jews.

Among the marchers were Burton and Anne Greenblatt of Teaneck, N.J., who were with a contingent from the Teaneck Jewish Center. They said they visited the Soviet Union in 1972 and after seeing "how our brethren suffered" pledged to take a more active role. This, they said, was one way of doing it. They said that Soviet Jews told them the Soviet government knows about demonstrations in behalf of Jews the day it happens and Soviet Jews know it the next day. The marchers also included groups from the National Council of Churches and labor organizations.

Make Helsinki Accord Work

Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D. NY), in his speech, praised Carter for his declarations on behalf of human rights and urged him to turn his principles into a program. He said this should start in Belgrade in June when the signers of the Helsinki accord discuss it for the first time since it was issued in 1975. He said it is up to the American representatives and the Europeans as well to tell the Soviet Union to "let their people go freely" and to continue this demand until persons who wish to emigrate can do so.

Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R. NY) said the "Helsinki agreement" internationalized beyond question the issue of denial of human rights and freedom of emigration in the Soviet Union. No longer can the Soviet government maintain that its policies of repression and denial of the right to emigrate are 'purely internal affairs' beyond the reach of international attention.

Gov. Hugh Carey, who had issued a proclamation naming May 1 Solidarity Sunday in New York State, declared that "as free men and women, it is our duty and obligation to assist those Soviet Jews in their fight for freedom." He also said that "today we renew our pledge that the freedom of Israel shall never be endangered."

Dr. German Shapiro, a Moscow physician who emigrated to Israel with his wife four months ago after a four-year struggle, said he believed American Jews helped him and will continue to help Soviet Jews because "in surviving over the centuries, the feeling of Jewish solidarity, the feeling of common fate, and realizing that we are one family and one people, played the most important role."

Messages of thanks were received from Soviet Jews with appeals to continue demanding that the Soviet government meet its commitment to human rights. The messages were released here by the New York Conference and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. The latter organization is the sponsor of the nationwide Solidarity Month.

Before the start of today's demonstration, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada said it could not participate nor condone the actions of Soviet Jewry groups. "Regardless of how well their intentions of actions and words might be, we cannot agree to all their methods and speeches, which can, God forbid, cause fatal consequences," the Union said in a statement by its president, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein.

15 PRISONERS, INCLUDING AN ORTHODOX JEW, FILE SUIT CHARGING RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS ABUSES, BEATINGS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--An Orthodox Jew is one of 15 inmates in a state prison who has joined in a class action suit demanding unspecified damages for repeated abuses and beatings allegedly committed against them for their race or religion by prison guards, a civil rights group official said.

According to the 45-page complaint, filed by Prisoners Legal Service in federal district court in Utica, N.Y. because the alleged mistreatment could be a violation of the prisoners' civil rights, a federal crime, Martin Lacher was verbally abused, beaten and placed in solitary confinement allegedly for wearing a skullcap without the pass required of all prisoners at the Clinton Correctional Facility at Dannemora who want to wear headgear for religious reasons.

Dan Steinbock, associate director of Prisoners Legal Service, which filed the Utica suit on April 26, said Lacher lost his permit but continued to wear his skullcap after having been warned not to do so until he obtained another permit.

Lacher, 32, of Staten Island, was sentenced last Sept. 27 in Kings County (Brooklyn) court to an indeterminate sentence, with a maximum of 15 years, on charges of murder in the second degree. He was issued the permit permitting him to wear the yarmulke on Oct. 30.

The other 14 inmates are Blacks or Hispanics. Since the alleged incidents took place, Steinbock said, all but five of the 15 inmates, including Lacher, have been transferred to other state prisons. Lacher was transferred to the Green Haven Correctional Facility, another maximum security prison.

Claims He Was Beaten

The suit claimed the mistreatment occurred between last September and last March. The suit named 30 correction officers at Clinton, including sergeants and lieutenants; Eugene Lefevre, Clinton superintendent; and Benjamin War, State Corrections Commissioner.

Steinbock said that when Lacher was being taken to the solitary confinement unit on the yarmulke issue, one of the correction officers allegedly grabbed Lacher by the collar several times and struck him on the ear. Lacher also complained that when he arrived in the confinement unit, he was told to bend over and put his head on the table. Several of the correction officers smashed Lacher's head into the table top, he said in his complaint. The next day, a correction sergeant deliberately damaged several of Lacher's personal possessions, including some religious articles, which were not identified, according to the complaint.

Hitler Had Right Idea

The Jewish inmate reported being told by the guards that "Hitler had the right idea," and by another, in a mock German accent, that he "would make a good lampshade."

Steinbock told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that damages were not specified as to amount because that would be up to the jury. He said "we are asking for damages to appropriately compensate the inmates for their physical, mental and emotional damages, as well as punitive damages." The inmates said most of the beatings took place when they were being taken handcuffed to the confinement unit, a separate housing block.

Steinbock said the next step is the filing of answers by the defendants, required in 20 days.

Then depositions will be taken from the defendants. He said his agency became involved when several of the prisoners informed the agency of the alleged mistreatment and asked for legal aid.

10 ACTIVISTS APPEAL TO ATTEND BEGUN TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR MAY 6

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--Ten Soviet-Jewish activists who have been dismissed from their jobs for applying for exit visas to Israel, and who are now unemployed or working in fields below their training, have sent an appeal to Judge V. Avdonin, scheduled to try activist Dr. Iosif Begun on charges of "parasitism," asking that they be allowed to attend the trial scheduled for May 6.

According to the appeal, which was forwarded to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, the activists said that they should attend not only because they are friends of Begun, but because "many of us have lost our jobs after applying to emigrate." Vladimir Lazaris, a lawyer who signed the document was recently warned by Soviet authorities that he could face similar charges.

The activists pointed out, in their joint appeal, that Begun had been dismissed from various jobs after applying to emigrate and various Soviet employment bureaus refused to help the activist find work. Nor would Soviet officials certify Begun as a Hebrew teacher. After an administrative arrest by the militia, Begun was dismissed from one job for being absent from work, as authorities refused to issue the proper certificate of arrest to his employers.

"Now, when Begun is being presented with the groundless charge of parasitism, we cannot refrain from bearing in mind past developments," the appeal stated. "Thus the formal charge has nothing to do with his real crime (of applying to emigrate which is viewed as an anti-social act). The charge of parasitism is being presented in order to compromise him. We will be glad to find out that we were wrong in our assumptions but we would be able to attend the trial, that must be if we are not mistaken, an open one."

Activists signing the document included Vladimir Prestin, Mark Novikov, Galina Gurevich, Ida Nudel, Iosif Ahs, Grigory Rozenshtein, Leonid Volvovsky, Vladimir Slepak and Pavel Abramovich.

PENTECOSTALS TO WORK ON KIBBUTZ

TORONTO, May 1 (JTA)--Fifty young people of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC) will take part in "Exodus to Israel," a six-week opportunity to study and work in the Holy Land, the agency has announced. From May 3 to June 15, young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30 will live on a kibbutz, attend the Institute of Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem, tour extensively and take part in optional archaeological digs.

"This is an opportunity to make the Bible come alive," said Rev. Keith Parks, PAOC Youth Representative. "The young people can experience what they have been taught and read in the Bible." Parks and George Grosshans, assistant to the executive director of Home Missions, Bible Colleges and Men's Fellowship Department, are co-directors of the trip. Recently they were in Israel as guests of the Israeli government to make preliminary arrangements.

After arrival in Tel Aviv, the group will spend about one month working and living on a kibbutz near Nazareth. Special tours will be conducted on days off and the participants will be able to meet the Israeli people first hand.