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LEVICH LEAVES USSR; URGES EFFORTS FOR THOSE WHO REMAIN

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Prof. Benjamin Levich, the highest ranking Soviet scientist to apply for an exit visa, left the USSR with his wife Tanya and arrived in Vienna today, the Committee of Concerned Scientists (CCS) reported. Levich's departure capped a seven-year campaign by the international scientific community, which was coordinated by the CCS. Greeting him in Vienna were CCS co-chairman Dr. Robert S. Adelstein and the Leviches two sons, Alexander and Evgeny who emigrated in 1975.

At a press conference held after arriving in Vienna, Levich and Adelstein joined in urging scientists world-wide to continue their efforts on behalf of oppressed Soviet scientists. Adelstein noted that "although we are delighted that Prof. Levich has at last been permitted to emigrate and will now be able to continue his research, we cannot forget that hundreds of his former colleagues are still denied fundamental scientific and human rights, including the right to emigrate."

Adelstein also recalled that during this past summer alone, Soviet scientists Anatoly Shcharansky, Yuri Orlov, Iosif Begun and Grigory Goldstein were sentenced to harsh terms of imprisonment and exile. Levich added, "My emigration does not mean an end to persecution of scores of other refusenik scientists."

"Benjamin and Tanya Levich's presence here today demonstrates clearly that the international scientific community can be effective in securing human rights for colleagues denied them," Adelstein said. Only a few years ago, he noted, Levich had been told by Soviet officials that he would "never" be permitted to leave. According to Adelstein, "the efforts of scientists and political leaders around the world have rendered that statement 'inoperative.'"

Levich, a Corresponding Member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, first applied for an exit visa together with his family in 1972. Permission to leave was denied and Levich was stripped of his academic and research posts. Levich's name was on a list of people seeking visas presented in Moscow to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass) in September.

MODAI: EGYPT REFUSED ISRAEL SPECIAL OIL RIGHTS IN SINAI, GULF OF SUEZ By Barbie Zelizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai told the Knesset Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense yesterday that Egypt refused to grant Israel any special oil rights in Sinai and the Gulf of Suez during the recent Blair House talks. Israel based its request for the privileges on the wells it had discovered and begun to exploit in the area.

Modai noted that Israel would continue to negotiate for a firm commitment on Egypt's part to sell 1.5 million tons of Sinai oil to Israel annually. Egypt, however, refuses to commit itself at present, and contends that it is only willing to sell oil to Israel on a normal commercial basis --

with no specification as to quantity.

The Energy Minister added that certain difficulties as to Israel's future sources of oil exist, since Norway, for example, refused Israel's request to purchase oil on a commercial basis. He said, however, that the American view is that Israel can pump unlimited oil from the Sinai wells before withdrawing from the region.

The subject provoked an odd debate, of sorts, with Likud Knesseters taking the government to task over the oil issue and Alignment Knesset members supporting the government's move. Yigal Hurvitz and Moshe Shamir, both of Likud, attacked the government for "giving away the crucial asset of the Sinai oilfields," while Alignment Knesseter Yitzhak Rabin praised the Israeli concession as "a reasonable and logical step."

BYRD, VISITING THE MIDEAST AS CARTER'S 'SPECIAL ENVOY,' SAYS BEGIN IS DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE PEACE

By Gil Sedan and Barbie Zelizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- The U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia, met with Premier Menachem Begin for two hours here today. He told reporters afterwards that he is confident Begin is determined to "continue with the brave task which was begun at Camp David."

Byrd, visiting the Middle East as President Carter's "special envoy," met with President Anwar Sadat in Cairo yesterday and will meet with King Hussein of Jordan before he returns to Washington to report to the President. His meeting with Begin was attended by the U.S. Ambassador, Samuel Lewis.

Byrd is believed to have conveyed a message from Sadat containing Egypt's latest proposal for changes in the draft peace treaty that Israel accepted. No further details of the meeting were disclosed. When he left Cairo this morning, the Senate leader told reporters that Sadat wanted to resume the peace negotiations but he made no statement on his arrival at Ben Gurion Airport.

After his meeting with Begin, Byrd explained that as a special emissary of the President he preferred to keep the details of their talk confidential. However, he said, "I am convinced and encouraged by my discussions with Prime Minister Begin that he is dedicated to pursue and conclude the negotiations."

He acknowledged that the U.S. differs with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's "take it or leave it" position on the draft peace treaty and believed that a date should be set for elections on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Begin: Israel Not Pressing For Separate Peace

Begin, who also spoke to reporters after the meeting, agreed with Byrd that peace negotiations should be continued and denied that Israel was pressing for a separate peace with Egypt. He said that neither Syria, Lebanon or Jordan are interested in the peace process and the West Bank and Gaza residents are not willing to hold elections. He said he based his assessment on information from U.S. special ambassador Alfred L. Atherton and Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders. Consequently, Begin said he told Byrd, the peace talks with Egypt are the only channel open to Israel "and we are interested in keeping the channel open." Byrd is scheduled to meet with Dayan before he leaves for

Amman. In related developments, the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Hermann Eilts, met today with Vice President Hosni Mubarak and was given a personal message from Sadat for Begin. Its content was not immediately known. At the same time, Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil left Cairo for Washington today with a message for Carter from Sadat which reportedly contains Egypt's latest thinking on the peace treaty with Israel. Khalil will meet tomorrow with Carter after having a working lunch with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Begin, Sadat To Meet In Oslo

It was reported here, meanwhile, that Begin and Sadat will make a final effort to reach agreement on a peace treaty when they meet in Oslo to accept the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize 10 days from now. According to press reports today, the two leaders would meet several times in Oslo, where, it is hoped, the nature of the occasion will help them bridge the gaps that have stalled the peace talks. According to the reports, their objective is to sign a treaty by Dec. 17, three months to the day after they signed the Camp David accords.

It is believed here that Egypt will accept the American compromise proposal, committing both sides to negotiate implementation of the autonomy scheme on the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the end of 1979 as the "target date" for elections in those territories. Israel has said it is prepared to start negotiations shortly after a treaty is signed but rejects any pre-fixed date for holding elections. Sources here said yesterday that Israel would insist on the establishment of diplomatic relations with Egypt before any elections are held. This would effectively avoid linkage.

Political circles here are reportedly considering a compromise whereby Israel and Egypt would agree to link the elections to the establishment of diplomatic relations by a mutually agreed date. Officially, however, Israel maintains that the treaty draft it has accepted must be accepted by Egypt as is or not at all.

KATZES ARRIVE IN BOSTON

BOSTON, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Boris and Natasha Katz arrived at Logan International Airport here this afternoon together with their sick one-year-old child, Jessica, and their 10-day-old daughter Gabrielle. Among the 300 people on hand to greet them was Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.), who had intervened personally with Soviet authorities to obtain exit permission.

The family left the Soviet Union yesterday for Vienna, where they were met by Dr. Merrill Rosenberg, director of HIAS operations in Austria. After processing by HIAS for U.S. immigration they flew this morning to Zurich where they boarded their overseas flight. Jan Kalicki, Kennedy's aide, accompanied them.

According to Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive vice-president of HIAS, the worldwide Jewish migration agency, the Katzes had applied to emigrate in 1975 but were denied permission on the ground that Mrs. Katz had had access to official secrets while working as a computer programmer at a meteorological institute. Their case received widespread attention when it was revealed that Jessica had a rare digestive ailment that required treatment obtainable only in the U.S.

The family plans to join Katz's mother and two brothers in Cambridge. The resettlement of the newcomers will be the responsibility of the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Boston, a constituent agency of the Combined Jewish Phil-

anthropies of Greater Boston.

Action for Soviet Jewry, the Boston-based group that was responsible for sending special baby formula to the Soviet Union for Jessica, gave Jessica a menorah and the parents a Bible. Boris Katz expressed appreciation to Kennedy for his intervention and to Action for Soviet Jewry for their life-supporting help.

SUPPORT FOR A UNITED JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Two New York City clergymen, a rabbi and an Episcopal Minister both voiced support for an undivided Jerusalem at a "Dialogue on Jerusalem" sponsored yesterday by the Women's Division of the Zionist Organization of America in New York.

The remarks were made by Rabbi Irving Block of the Brotherhood Synagogue, and Reverend Thomas Pike, pastor of the Calvary and St. George's Churches.

Block expressed his fear that the United States government was using a double standard in making its judgments on Jerusalem. He asked why Administration spokesmen considered East Jerusalem "occupied Arab territory" now, "though they were silent between 1948 and 1967 when the area was ruled by Jordan." He insisted, "The city of Jerusalem has been Jewish for thousands of years and must remain Jewish."

Pike listed some of the problems the Christian community faces when coming to terms with "the idea of a unified Jerusalem." At the top of the list he put the fact that many Christians "still see Jerusalem as an idea and not as a place of people." He noted that there is an increasing willingness among Christians to see the reality of Israel as well as the spiritual Israel, but stressed that this spiritualism, which he said "stems from the nature of the Christian religious experience, is still the number one problem."

On the positive side, he noted that many more Christian clergymen are now visiting Israel and some of them are traveling together with American rabbis and this he said, "helps to force them to focus on the reality of Israel."

Another factor affecting American Christian attitudes in the Middle East, he noted, is the attitude of Christian elements in Israel. "There are elements in Israel, such as Greek Orthodox and even Anglicans which are hostile to Israel." The Christian community "is also subject to political and economic pressures and these too have an impact," he added later in answer to a question. On the positive side, Pike said that he felt there were vast numbers of New Yorkers and Americans who were strong in their identification with the State of Israel.

FISHER URGES RENEWAL OF SUPPORT FOR ABSORPTION OF NEW IMMIGRANTS

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- With indications that immigration to Israel could rise to 35,000 in 1979 if a peace treaty with Egypt is signed, Max Fisher, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, called for a renewal of support for the United Jewish Appeal campaign as part of a strategy to successfully absorb new olim.

"With the people of Israel confronting new expenses and budget cuts in education and social welfare next year, world Jewry has an obligation to assure that the Jewish Agency can handle the increasing number of Soviet Jewish immigrants and potential olim from Iran," Fisher explained on the eve of UJA's 40th anniversary conference, which launches nationally the 1979 campaign here next week.

Fisher said he will review contingency plans for absorbing a potential exodus of Jews from Iran, as well as new measures for receiving Soviet Jews, in meetings with Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, Agency Treasurer, Akiva Lewinsky and American Jewish communal leaders Jerold C. Hoffberger, Frank R. Lautenberg, Irwin S. Field, Melvin Dubinsky and Robert Russell.

"If there are unsolved problems in immigrant absorption, and if there are unconquered pockets of poverty in Israel, we must bring together the resources and talent of our leadership," Fisher said. "This means that our peacetime war on poverty, Project Renewal, must go forth simultaneously with the 1979 UJA campaign, if we are not to erode our human gains while preparing for a possible new wave of immigration."

KHALIL, CARTER TALKS NOT EXPECTED TO BREAK TREATY TALKS IMPASSE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil's meetings at the White House and State Department tomorrow are not expected to solve the impasse between Egypt and Israel on the peace treaty they are negotiating with the participation of the United States.

The Egyptian Embassy told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Khalil will leave Washington Saturday for Europe and return to Cairo before the Nobel Prizes are awarded in Oslo to President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin. However, the Embassy declined to disclose where Khalil will stop in Europe. It was said he would be visiting five Western European countries in an effort to acquire their diplomatic support for Sadat's latest position on the Egyptian-Israeli treaty draft and convey to them the American reaction.

Informed opinion speculated that Khalil's presentations here will not be sufficient to bridge the gaps opened by Egypt both in the Camp David accords and in the treaty articles already approved by Egypt in the Blair House talks.

Vague On Weapons To Mideast

Meanwhile, the Carter Administration took a vague position publicly on its policy of transfer of weapons to the Middle East during the current fiscal year. In announcing his ceiling of \$8.43 billion on the total value of American arms that could be sold to nations not allied with the U.S., President Carter made no mention of Israel or any other Middle East country by name.

His statement that announced a reduction of arms exports for the second straight year, carried the sentence: "This cut is consistent with our national security interest including our historic interest in the security of the Middle East."

When the White House was asked about this sentence, it said that "there is nothing new" in the U.S. policy towards Israel and that the statement "reiterates" the U.S. position of last May when the arms policy also was set forth. "We remain in our position on the security of the State of Israel," a spokesman said.

In the last two years, the Administration set forth a program of \$1 billion in aid to Israel for each year. In the coming year, it is understood that the U.S. is prepared to provide a military allotment for the first time for Egypt. What it will propose for Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran and Turkey remains to be seen.

CARTER DISAPPOINTED WITH PROLONGED TREATY TALKS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- President Carter said today that he was "dissatisfied" and "disappointed" by the length of time it is taking Israel and Egypt to reach a peace treaty but declared that "we're certainly not going to give up on the effort" however difficult, to help the two sides reach an agreement.

Replying to a question at a press conference this afternoon, Carter said the present difficulties were a "temporary setback" and are "no more serious" or of "greater concern" than those encountered at Camp David. The President said he has not changed his assessment of why it is proving more difficult to achieve a peace treaty than it was to reach agreement at Camp David.

He noted that, unlike Camp David, the present negotiations are not being conducted directly by the heads of states. He said "we are negotiating and communicating" with both Israel and Egypt on a permanent basis. He remarked that "the reason for what optimism I keep is that I know for certain" that Premier Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and their peoples want a peace treaty.

A JEW APPOINTED TO HIGH OFFICE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Jacques Henri Wahl, a 46-year-old Jew, was appointed yesterday Secretary General of the Elysee Palace, a post equivalent in influence to that of White House Chief of Staff. Wahl is replacing Jean Francois-Poncet who was appointed yesterday French Foreign Minister.

Wahl, the son of a small Jewish businessman from Lille, an industrial city in northern France, is a graduate of the prestigious School for National Administration and served as a senior official in the Ministry of Finance. He also served as Economic Minister at the French Embassy in Washington (1970-72) and one of the board members of the International Monetary Fund.

The Elysee Secretary General is the closest collaborator of the French President and is usually a member of his closest staff and participates in most policy-making decisions. Francois-Poncet is also one of President Giscard d'Estaing's closest personal friends.

The 50-year-old Poncet has briefly served as head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department but is generally considered to have mainly devoted himself to West European affairs. As Foreign Minister, he is expected to apply policy laid down by the President with few personal initiatives.

The new Foreign Minister is described by French sources as a personal friend of Israeli Ambassador Mordechai Gazit but diplomatic circles believe that this fact will not alter in the least France's policy in the Middle East as Francois-Poncet will mainly serve to carry out Presidential decisions.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A bomb exploded Thursday in a field in East Jerusalem killing one unidentified person and a donkey. The bomb exploded near Gethsemane, about half a mile from the Western Wall.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Winner of next year's Jerusalem Prize is Sir Isaiah Berlin, the British scholar, it was announced Wednesday. The \$3000 award will be given at the Ninth International Book Fair to be held here next April. It will be presented by Mayor Teddy Kollek.

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD MEMBERS WHO CRITICIZED ISRAEL ADMIT VISITING LEBANON AT INVITATION OF THE PLO

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Members of the National Lawyers Guild delegation that had accused Israel of violating human rights and had been criticized by other lawyers' organizations and Jewish organizations acknowledged Tuesday that they visited Lebanon at the invitation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and conferred with its leaders there, including Yasser Arafat.

The delegation also admitted that "money was made available by a private individual" for the 10-member delegation's trip to Lebanon and Israel last year. The delegation refused to identify him, saying it was "not a matter of record." The delegation acknowledged that seven of the travelers were "paid portions" of their expenses and three others paid their way. While in Israel, the delegation said it was hosted by Kibbutz Artzi, the kibbutz movement of Mapam.

Under questioning at a press conference at the National Press Club in connection with the distribution of a report by the majority of the delegation condemning Israel, three of the four representing the delegation were identified as "Jews," and one of them -- William Montross -- added that they were Jewish "by birth, not by practice."

Besides Montross, the participants in this group were William Schaap, a Washington lawyer, like Montross; Leah Tsemel, an Israeli lawyer; and Abdur Jabara, a Detroit lawyer who is a former president of the Arab-American University Graduates Association and editor of "Free Palestine," a pro-PLO publication in Beirut.

State Charges Repeated

The delegation's 143-page report entitled "Treatment of Palestinians in Israeli Occupied West Bank and Gaza" contains charges frequently alleged in past years, including reports of torture. Israelis in turn have refuted the allegations.

When at one point Schaap accused the State Department of being hypocritical in criticizing some governments and basically "taking hands off Israel," a reporter observed that the State Department has issued two reports condemning Israel and the Library of Congress has also issued criticism of Israel.

Montross said that the group made Jerusalem its base during the investigation in Israel and entered the West Bank and Gaza to meet with Arab leaders there over a six-day period. Their contact with Israeli authorities appeared limited to conversations of about two hours with Arye Naor, secretary of Israel's Cabinet. They said they were unable to meet Israeli prison officials.

After the Guild delegation's news conference, the American Jewish Congress sponsored a news conference on the same floor of the National Press Club. This was also attended by Montross, Schaap and Jabara. At the AJCongress conference, Howard Dickstein of Oakland, Calif., who was a member of the Guild delegation that made the investigatory trip, issued a minority report on his findings and denounced the delegation's majority report as being distorted.

"This report serves political objectives of the PLO," Dickstein said, "to have a report from an American legal delegation condemning Israel." He added, "We were told to focus on human rights" because "reports like these could result in discrediting Israel and bringing about a liquida-

tion of the moral support in the United States for Israel in an indirect but effective manner."

Philip Baum, associate executive director of the AJCongress, noted that the lawyers' panel which rebutted the Guild delegation group's report said that the Guild had been "manipulated to serve the political objectives" of the PLO and that Jabara's publication in 1976 carried "conclusions virtually identical to those of the majority report of the Guild."

In a separate statement, Prof. Alan Dershowitz of Harvard Law School and Monroe Freedman, former dean of Hofstra University Law School, declared that "the principal sources of direct evidence cited in support of its conclusion that torture is systematically practiced and officially sanctioned by the Israeli government are interviews conducted with five Palestinians who were former prisoners in Israel's jails. But the report fails to disclose that these interviews were conducted at PLO headquarters with PLO selected former prisoners in the presence of armed PLO officials."

A Case Of Reshaping Reality

B'nai B'rith International denounced the National Lawyers Guild's report as "a case of reshaping reality to fit a preconceived political viewpoint." Jack J. Spitzer, B'nai B'rith's president, declared in a statement that the report ignores the fact that Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza "has been among the most benign in history." He added that this has been in the face of acts by a foe determined to destroy Israel's statehood.

Apart from the context of the report, Spitzer also questioned the legitimacy and impartiality of the Guild's finding, in view of the "vague sources of funding" for their mission to the Middle East and publication of the report.

SSSJ CHALLENGES COURT INJUNCTION

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- With the help of the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) has moved in State Supreme Court to vacate a 1971 injunction barring demonstrations in the immediate vicinity of the Soviet UN Mission on Manhattan's East Side.

The injunction, handed down by Judge Isidore Dollinger after a lawsuit was initiated by black residents with the support of the United States Attorney's office, barred protesters from, among other things, "engaging in loud chanting, shouting, stomping of feet, clapping of hands, singing or sounding of horns," using sound amplification equipment or picketing within 100 feet of the Mission.

The 48-page motion declared that the injunction was "a 'meat-ax' set of prohibitions," "substantially out of step" with the First and Fourth Amendments. "We cannot allow the rights of free speech which so distinguish American from Soviet society to be denied to us as we protest the Kremlin's oppression," a SSSJ spokesman stated.

A parallel lawsuit against Police Commissioner Robert McGuire, Mayor Edward Koch, and the New York Police Department has been initiated in U.S. District Court by Concerned Jewish Youth, another activist group.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will pay a three-day visit to Switzerland next week, it was officially announced here. During his visit, Dayan will meet with the Swiss President, Foreign Minister and other leaders.