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EMOTIONAL WELCOME FOR 5 SOVIET JEWISH POC. ON ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 29 (JTA) -- Five of the most famous Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience arrived in Israel this evening to a joyous, emotional welcome at Ben-Gurion Airport by the nation's leaders, members of their families and hundreds of well-wishers. Premier Menachem Begin greeted each of them. "Blessed be you, welcome to you, in the name of the Lord," he said. "We waited for this day more than eight-and-a-half years. The day was delayed longer than we hoped. But it has arrived and, thanks to God, we find you in good health," he said. He also conveyed greetings from President Carter.

The five, who landed in an El Al plane from Vienna are Anatoly Altman, 36; Vulf Zalmanson, 39; Boris Penson, 33; Hillel Butman, 45; and Leib Khnokh, 35. All were convicted in the 1970 Leningrad hijack trial and had been imprisoned since June of that year. Only last week they were pardoned by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and released from prison more than a year before the expiration of their 10-year sentences. Two of their fellow prisoners, Eduard Kuznetsov and Mark Dymshits, who were released at the same time, will arrive here tomorrow from New York.

Thanks, Carter For Help

Begin addressed the men in Hebrew and Russian. He switched to English to thank Carter and other American government officials for their role in gaining freedom for the released prisoners.

"Yesterday, I spoke on the phone with President Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the head of the National Security Council Prof. (Zbigniew) Brzezinski," he said.

"I thanked them all for the efforts they made to set our brethren free. Of course, our main gratitude goes to the President who took the decision. He asked me to greet you, dear brethren, upon your arrival in Israel and he promised me to continue the efforts until the release of all prisoners of Zion in the Soviet Union."

Resuming his speech in Hebrew, Begin said, "It is a great day. Our hearts are filled with emotions. Let us pray to the Lord that we shall soon have here all, all the prisoners of Zion, freed from Soviet jails and gathering in Israel. Together with your families you will live in the mother country, you will be free citizens and together with us you shall help build Israel so it becomes an example for the entire world."

Immigrant Cards Presented

Altman, who replied on behalf of his comrades, thanked everyone in Israel and abroad who had labored for their release. He recalled the poem of Chaim Nachman Bialik who spoke of those who may be forgotten and urged that efforts must be doubled for the release of the others still in Soviet jails. Altman, speaking in accented Hebrew, declared, "We shall never forget our friends and brethren." A highlight of the greeting was the presentation of immigrant cards to each of the five men by Minister of Absorption and Housing David Levy.

The scene at Ben-Gurion Airport had only one counterpart -- when the Israeli hostages were returned from Entebbe, Uganda in July 1977. Things packed the immigrant processing hall at the air terminal despite a severe heat wave. The dignitaries present constituted a who's who of Israel.

Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, greeted the newcomers in the name of the Zionist movement. He said their release was the best present Israel could have received on the eve of the Independence Day celebrations that begin tomorrow. He thanked all responsible for the release of the prisoners and vowed that efforts will be continued to free the others still behind barbed wire or in the labor camps of Siberia.

A Special Day Of Joy: THOUSANDS AT 'SOLIDARITY SUNDAY' FOR SOVIET JEWS' JOYOUSLY WELCOME 2 SOVIET JEWS RELEASED TWO DAYS AGO

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, April 29 (JTA) -- The thousands who jammed Dag Hammarskjold Plaza across from the United Nations for the eighth annual "Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry," today joyously welcomed two Soviet Jews who were released from a Siberian prison camp only two days ago and cheered as Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.) and New York's two U.S. Senators declared that the Jackson-Vanik Amendment must not be repealed until the Soviet Union agrees to free emigration for all Jews and others who want to leave.

Eduard Kuznetsov and Mark Dymshits, who arrived in New York Friday along with three other Soviet dissidents, thanked American Jews for their efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry and urged continued support for 14 other Jews in Soviet prisons as well as all Jews who wish to emigrate from the USSR.

The two Jews, along with Aleksandr Ginzburg, a 42-year-old Soviet human rights activist; Georgi Vins, a Soviet Baptist leader; and Valentin Moroz, a leader of the Ukrainian nationalist movement, were exchanged for two Soviet former employes of the UN who had been sentenced to 50-year terms by the U.S. for espionage. The two spies, Valdik Enger and Rudolf Chernyayev, were swapped for the five Soviet dissidents at Kennedy Airport. The exchange, which was announced by the White House Friday, was so sudden that banners for Kuznetsov and Dymshits were still hanging in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza along with those of such other prisoners as Anatoly Shcharansky, Ida Nudel and Isif Begun.

Kuznetsov and Dymshits, who still bore their short prison haircuts, responded to the cheers of the crowd with their hands clasped over their heads in a fighter's victory sign. They were joined on the platform by Kuznetsov's wife, Silva Zalmanson, who has lived in Israel since being freed from prison several years ago and who flew here from London when she heard of her husband's release. All three were convicted in the 1970 Leningrad hijack trial.

When New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams, former chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry (GNYCSJ), the organization which sponsors the annual event, introduced the three to the crowd, many began singing "Havenu Shalom Aleichem," the traditional

Hebrew song of welcome. It was then picked up by the band on the platform and the entire audience began singing the song.

The rally at the plaza followed a parade nine blocks down Fifth Avenue and then six blocks eastward to the plaza which included groups from Jewish organizations and synagogues, Christian ministers and labor officials. Among the many banners that were carried today was one that said, "Don't let the Soviets be the masters in charge, give us our visas."

Malvin Risenman, chairman of the GNYCSJ, said that the rally today not only supported freedom for Soviet Jewry but also for Jews in Syria and Ethiopia. Some 1000 Syrian Jews, representing the Committee to Save Syrian Jewry, marched in today's parade. Risenman thanked President Carter for his efforts in freeing the five Soviet dissidents and said he was "heartened" by Carter's promise to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin that he would not "cease working" until all Soviet prisoners were free.

Carter Administration Pledge

The Carter Administration was represented by Patricia Harris, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, who said as a Black American she knows the meaning of the words, "Let my people go." She praised the determination of the Soviet Jewry movement in the U.S. and said the Carter Administration will do all it can to help bring Soviet Jewish refugees to the U.S., such as the 613 who arrived from Rome last week. She called on the public to help the new immigrants settle in this country. Mrs. Harris said Carter will continue his efforts in the pursuit of freedom.

Dymshits and Kuznetsov, speaking in Russian expressed their joy at being freed and especially that they would be in Israel tomorrow. "I am very happy to know that tomorrow I will be finally in my historic homeland, Israel," Dymshits said, where he would rejoin his wife and two children. "I hope to meet all of you in the Land of Israel."

Kuznetsov said that during his nine years of prison he said many times, the words, "Next year in Jerusalem. Now it is not next year, but the next day."

In thanking American Jews for their aid, Kuznetsov declared that "your devotion and energy not only shortened my prison term by six years -- 2040 unbearable days -- but also saved my life. Had it not been for your powerful and mighty voice protest, Soviet authorities would not have hesitated to carry out their original verdict -- shooting me and Mark Dymshits to death."

Kuznetsov and Dymshits had originally been sentenced to death but after an international outcry their sentences were reduced to 15 years.

Kuznetsov said that despite the severity of his imprisonment and other Soviet Jews were luckier than non-Jewish prisoners because they knew of the efforts in their behalf outside of the Soviet Union. He said some of the letters mailed to him from the U.S. reached him but they were all confiscated by the KGB when he was released.

All the speakers expressed their joy at the releases. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section who represented the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, called the release by the Soviet government of the five POCs "a major triumph" for Carter's human rights policy. She emphasized, however, that there must be no let-up in efforts on behalf of all those still languishing in Soviet prisons.

Jackson noted that the fact that the five dissidents were exchanged for two spies is "a terrible judgement on the Soviet system that this grotesque expedient was necessary. It is a reminder to the world that the struggle for free emigration continues." Jackson said part of this struggle was "the effort the Soviet Union and its business partners here are making to wiggle out from under the conditions of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. These conditions are simple: no credits and no most-favored-nation treatment to countries that deny their citizens the right and the opportunity to emigrate."

The Senator, who was given a plaque by the GNYCSJ for his efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry, stressed that the President has "promised us, in writing" to uphold the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and "I intend to hold him to that promise."

Jackson pointed out "There are those who believe that because of the number of people leaving the Soviet Union has increased we ought to repeal the Jackson Amendment. I want you to know that many of those who are now urging repeal because the numbers have been going up, were urging repeal last year because they said the numbers were going down."

But Jackson warned that the Soviets are interested only in getting U.S. dollars so that they can buy U.S. products. "They are not interested in visas, they're interested in bills of lading." He said the current situation in which increased emigration has been allowed is not good enough "as long as the prisoners remain in jail... when one is punished for asking to emigrate" and as long as "one has to wait, two, three, four even six or seven years for a visa."

Struggle Must Continue

Jackson's sentiments were echoed by Sens. Jacob Javits (R. NY) and Daniel Moynihan (D. NY). Javits, who declared that "if there is a hero in this movement in the United States it is Henry Jackson," stressed that "fidelity to Jackson-Vanik will be tested this year." But he said the amendment must remain law until there is a "permanent solution" in which "the doors of the Soviet Union are open" for all who want to leave. Moynihan said the Jackson-Vanik Amendment is the only reason why the Soviets are willing to make concessions and must not be abandoned.

Another participant, Sen. John Heinz (R. Pa.), also called for the continuation of the struggle until "every Jew is free to leave." He said that "ultimately we will win this battle for freedom and the human spirit... because the Soviets have failed to learn from the history of the Jewish people the lesson that 2000 years of persecution could never destroy the spirit of the people. How can the Russians?"

Mayor Edward Koch noted that he has participated in all eight rallies, in which the banners for many of the prisoners now freed, were carried. "It makes every one of us feel as though we participated in a modern day miracle," he said.

Among the posters urging support for individual Jews were many for Marina Tjemkin, the 20-year-old Soviet woman who has been denied permission for seven years to join her father in Israel. A Committee to Free Marina Tjemkin has been formed and its campaign was officially launched today. Seven years ago Tjemkin was kidnapped by the KGB shortly after she and her father came to pick up their visas for Israel. She was sent to a Young Communist camp located over 1000 miles from her Moscow home. All forms of communication between her and the outside world have been blocked by the USSR.

FIRST JOINT ISRAELI PEACE COMMISSION HOLDS INITIAL MEETING

By Yitzhak Shargil and Barbie Zelizer.

TEL AVIV, April 29 (JTA) -- The first joint Israeli-Egyptian peace commission held its initial meeting in Sinai today, mainly a ceremonial affair at which a timetable for future meetings was set, an agenda agreed to and a priority list of subjects to be discussed was drawn up. The Israeli delegation, headed by Brig. Gen. Dov Sion, and the Egyptians, led by Brig. Gen. Seif E-Din, met at Tasa and then traveled together to El-Arish.

The joint body is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty which took effect officially last Wednesday. They will meet alternately at Beersheba and El Arish, beginning after the latter town is returned to Egyptian sovereignty late next month. Meanwhile, a second preliminary meeting has been scheduled for next Monday in Sinai on the El-Arish-Kantara road.

Another joint committee will begin its deliberations in Tel-Aviv shortly to implement the military aspects of the peace treaty, chiefly the details of Israel's phased withdrawal from Sinai. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, who returned to Jerusalem Friday after a three-day visit in Cairo, indicated that all was going well and relations between himself and Egyptian officials were excellent.

Finds Desire For Peace In Egypt

Weizman met with Egyptian War Minister Kamal Hassan Ali. The Israeli defense chief and his wife were also received by President Anwar Sadat at his retreat in Ismailia. Weizman said it was a "private" visit and would not disclose what he and Sadat discussed. He remarked, however, that "one does not talk only about children and flowers." He said his talks with other senior Egyptian officials centered on military moves in connection with the first stage of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and the work of the joint military committee. He said these talks went very well.

Weizman said he found in Egypt an enormous desire for peace despite the difficult problems Egypt now has with its fellow Arab states which oppose the peace treaty. He said he was convinced that "We shall be able to solve the peace problems just as we were able to solve the war problems." He stressed the good personal relationship developing with Sadat and the good atmosphere in general which raised his hope that all issues between Israel and Egypt will be solved without too much difficulty.

The View From Egypt

The most substantive news that emerged from Weizman's visit was provided by Hassan Ali who spoke to Israeli journalists. The Egyptian War Minister appeared relaxed and made no attempt to evade questions on delicate subjects. He said that Israel's actions against the Palestinians in south Lebanon would not affect the negotiations with Egypt because they were viewed in Cairo as purely defensive with no thought of gaining territory.

However, he warned that if Israel wanted to avoid an obstacle on the road to normalizing its relations with Egypt and to continue the peace process, it would have to discontinue its settlement activities on the West Bank.

"It will be very difficult for us even to try to persuade the Palestinians to stop shooting and start talking if the settlements are continued,"

Hassan Ali said. Asked about the possibility of Egypt being drawn into a war between Israel and its eastern neighbors, he said that would depend upon who started the war. He observed, however, that with the existence of a telephone "hot line" between Sadat and Premier Menachem Begin, "there are sure to be clarifications and everything can be settled."

Warm Reception For Weizman

The informal aspects of Weizman's visit were stressed in the accounts of Israeli correspondents who accompanied him to Cairo: he was received by the public with true warmth; he was applauded by passersby in the streets; and he even toured the narrow streets in the teeming old sections of Cairo.

When asked if it wasn't dangerous for an Israeli leader to visit such sections, Weizman's chief bodyguard smiled broadly. "Who would hurt Ezra Weizman in Egypt?" he replied, noting that the Egyptians for some reason, prefer to call him "Ezra." He said the Israeli Defense Minister is a favorite among Egyptians, from the man-in-the-street to the highest echelons of government.

Weizman visited a synagogue in Alexandria where the tiny congregation sang Hatikva and opened the Ark in his honor. There were tears in their eyes and Weizman was no less moved, journalists reported. The Defense Minister acknowledged that he had made a slip-of-the-tongue when he observed in Cairo last week that it was time for the PLO to stop shooting and start talking. That remark was seen as a signal that Israel may be willing to negotiate with the terrorist organization. But Weizman explained that he was addressing the rejectionist states, Iraq, Jordan and Syria, not the PLO.

CABINET VOTES 7-5 FOR DEATH PENALTY

By David Landau.

JERUSALEM, April 29 (JTA) -- The Cabinet voted 7-5 today in support of Premier Menachem Begin's proposal to apply the death penalty for terrorists who commit crimes of extreme violence and cruelty. There was one abstention. Two of the dissenting votes were cast by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon. Sharon, the most outspoken hawk in the Cabinet, reportedly argued against the death penalty on practical grounds. He was quoted as saying it would prejudice Jewish-Arab coexistence on the West Bank and called instead for a more aggressive "war" against the Palestine Liberation Organization and other terrorist groups.

The issue remains for the Knesset to decide. Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres and others are opposed to the death penalty and are expected to challenge the Cabinet decision when it comes up for debate. But most observers believe that a majority of the MKs will back the government's position. The issue of capital punishment for terrorists arose in the aftermath of last Sunday's attack on Nahariya which resulted in the deaths of four Israelis, two of them small children.

The outrage infuriated Israelis and many public figures, including Begin, Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin and Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Shamir spoke out in favor of the death penalty. Capital punishment is not outlawed by Israel's legal statutes but, except in the case of Adolf Eichmann it has never been applied. The Cabinet's decision today was to rescind a long-standing government order that barred prosecuting attorneys from requesting the death penalty. While the Cabinet was deliberating, a bomb exploded outside the Meir elementary school in Kfar Saba, slightly injuring three children. Police said the bomb was planted near a school bus.

BILL TO AMEND RELIGIOUS CORPORATION LAW WITHDRAWN UNDER ORTHODOX PROTEST

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, April 29 (JTA) -- A New York State Senate bill to amend the Religious Corporation Law to include Jewish congregations was withdrawn after protests from a variety of Orthodox and Hasidic groups, an official of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada (UOR) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Currently, Jewish congregations in New York States are governed under an article in the law referring to "other denominations."

Rabbi Hirsch Ginsberg, UOR director, also said that a hearing in Albany scheduled for May 1 on the amendment, which had been scheduled by the Senate Committee on Corporation, Authorities and Commissions, had been cancelled. A spokesperson for the Senate committee confirmed the withdrawal and the cancellation of the hearing. The bill was introduced by Senators Linda Winitkow of Spring Valley, Emanuel Gold of Forest Hills, Gary Ackerman of Flushing, Carol Berman of Lawrence, and Jeremy Weinstein of Forest Hills, all Democrats. Gold is deputy minority leader in the State Senate.

Ginsberg, told the JTA that the UOR convened a meeting of Orthodox rabbinical organizations and groups at the UOR office last Thursday, including the Rabbinical Alliance of America, the Central Rabbinical Congress of the United States and Canada, a Satmar group, and spokesmen for the Lubavitch, Vishnitz, Pupa, Bobover and other Hasidic groups.

Ginsberg said that two officials of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) also were present -- Howard Zuckerman, president, and Dennis Rapps, executive director. He said the Rabbinical Council of America, one of the largest Orthodox rabbinical groups, was not invited because the lay agency with which it is associated, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, participated in the drafting of the bill.

A resolution was adopted declaring that the proposed amendment contained material not in accordance with Jewish religious law. Ginsberg said Gold was told of the opposition of the 50 rabbinic and Hasidic spokesman at the meeting and asked to use his influence to have the measure dropped. Ginsberg said that Gold reached the other sponsors and called him Thursday to inform him the bill had been withdrawn and the May 1 hearing cancelled.

Gold told the JTA that he had told the participants at the meeting that the sponsors of the measure were only doing what they had reason to believe represented the desires of religious Jewry and had no intention to attempt to preempt religious doctrines. He added that he had assured the participants that no attempt would be made to "foist" such a measure on Jews opposed to it.

Changes Embodied In Bill

The text of the proposed amendment, a covering letter and a memorandum describing the background of the amendment was distributed by State Sen. Donald M. Halperin, a member of the committee on corporations. The explanatory memorandum said the measure had been drafted by an ad hoc committee of attorneys and rabbis representing a wide spectrum of the various Jewish denominations.

The memo said the Orthodox representatives were from COLPA and the National Council of

Young Israel, the Conservative Jews were represented by the legal affairs committee of the metropolitan region of the United Synagogue of America; and the Reform Jews by the metropolitan council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

According to the memorandum, "the foremost change of importance" embodied in the proposed amendment "relates to provisions for the adequate supervision of the disposition of real property and assets of religious corporations." The memo declared that the amendment sought "to resolve the problem of distribution of corporate assets and real property which has long been left in a state of limbo and too often left to a handful of individuals who are irresponsible and not competent to make broad based decisions based on the substantial principles of law and justice and in accordance with the rules governing Jewish congregations" proposed in the amendment.

The proposed measure also sought to "prevent 'absentee members' from disposing of a synagogue building without the knowledge of the worshippers, and to leave a changing neighborhood without a synagogue, which often results in a more rapid decline of the neighborhood."

SADAGORA REBBE DEAD AT 83

JERUSALEM, April 29 (JTA) -- The Hasidic Rebbe of Sadagora, Rabbi Mordechai Shalom Yosef Friedman, died in Tel Aviv last Thursday at the age of 83. He was buried Thursday night at Tel Aviv's Nahalat Yitzhak Cemetery with a crowd of thousands following his bier. The eldest surviving member of the illustrious Hasidic house of Rizhyn, and a member since 1929 of Agudat Israel's Council of Sages, Friedman headed a small community from his modern style north Tel Aviv synagogue. His organization included yeshivot, synagogues and other religious institutions in Jerusalem and Bnei Brak.

Friedman was born in 1897 in Sadagora. His father was Rabbi Aharon of Sadagora, a lineal descendant of the famous founder of the Hasidic house of Rizhyn, Rabbi Israel. It was Aharon whom Theodor Herzl envisaged in his "Altneuland" as the "bishop" of a new Jewish State, and in his diaries Herzl gives an account of contacts he had with the rabbi.

Mordechai, who succeeded his father at the age of 16, was also sympathetic to the Zionist ideal despite his membership and activism in the non-Zionist Agudat Israel organization. During the 1930s he persistently advised his followers to flee Europe and was responsible for inspiring various groups of Hasidim to settle in Palestine. He himself visited Palestine several times and finally settled in Tel Aviv six months before World War II broke out.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's handwritten speech which he delivered at the treaty signing ceremonies in Washington last month was auctioned off Saturday night to an American tourist for IL 1.25 million. Solvin Kent, a Palm Springs, Ca. resident, purchased the document while on a visit to Israel, breaking all previous price records set at the auction which is conducted annually by the Soldiers Welfare Committee to mark Independence Day. Following the purchase of the document, Kent put it up for a second auction, which will apparently take place abroad.

COPENHAGEN (JTA) -- Israeli exports to Sweden last year rose by 19 percent compared to the previous year and netted over \$50 million. The Israeli exports consisted mainly of citrus and citrus derivatives but also included manufactured goods.