

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents today are: ...

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Thursday, January 24, 1980

No. 17

BEGIN ISSUES SPECIAL STATEMENT IN PRAISE OF SAKHAROV; CALLS HIM ONE OF THE 'BRAVEST PEOPLE OF OUR TIME'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin opened today's Knesset session with a special statement in praise of Russian human rights activist and dissident Andrei Sakharov who was arrested in Moscow yesterday and sent into internal exile at Gorky, a city closed to foreigners because it is a military industry center.

The Israeli leader praised Sakharov, a Nobel Laureate in physics, as one of the "bravest people of our time" who gave up the scientific career that won him world fame in order to fight for the "basic and sacred human rights."

Begin referred to Sakharov's efforts on behalf of Jewish dissidents and Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR. "From the podium of the Knesset we send him our blessings and we demand his release. We join free people throughout the world in this demand," Begin said. The Premier's remarks reflected outrage over the Soviet government's treatment of Sakharov and mounting concern in Israel that this may herald a new crackdown on dissidents in general and on Jews seeking to emigrate.

Decrease In Visas Noted

Rafaël Kotlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department, appeared uncertain today as to whether or not the recent decrease in the number of visas issued to Soviet Jews was a manifestation of the same wave of oppression that engulfed Sakharov. Kotlowitz told a press conference in Tel Aviv that the drop in visas may be due to the fact that most Jews leaving the Soviet Union are going to the U.S.

He reported that the drop-out rate was 63 percent during the first three weeks of January, a slight decrease from the 65 percent rate in December. The average drop-out rate in 1979 was 66.3 percent, meaning that exactly two-thirds of the Jews allowed to emigrate from the USSR chose to go to countries other than Israel.

On the other hand, Kotlowitz noted that in 1979, 51,317 Jews left the Soviet Union, a 43 percent increase over the previous year. Therefore, he said, Israel should not "close off options" in its relations with Moscow. He cautioned specifically against making hasty decisions with respect to Israel's participation in the Olympic Games in Moscow next summer.

Greater Difficulties Cited

A more pessimistic view was expressed today by Soviet emigre Alexander Levin. In an interview with Kol Israel Radio, Levin said that the Soviet Union was experiencing internal difficulties which means greater obstacles to Jews seeking to leave because "Jews are always the first candidates for any repression." Levin contended that the liberalization era in Soviet politics has ended and that the invasion of Afghanistan signaled a return of the hardliners to power in Moscow.

(In New York, statements of support for Sakharov and denunciations of the Soviet Union for exiling the scientist were issued by the World Jewish Congress and American Jewish Congress

president Howard Squadron. The WJC Congress stated: "The silencing of the noble voice of Sakharov can only do harm to defense and international understanding." Squadron said: "No matter where the Soviet Union exiles Andrei Sakharov, his message and his example will continue to reach and to inspire all those who yearn for freedom and who struggle for human dignity.")

ISRAEL EVACUATES ITS MAIN MILITARY BASES IN SINAI

By Yitzhak Shargil

REFIDIM, Sinai, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- The Israelites pitched their tents here some 3000 years ago in the Exodus from Egypt, and then departed eastward toward the Promised Land. Today, the sons of modern Israel moved off in the same direction: Refidim, the main Israeli military base in Sinai for more than 12 years, was evacuated with a stirring military ceremony. The base, airfield and surrounding area will be officially handed back to Egypt on Friday, marking completion of the second phase of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai peninsula.

The army's top brass was on hand for the occasion: Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eytan and Gen. Dan Shomron, commander of the Sinai division and the local front commander. Each of them issued an order of the day stressing that Israel was not withdrawing but leaving this place voluntarily in the interests of achieving true peace. They also expressed hope that Israel will never have to return under the stress of war.

The troops were drawn up in rectangular formation on the dusty airfield. Behind them were some 60 tanks, scores of armored troop carriers and artillery pieces. Each company carried its individual colors with the symbols of its branch of service -- infantry, artillery and engineers corps.

The army choir chanted verses from the Bible in which Refidim is mentioned (Exodus Chaps. XVII and XIX). The army band played Hatikva. The soldiers marched in review as four Skyhawk jets streaked overhead. A helicopter trailing an Israeli flag moved eastward. The troops boarded their vehicles and followed in a roar of diesel motors and clouds of dust.

New Sinai Line Beginning Friday

On Friday, the Israeli army will be deployed on the new line in Sinai, extending from just outside El Arish on the Mediterranean to Ras Mohammed on the Red Sea. Egypt will be in possession of two-thirds of Sinai. A new buffer zone will be created parallel to the new line. But instead of United Nations forces, it will be patrolled jointly by soldiers of Israel and Egypt. The arrangements were signed and sealed by the heads of the two delegations to the joint Israeli-Egyptian Military Committee -- Gen. Dov Sion of the Israeli army and Egyptian Brig. Gen. Safi-A-Din Abu Shnab.

According to the agreement, each side will have eight lookout posts along the 400-kilometer front, each with no more than 10 men. There will be eight jointly manned roadblocks, each with three Israeli and three Egyptian soldiers.

Meanwhile in Cairo, Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and his Egyptian counterpart, Kamal Hassan Ali, are to discuss the role of the American observers who will remain in Sinai as part of the policing machinery. Ali confirmed that as of next Sunday, Israelis and West Bank residents will be able

to pass into Egypt via the border station at El Arish and Egyptians will be able to cross into Israel.

When the Egyptians take over Refidim on Friday, the small Israeli skeleton force that was left behind today will move to the new lines. Refidim will revert to its Egyptian name, Bir Gafgafa. It was here in 1967 that President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt proclaimed "Ahalan Wesahalan" (Welcome) to war. Today the Israelis left with the declaration "Ahalan Wesahalan" (Welcome) to peace.

PROSPECT OF RISING UNEMPLOYMENT

By Gil Sedan.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- The prospect of rising unemployment in Israel as the government attempts to slowdown runaway inflation was the subject of top level discussions here today. The participants included Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz, Trade and Industry Minister Gideon Patt and Social Bettement Minister Yisrael Katz.

They had before them a report showing that unemployment has increased recently but that the economy as a whole is far from a condition of mass joblessness. However, the ministers expect the number of unemployed to increase with the implementation of the tight austerity budget for the next fiscal year. Hurwitz noted that so far only "pockets" of unemployment have appeared. He said this meant that the phenomenon will not be widespread and can be controlled. The "pockets" of unemployment can be utilized to shift workers from services to productive industry, he said.

The unemployment rate has been stable so far. It stands at 3.7 percent of the work force, about the same rate as last year. However, it is expected that by the end of this month the number of jobless will exceed the number of jobs for the first time. The unemployed will number 28,000 against 18,500 job openings.

To forestall a more drastic rise in unemployment, the Cabinet has established an inter-ministerial committee empowered to transfer workers from service jobs to export-oriented industries. There are presently about 315,000 workers in services and 298,000 in the export industry. The government wants to reverse that ratio. The ministers agreed to make funds available to retrain service workers for industrial jobs.

SEVEN DUTCH WAR CRIMINALS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IN WEST GERMANY

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- A group of former resistance members in the northeastern province of Groningen in The Netherlands have announced that they have discovered the whereabouts of seven Dutch war criminals in West Germany where they have been hiding since the end of World War II.

The main war criminal among them is Albert Zuuring, 62, who as a "Rottenfuhrer" of the SS was co-responsible for killing 17 Dutch men, women and children near the town of Breda in 1944. He was sentenced in absentia to lifelong imprisonment by a Dutch de-Nazification court in 1947.

Dutch Public Prosecutor Louis de Beaufort, who has been placed in charge of coordinating the investigation of the whereabouts of more than 300 Dutch war criminals still missing, has stated that the whereabouts of the seven war criminals have

been known to him for some time and he has had contacts with the West German authorities about them.

The main problem, however, is not locating them but extraditing them. If some of the seven war criminals have meanwhile acquired West German citizenship, as they claim, this must be verified. For the time being, however, they cannot be extradited. Some of them were sentenced in Holland solely for collaborating with the Nazis. According to West German law, this is not a basis for extradition. According to de Beaufort, the disclosure by the Groningen group may make his work more difficult.

JAPANESE IS NEWEST MEMBER OF GUSH EMUNIM SETTLEMENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- The newest member of the Gush Emunim settlement of Kedumim near Nablus is a 40-year-old Japanese, Sadao O'Hara. O'Hara, who will move into the settlement in June with his wife and three children, plans to build an export-oriented paper plant there.

The Jerusalem Post said that O'Hara is the leader of the 2000-member Bnei Shimon sect in Japan which regards itself as the vestige of the 10 lost tribes which were exiled by the Assyrians after the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the 8th Century BCE. As Biblical fundamentalists they endorse Gush Emunim's claim to the entire Land of Israel and believe that the ingathering of the lost tribes will precipitate the coming of the Messiah.

O'Hara said he hopes the paper plant will be ready for operation by the time he and his family move to Kedumim in June. He said it will be almost fully automated and will be operated by himself and one other person. He said it will produce \$400,000-\$500,000 worth of paper annually for export to Japan and other Asian countries. The paper will be marketed through his computer paper printout company in Japan.

A Shinto by birth and the son of a Japanese general killed in action during World War II, O'Hara grew up in Okinawa. He said the strange spelling for his name, which appears to be more Irish than Japanese, was due to it being misspelled by an American official in Okinawa, and he kept it.

O'Hara said he "saw the light" as a teenager. "I fell severely ill with tuberculosis and pleurisy," he explained. "A Christian friend came to visit, bringing a copy of the Bible. I was enthralled. But on the verge of converting to Christianity, it dawned on me that God had promised everything to the Jews and they were his chosen." He said that further study showed him that Christians had persecuted the Jews continuously over the past 2000 years.

MAURICE HEIBER DEAD AT 72

BRUSSELS, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Maurice Heiber, the wartime head of the Belgian Jewish underground's child rescue division, died here last night at the age of 72. Heiber, who also served in the Belgian resistance movement, was responsible for saving the lives of more than 3000 Jewish children. After the war he played an active role in Jewish communal organizations.

BEERSHEBA (JTA) -- Yosef Tekoah, president of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, announced that the university will establish a George Meany Center for Labor Relations at the university's campus here. The American Associates of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev have underwritten the first \$100,000 toward the \$1,000,000 project, its president Aron Chilewich of New York City reported.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**A NEW SENSITIVITY TO GERMANY'S PAST**

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 23 (JTA) — The government's plan to make available an additional 440 million Marks in a "final gesture" of financial compensation to Jewish victims of Nazism has focused public attention on the issue of reparations itself. But it has also engendered a new sensitivity to Germany's past, a desire for more information on the Nazi era and its implications for Germany today.

Dr. Walter Schwarz, a Swiss lawyer who has concerned himself with these matters, said in a recent lecture here that reparations to Nazi victims and the reason they were paid had been a taboo subject until recently and as a result, the German public at large had little information about it. But only a few days ago, West German television presented a detailed documentary film on three so-called "hard core" cases of Nazi victims who were inadequately compensated for their losses or received no compensation at all.

This information reached the public as the Bundestag prepared to debate the "final gesture." The debate is expected to open on March 31. Meanwhile, official statistics have been released detailing German reparations to date.

They show that, under the laws and agreements covering reparations to Nazi victims, the state so far has paid out 60,284 billion Marks and will pay more than 25,016 billion Marks in the future, a total of about 85.5 billion Marks, not including the proposed "final gesture."

Several Categories Of Reparations

The payments to date represent several categories of reparations. Of the total sum (60,284 billion), 47.25 billion Marks were made available since 1952 under a law dealing with reparations for personal damages. Twenty percent of this money went to individuals in Germany, among them several well-known politicians who were active in anti-Nazi movements; 40 percent to individuals in Israel; and 40 percent to individuals in other countries throughout the world.

Under another law, which provides financial compensation for property losses, 3,884 billion Marks were paid out. Of that amount, 25 percent went to individuals in Germany, 40 percent to individuals in Israel and 35 percent to individuals in the rest of the world.

In 1952, the Federal Republic committed itself in the "Israelvertrag" (Israel Treaty) to pay a total of 3.45 billion Marks, of which three million went to Israel and 450 million Marks to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The awards were fully paid by June 30, 1965. Israel utilized the money to facilitate the integration of Jewish refugees from Germany and other countries where Jews suffered persecution by the Nazis. Israel also utilized a large sum for capital developments, such as building its merchant marine.

In the category of "Sonstige Leistungen" (other payments), 4.7 billion Marks were paid. The compensation went to public servants, to the families of war victims, to organizations of persecuted groups and to the victims of Nazi medical experiments. Although no further breakdown is available, it is understood that the bulk of this money went to individuals in Germany and other countries, including Israel.

Finally, there is the category called

"Globalvertraege" (global treaties) with 12 European states. Under those treaties, the Federal Republic made available one billion Marks to individuals who, for technical reasons, could not be compensated otherwise. The money was paid to the governments of the countries involved.

A Point That Is Often Neglected

An important point that is often neglected and therefore virtually unknown to Germans is that reparations were paid not only to Jewish victims as individuals or to Israel as a State. Nevertheless, a large part of the total sum did go to Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Experts can find no comparable instance in history of a nation paying reparations to individuals or states on such a large scale. But the German public is beginning to understand that Nazi crimes were on a scale unprecedented in history. Public opinion polls show that Germans, by and large, justify the various reparations agreements in the past. But they think the time has come to put an end to these payments and not to commit Germany to any new ones.

Against that background the "final gesture" is currently under discussion by the three political factions in the Bundestag. If enacted into law, the 440 million Marks will be paid out over a period of four years, beginning this year. There would be no further reparations thereafter.

SEES CONTINUING USSR JEWISH EMIGRATION

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 23 (JTA) — Despite the current U.S.-Soviet confrontation, the Kremlin is likely to continue to permit Jewish emigration from the USSR at or near current levels, according to a key State Department official.

Robert W. Farrand, the officer in charge of bilateral relations at the Soviet Desk of the State Department, predicted this in an address to the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council annual assembly here last week. He spoke before the Kremlin arrested and exiled Andrei Sakharov, Russia's foremost dissident and human-rights advocate.

Farrand said the Soviets were likely to maintain the current rate of Jewish emigration — now running at more than 50,000 per year — because it was "in their interest to do so." He said it was his "personal view" that "while difficulties do lie ahead, the likelihood is that the Russians will not let the current crisis in their relations with the U.S., resulting from the invasion of Afghanistan, seriously affect the emigration process."

"The Soviet Union may wish to continue emigration to score points with the U.S. in any future negotiation with Washington on the eventual resumption of normal relations between the two countries," Farrand suggested.

He also said that under the "compartmentalized" Soviet system — where one government agency may not necessarily be affected by the actions of another — it was likely that the emigration pipeline would remain "relatively unaffected" by the new and hostile relations between Washington and Moscow.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel's phased withdrawal from Sinai has facilitated the operations of Bedouin car thieves. In recent months the desert nomads have been stealing cars in Israel and burying them in the Sinai sands. The idea is to dig them up and sell them as soon as the Egyptians take over the area. MK Samuel Flatto-Sharon's expensive Mercedes recently turned up in Sinai. Now the Bedouins have found a new source of profit: They are offering to track down missing cars for \$20,000 each.

ZIONIST RESPONDS TO ATTACKS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON ISRAEL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America has responded to attacks on Israel and Zionism in meetings conducted at the State Department for personnel of the U.S. foreign affairs establishment by the tax-funded "Secretary's Open Forum" directed by a State Department official.

The ZOA accepted an invitation to have a representative address the Forum after the Jewish Telegraphic Agency had reported last December that the Forum had listened to pro-PLO and anti-Israel speeches by Edmund Hanauer, who had discussed "Is Zionism a Form of Racism," and James Zogby, head of the Palestine Human Rights Organization Committee which is under Department of Justice investigation. Rep. William Bradhead (D, Mich.) asked the Department for a determination on whether the committee should be registered as a foreign agent.

Ivan Novick, the ZOA president, said the ZOA accepted the invitation because "we must correct the record regarding the role of Zionism in the United States, as well as the place of Israel in the scheme of American political and military strategy in the Middle East as a de facto ally of the U.S.," Novick expressed concern that "government officials, especially those who deal with foreign policy, would be subjected to indoctrination of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiments which could inadvertently lead to the obstruction of official U.S. policy which has rejected the anti-Zionism concept, as well as accommodation of the PLO."

Responses By ZOA Official

Dr. Paul Riebenfeld, a national vice-chairman of the ZOA Public Affairs Committee, appeared before the Forum. His audience, according to the Forum's director, Paul Molineaux, numbered between 80 and 90 -- "about the same as came out for Hanauer." Riebenfeld's discourse and responses to questions included the following points:

A generation gap affects the premises of Zionism. The younger generation considers that Zionism stems from the Holocaust and the birth of Israel in 1948. Actually, Zionism began 82 years ago to establish a homeland for Jews in what was then called Palestine.

Premier Menachem Begin is castigated for using Judaea and Samaria but the United Nations General Assembly partition resolution in 1947 referred to Judaea and Samaria. In addition, Samaria and Gaza are mentioned in the Palestine Mandate agreement. Thus, those names are not as the media assumes -- used for sloganeering by Begin and a fetish of the Gush Emunim.

Arabs are done a disservice by generations of maps in Christian Sunday schools in America that depict an area as Palestine when there was no actual existence of a state called Palestine. Such maps feed the notion that Arabs were deprived of a state called Palestine. The British under the 1919-1948 Mandate called it Palestine. Actually, maps in Syria today show Israel, the West Bank and Jordan as parts of Syria. The Turks controlled the area for centuries. When, in the 19th Century, a question arose about the Turkish-controlled area, the general view was that it should be given back to the Jews. Should an independent state be set up it would not remain a Palestinian state but

revert to Syria or some other Arab entity.

The allegation the Palestinians have no nation is a fiction created to contest the legitimacy of Israel. Jordan is the Palestinian state. Until 1970, Jordan was the target of first preference for a PLO takeover. King Hussein makes this point in his own writings. Answering Hanauer's thesis, Riebenfeld said that Zionism is the foundation of the Jewish State. To call it racism, is to call into question the legitimacy of the State of Israel.

ISRAEL HOPES TO DOUBLE ITS TRADE WITH BRITAIN OVER NEXT THREE YEARS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Israel hopes to double its trade with Britain over the next three years, from the present level of almost half a billion Pounds Sterling, Gideon Patt, Israeli Minister of Commerce and Industry, said here.

Patt spoke after a meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee which Israeli officials described as the most promising they had ever held. Britain had given positive assurances over many of Israel's worries, including the impact of enlarging the European Economic Community (EEC), the possibility of tripartite ventures with Egypt, and the Arab boycott.

Israel fears that 40 percent of her food processing industry could be endangered when Spain, Portugal and Greece join the Common Market. She is particularly worried about the effect on her citrus industry. Spain already supplies 55 percent of the EEC's citrus imports and will become even more competitive once she enjoys EEC subsidies. Some 65 percent of Israel's citrus goes to the EEC, although this is only 15 percent of the community's citrus imports.

Britain showed understanding for Israel's worries and promised to air them in the EEC's discussions about the Community's enlargement. This is partly because Britain herself as a major citrus importer, wants to avoid the price rises which Spain's accession could cause.

It was the British delegation, led by Trade Minister Cecil Parkinson, which raised the issue of Egyptian-Israeli economic ties and the possibility of British participation in three-party ventures. One Egyptian-Israeli venture in which the British were invited to take part is a deep-sea fishing company.

Pleased About Arab Boycott Statement

The Israelis were also pleased about Britain's use of the words "abhorrence of the Arab boycott," in a joint statement signed Monday. The British are understood to have said that the government itself would not sign any contract containing a boycott clause and that Britain had recently refrained from bidding for a major international tender because of this. This was the first meeting of the two countries' joint committee headed by trade ministers and also attended by businessmen from both sides.

The Israelis attributed the new warmth of the British delegation to the fact that, following the Iranian revolution and setbacks for British businessmen in other Middle Eastern states, Israel is now Britain's third largest Middle East trading partner, after Saudi Arabia and Dubai. Israeli sales to the UK last year were worth 227 million Pounds Sterling, compared with 270 million worth of UK exports to Israel. One hundred British investment projects are in the pipeline.

CORRECTION: The address for Anatoly Shcharansky as it appeared in the Jan. 22 Bulletin was incorrect. The correct address is: Anatoly Shcharansky, Chistopol Prison, UCHR, 5110/1, UE, Moscow, RSFSR, USSR.