

JTA daily news bulletin

Continued from page 1 of the JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Thursday, February 21, 1980

No. 36

McHENRY TELLS ISRAELIS U.S. WILL NOT SUPPORT DECISION TO ALLOW JEWS TO MOVE INTO HEBRON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA) — Continuing tension over plans to resettle Jews in Hebron overshadowed the visit here of Donald McHenry, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Meeting with Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and senior officials at the Foreign Ministry, McHenry reiterated the U.S. government's firm opposition to such a move.

"The U.S. will not be able to go along with such policy," McHenry said. He hinted that the U.S. would not act to prevent a condemnation of Israel when the Hebron issue is discussed at the Security Council over the weekend. Both Weizman and the Foreign Ministry officials stressed that the Cabinet had adopted a decision "in principle" that Jews have a right to live anywhere in "Eretz Israel" but has not decided when or how to implement that decision.

(At the United Nations in New York, the Security Council is scheduled to meet Friday to open a debate on the Hebron situation requested by Jordan and Morocco. Israel will participate in the debate, a spokesman for the Israeli UN Mission told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.)

The Hebron issue was raised during McHenry's two-hour luncheon meeting with three West Bank political leaders yesterday — Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, Hikmat el-Masri of Nablus, the former Speaker of the Jordanian Parliament and Anwar Nusseibeh, former Jordanian Defense Minister. The three leaders rejected the autonomy plan, condemned plans to settle Jews in Hebron and told McHenry that the Palestine Liberation Organization was the only representative of the Arabs in the occupied territories. "The Israelis have five houses in Hebron but we have more than a million homes that were taken from us," the American envoy was told.

Arab Appeal Rejected

In a related development, the Supreme Court yesterday rejected an appeal by Arab landowners against plans to expand the Orthodox Jewish township of Kiryat Arba, adjoining Hebron, on land they claimed belongs to them. The Court ruled that the appellants had failed to prove ownership of the land which is registered in the name of the State. The land was seized by military order in 1970. The Arabs can, however, appeal before a military appeals board to determine its legitimate ownership.

Meanwhile, West Bank leaders called today for a massive weekend prayer gathering at the Patriarchs Tomb in Hebron to protest Jewish settlement plans. The Supreme Moslem Council in East Jerusalem issued the call after a planned political gathering at the Al-Aksa Mosque was called off. Israeli authorities had announced that they would bar entry to Jerusalem by West Bank political figures for the rally.

Several stone-throwing incidents were reported in West Bank towns today. One high school student in a Jerusalem suburb was detained.

ISRAEL GROUP STILL UNDECIDED ON OLYMPICS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA) — The Israel Olympic Committee will make no decision for the time being on whether or not to boycott the Olympic Games in Moscow this summer, its chairman Itzhak Offek said today. He said that Israel will continue its wait-and-see policy although the United States has announced that it will not participate in the Games unless Soviet troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan by Feb. 20.

That deadline, set by President Carter, passed today. (State Department spokesman Thomas Reston said in Washington that the decision to boycott the Games is now final and irrevocable.) According to Offek, the final decision on U.S. participation rests with the U.S. Olympic Committee which will not take a position until it meets on April 11. However, he said it was inconceivable that the committee would act contrary to the President's wishes.

Several other major powers may also boycott the Moscow Games and Israel is expected, ultimately, to join them. Although opinion here is divided, former Soviet Jewish prisoners and aliyah activists are urging Israel not to send its team to Moscow. Sports experts said that without American participation, the Moscow Olympics would not be a major sports event.

STUDENTS PROTEST LINKING REPARATIONS WITH PENSIONS FOR EX-NAZI EMPLOYEES

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 20 (JTA) — The Organization of Jewish Students in West Germany has accused the authorities of delaying the investigations of Nazi war criminals and sharply protested plans by political parties to link final reparations payments to Jewish victims of Nazism to claims for pensions by former Nazi civil servants who were never cleared by de-Nazification tribunals.

In a protest note issued in West Berlin, the student organization denounced the coupling of "Nazi oppressors and Nazi victims." They declared their opposition to any kind of financial compensation to persons who were active members of Nazi organizations.

The three political factions in the Bundestag have agreed to support a supplementary budget for 1980 that will include final reparations payments to Jews. But at the same time, they will take up the pension claims of former Nazi officials who have been denied financial benefits under Article 131 of the Federal Constitution which stripped them of their rights as former civil servants.

4 JEWS RE-ELECTED IN CANADA

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Feb. 20 (JTA) — Jewish representation in Canada's Parliament remained unchanged as a result of Monday's elections which swept Premier Pierre Elliott Trudeau's Liberal Party back into office after nine months of Progressive Conservative Party rule. Of the 282 seats in Parliament, four are held by Jews, all of whom were re-elected.

They are Herbert Gray of Windsor; Robert Kaplan of Toronto and David Berger of Quebec, Liberals and David Orlikow of Winnipeg, Manitoba, a member of the minority New Democratic Party.

Gray and Kaplan, who are active in Canadian Jewish affairs and strongly pro-Israel, are considered virtually certain to be named to Trudeau's new Cabinet. Gray served in the Trudeau government from 1972-1976 as Minister of Revenue and is slated for a high economic post in the next government, possibly Finance Minister, according to political observers here.

They are expected to influence Trudeau on such matters as Canadian-Arab relations and to fight his opposition to toughen the anti-Arab boycott laws. Trudeau, while a long-time friend and admirer of Israel, opposes the policies of the present Israeli government, particularly with respect to Jewish settlements on the West Bank. He angered the Canadian Jewish community last October when, speaking as a member of the opposition, he charged that "Zionist pressure in the U.S." was preventing President Carter from telling Israel it must be more flexible over the West Bank or risk losing U.S. aid.

Trudeau is also strongly opposed to proposals to move Canada's Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Such a shift was pledged by Conservative Party leader Joe Clark in his election campaign last year. But after Clark took office as Prime Minister he came under pressure from Arab oil-producing states and Canadian business interests to reverse himself on that issue. He dispatched a personal emissary, Robert Stanfield, to the Middle East on a fact-finding mission. Stanfield recommended last fall that the embassy shift at this time would not be in the interests of peace in the region.

It was therefore not an issue in the elections this week, although the Liberals used it against Clark as evidence of his mishandling of a sensitive foreign policy matter. Ron Atkey, the former Minister of Immigration who had originally suggested the embassy shift to Clark, was defeated.

Two Jews who stood for election were defeated. In Vancouver, Sima Holt, a Liberal, was defeated by her Progressive Conservative opponent in a bid to regain the Parliamentary seat she had lost in the last election. In Montreal, Progressive Conservative Harry Bloomfield was swamped in a direct challenge for Trudeau's seat.

EBAN WARNS OF ECONOMIC DANGERS

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 20 (JTA) — Abba Eban, Israel's former Foreign Minister, warned last night against the economic peril facing the Jewish State. "Inspiration comes to us from our faith and our history, but if our economy declines, if inflation creeps upward, if productivity languishes, if immigration dwindles, if emigration soars, if international isolation becomes almost complete, is there not a chance that we shall come face to face with the greatest of all dangers? The danger that Israel will no longer be firm in the conviction of its own eternity," Eban declared.

He gave the keynote address to the annual Histadrut Economic Conference for Israel sponsored by the Israel Histadrut Foundation at the Konover Hotel here. More than 30 Jewish communities from throughout the U.S. and Canada are represented here.

Pointing out that during Chanukah, 1980 Histadrut will celebrate its 60th anniversary, Dr. Sol Stein, president of the Israel Histadrut Foundation, said that \$4,357,000 in commitments was announced at this conference toward a \$10 million total of commitments for the social and welfare programs of Histadrut which serve the needs

of more than 75 percent of the people in Israel.

In his address to the participants, which included representatives of the State of Israel and leading figures of the Labor Zionist movement, Eban spoke about Israel being at a low point in its self-assurance. "The paradox," he declared, "is that this particular Israeli morale comes at a time of one of our greatest national achievements... when this week for the first time an Israeli flag flies at the central capital of the Arab and Moslem world and next week the Egyptian flag will fly on Israeli soil."

Cites 'Crisis Of Morale'

At this, the 14th annual Histadrut Economic Conference for Israel, Eban told the group that "ten months after the signing of the peace treaty, Israel does find itself in a crisis of morale. In its anxiety, Israel must look beyond its frontiers for reinforcements. Where can we look, if not to the sustaining force of Jewish solidarity. The only answer to Moslem solidarity for Israel's destruction is a dramatic assertion of Jewish solidarity in defense of Israel."

Dr. Leon Kronish, national chairman of the board of directors of the Israel Histadrut Foundation, presented the \$60 Million Award to Sam and Rebecca Feinstein of West Palm Beach, in recognition of their exemplary contributions to the programs of Histadrut in Israel.

QUINTS BORN IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA) — A team of 15 doctors and nurses delivered four boys and a girl today, all of whom are expected to live. The mother, Zippora Arzi, a 28-year-old teacher, had been given fertility drugs for several years. The couple also has one daughter.

Each of the infants weighed 3.3 pounds at birth by Caesarean section. They were delivered in the seventh month. The Arzi quintuplets are the second set born in Israel. Of the first set, born in 1973, one died immediately.

STUDENTS CONVERGE ON WASHINGTON TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR SOVIET JEWRY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (JTA) — More than 500 students from about 50 colleges and universities, mainly along the East Coast, today urged freedom for Soviet scientist Andre Sakharov and appealed to Congress for continued support of Soviet Jewry. Aleksei Seminov, stepson of the exiled Sakharov, and Rabbi Albert Axelrod, director of Hillel at Brandeis University, sought to present a statement appealing for Sakharov's release to the Soviet Embassy, but their statement was rejected without being read. An unidentified Soviet Embassy official told them that it is "our policy not to receive petitioners when they come as part of a demonstration."

About 150 of the students gathered at the daily vigil for Soviet Jewry across the street from the Soviet Embassy to indicate their solidarity with Soviet Jews. They were addressed by Natasha Federova, wife of prisoner of conscience Uri Federov, who urged continued appeals for the release of Federov, Alexei Merzhenko and Yosef Mendelovich, the three remaining prisoners from the Leningrad trials of 1970, in which there were 11 defendants. She also urged the students to press for human rights for all people. Mrs. Federova and the Federov's daughter, Misha, who are not Jewish, were the guests here of the Washington Jewish Community Council. The Council distributed leaflets calling for the release of the three prisoners.

The students visited more than 60 Senators and 150 members of Congress as their constituents in their effort to motivate Congressional action in response to violations of human rights in the Soviet Union.

The effort was coordinated by the Student Coalition for Soviet Jewry, which is based in Braneis, in cooperation with the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

The Senate yesterday adopted a resolution, 91-0, calling for Sakharov's release. The House had previously adopted the resolution, also without dissent. The vote was 402-0.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS N.Y. LAW ON PAROCHIAL SCHOOL AID; NULLIFIES YESHIVA U FACULTY UNION

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court's five-to-four decision today upholding the constitutionality of New York State's 1974 Required Services Law (RSL) was welcomed by the Jewish legal organization which represented the state's Jewish day schools throughout the long legal battle which was ended by the Supreme Court decision.

Howard Zuckerman, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) said the ruling marked the first time the Supreme Court has approved any state funds being paid directly to religious-sponsored day schools for educationally-related activities.

Zuckerman said that, prior to today's ruling, the Supreme Court had approved as constitutional funding only for transportation and textbooks, and in neither category did the state funds go directly to the schools. He said that in the ruling today, the Supreme Court held that it is permissible for state governments to reimburse religious schools for expenses expended for attendance record-keeping and the grading of regents' board type (uniform) examinations.

The COLPA president added that the ruling meant the Supreme Court will no longer automatically invalidate state programs of funding to religious schools for their secular activities, which has been, until now, the high court's position.

\$1 Million-A-Year At Stake

At stake for Jewish day schools in New York State is about \$1 million a year in state funds to pay for the mandated services. The battle also has pitted Orthodox Jewish organizations, the principal sponsors of Jewish day schools, against Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL), an umbrella group which opposes government funds for non-public schools.

The legal battle began in 1972 when the Supreme Court struck down the state's 1970 Mandated Services Law for reimbursement of mandated services on grounds that law lacked safeguards to assure that its application did not involve any "entanglement" with religion in violation of the First Amendment. The New York Legislature promptly approved in 1974 a revised version -- the Required Services Law -- which required that school records be audited and the exact use of the state funds for reimbursement for mandated services be precisely spelled out. It was the 1974 law which the Supreme Court held constitutional today.

A federal district court in New York ruled in

December, 1978 that the 1974 law was constitutional but it also granted a brief stay to PEARL to appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court. PEARL has been represented as the plaintiff by Leo Pfeffer, counsel for the American Jewish Congress, one of the organizations making up PEARL.

Dennis Rapps, COLPA executive director, represented yeshivas in the Supreme Court action. A brief filed last September by Nathan Lewin, a COLPA vice president, contended that the New York 1974 law "reimburses the school only for activities which are thoroughly secular and which cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, be converted to religious indoctrination."

Zuckerman also asserted that the ruling was an indication that the Supreme Court is "at last" abandoning its "doctrinaire approach" to the issue of government funding for non-public religious schools.

Julius Berman, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, said the ruling today indicated that "at long last" the Supreme Court was taking "a rational view" of such aid programs. Berman said the Supreme Court's "doctrinaire" approach over the years had not only caused "unnecessary and unconscionable hardships" for Jewish parents sending their children to such schools, but that it also "fostered a perception" of religious education as being somehow "suspect." He praised the work of COLPA attorneys for their efforts on behalf of religious schools.

Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America, called the ruling a "landmark decision." He expressed the hope that it would "serve notice on those who blindly oppose any form of government assistance to non-public schools." He called the ruling "a victory for the millions of American children whose parents opt for their right to select a school of their choice." He said Jewish foes of such government aid should see the ruling today "as a harbinger of a new mood in the Supreme Court and the nation to rectify the injustice from which non-public schools have suffered for years."

Yeshiva Faculty Ruling

In another ruling affecting Jewish education, the Supreme Court held today, in a case involving efforts of Yeshiva University faculty members to form a union recognized by the university administration, that universities are not required to recognize unions made up of faculty members who have substantial authority over university policy.

That ruling, also by five-to-four, was considered by higher education experts as likely to have a decisive impact on collective bargaining by such faculty members. The court declared that the National Labor Relations Board could not recognize the faculty union at Yeshiva University because the teachers essentially controlled policy and therefore constituted management.

The NLRB had ordered the university administration to bargain with the faculty group on the grounds that the faculty merely recommended policy. The Supreme Court decided that the faculty recommendations amounted to policy in curriculum, grading, admissions, academic calendars and course schedules. Associate Justice Lewis Powell wrote for the majority that the authority of faculty members in academic matters "is absolute."

LONDON (JTA) -- Marks and Spencer has begun marketing Egyptian produce in Britain following the normalization of Israeli-Egyptian relations. A spokesman for the company said that it has already been importing Egyptian potatoes and other products will also be put on sale.

JEWISH COMMUNITY TURNS OUT TO HONOR 4 RUSSIAN JEWISH BOYS WHO HAVE BRIT AFTER IMMIGRATING TO ALBANY, N.Y.

By Rochelle Saidel Walk

ALBANY, N.Y., Feb. 20 (JTA) — Because of the joint efforts of an Orthodox neighbor, a Conservative rabbi-mohel, and a Reform doctor, a public celebration of the brit milah, or ritual circumcision, of four Russian Jewish boys took place at Temple Israel here. The boys and their families were honored by more than 150 members of the Jewish community at a breakfast sponsored by the temple's men's club and sisterhood.

Events leading to the celebration began last June, when benzion Kagan, 80, realized that 8-year-old Sasha, the son of his Soviet Jewish neighbors, Leonid and Polina Tulchinsky, had not been circumcised at the age of eight days, as prescribed by Jewish law. An Orthodox Jew who believes this Covenant of Abraham must be observed by every Jewish male, Kagan convinced the Tulchinskys that their son should be circumcised according to Jewish law.

Mrs. Tulchinsky's sister, Rima Shemeret, also agreed to a ritual circumcision for her 9-year-old son, Edward. Kagan then took the two boys to urologist Dr. Stuart Rosenberg for an examination and discussion about the procedure. He originally wanted a traditional mohel (one who performs ritual circumcisions) from New York City to do the surgery.

Rosenberg recalls that Kagan walked into his office with the two boys and said "I want these boys circumcised and I want a traditional brit milah. Can it be done in their homes?"

Rosenberg explained that because of their ages, the boys should be taken care of in a hospital. In addition, hospital regulations regarding surgical privilege and liability would prohibit a mohel from operating in any local hospital.

Mohel Acts As 'Consultant'

Rosenberg told Kagan, however, that he would be happy to perform the surgery, with a mohel in attendance. Thus, with Rabbi Paul B. Silton of Albany, a certified mohel, as his "consultant and assistant," he performed the surgery and the rabbi said the blessings. Surgery was done on an outpatient basis at St. Peter's Hospital on Sept. 7, 1979, and the boys returned home that afternoon.

On Oct. 12, 1979, a similar arrangement was made for 7-year-old Anatoly, the son of Eleanor and Naum Shkaf, who came to Albany from Odessa in June, 1979. Unlike the other two families, the Shkafs had decided before they left Russia that their son would have a ritual circumcision here. "I wanted him to be a Jewish man like my husband and other Jewish men," Mrs. Shkaf said.

The fourth boy, Sasha Tsuprum, 11, was circumcised on Oct. 17, 1979. The son of Svetlana and Ilya, who came here from Kiev in May, 1979, Sasha says he is glad he is now "like all other Jewish men."

Rosenberg had high praise for the staff at St. Peter's and called everyone "extremely helpful and cooperative." "To get this to 'go' in the operating room is a little bit more than the usual thing," he explained.

All of the families explained that their sons were not circumcised in the Soviet Union because religion is forbidden by the government and no rabbis or mohels are available there.

Soviet Jews Compared To Israelites

In a brief address explaining the Covenant of Abraham and Jewish ritual circumcision, Silton compared the situation of the Soviet Jews with that of the Israelites in the desert, after they fled Egypt with Moses. "There was no circumcision during those 40 years," he said, "and when the Jews entered the 'promised land' the desert generation was circumcised. 'The Soviet Jews, having come out of the Judaic desert of the Soviet Union, now also have the privilege of joining the Covenant of Abraham,'" he said.

"It is up to the American Jewish community," he continued, "to teach these immigrants Jewish identity." He cited the public celebration as a positive example in "the battle against assimilation." All four of the boys are enrolled at Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy, the Solomon Schechter Day School in Albany.

As part of the celebration, which included Yiddish, Hebrew and Russian singing and dancing, the boys were publicly given their Hebrew names by Rabbi Haim Kieval and Cantor Haim Picker of Temple Israel.

S. AFRICAN CHIEF RABBI CRITICIZES STATEMENT BY RABBI JAKOBOVITS

By Solly Press

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 20 (JTA) — The recent statement by British Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits that he did not rule out the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem, has had severe repercussions among South African Jewry. Jakobovits was sharply rebuked by South Africa's Chief Rabbi, Bernard Casper, who, like his British colleague, is Orthodox.

"It is painful for me to take issue with my esteemed friend and colleague, Chief Rabbi Jakobovits, on a matter touching so closely the very existence and future of the Jewish people," Casper said in a statement issued over the weekend. "This is not the only time we have differed in our approach to Israel affairs, but never before has Dr. Jakobovits gone so far as to proclaim support for the idea of a Palestine Arab state in Judaea and Samaria and Gaza. According to the report (of Jakobovits' remarks) he would even allow such a state to have its capital in Jerusalem. As if this were not sufficient aid and comfort to Israel's enemies, the Chief Rabbi adds, 'If I knew we could never attain peace with the Arab world, I would say liquidate Israel!'"

According to Casper, "It is the timing of his pronouncement which makes it such a stab in the back to Israel as it faces the mounting challenges of a hostile or indifferent world. At a time like this, the people are entitled to look for a lead of faith and encouragement on the part of those in positions of religious authority, but faith is the very thing that the Chief Rabbi never seems to mention. The Arabs now know that all they have to do is to maintain hostilities and prevent peace and they can be sure of having at least one influential Jewish supporter for the possibility of 'liquidating Israel'," Casper said.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A vegetable vendor in the Ramleh market place was awarded a prize Tuesday for averting a terrorist bombing that could have caused severe casualties. The vendor spotted a suspicious looking basket left near his stall by unknown persons. He warned people in the vicinity to leave. The police found a large explosive device concealed in the basket. The market area was evacuated and police found a second explosive nearby.