

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement

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

Vol. LVIII — 63rd Year

Thursday, May 1, 1980

No. 84

IRANIAN JEW'S DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, April 30 (JTA) — An Iranian Jew who had been scheduled to be executed on April 22 in the city of Hamadan, west of Teheran, has had his death sentence commuted, according to sources here. The sources reported that the name of the Iranian Jew was Moïshe Danielpur, adding that they were not certain of the first name but were certain of the Iranian Jew's last name. The sources had no information as to which authorities or agencies in the Iranian government had commuted Danielpur's sentence.

Danielpur was one of three brothers sentenced to death, two of them in absentia, by a revolutionary court, on charges of cooperation with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service. Iran Radio, which reported the sentencing over the April 18 weekend, said an appeal for clemency was being made to Teheran for Danielpur. The sources said they had no information as to the present whereabouts of his two brothers.

WEIZMAN: U.S. HAS AGREED TO PERMIT

ISRAEL TO EXPORT COMBAT PLANE

POWERED BY U.S.-MANUFACTURED ENGINE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 30 (JTA) — Defense Minister Ezer Weizman said today that the U.S. has agreed to permit Israel to export its second generation combat plane, to be known as the Lavie, which will be powered by a General Electric engine. Weizman made the disclosure on his return from Washington where he met with President Carter, Defense Secretary Harold Brown and other Administration and Pentagon officials.

American permission is needed for Israel to export any military plane it manufactures which incorporates American parts. Sales abroad of the first generation Israeli jet fighter, the Kfir, ran into difficulties on this point and several orders were lost because of U.S. objections. According to Weizman, the new agreement will allow Israel to sell the Lavie to any country the U.S. sells to. This will open a huge market for the new aircraft.

Weizman said that Joseph Maayan, Director General of the Defense Ministry, remained in Washington to conclude a contract with General Electric for the Lavie engine. He said he expected no problems to arise with respect to the production of the plane and alerted its manufacturer, Israel Aircraft Industries, to prepare for the big job.

special Mideast Ambassador, Sol Linowitz, who also helped persuade Muskie to accept the post in his 66th year.

Muskie and Linowitz attended Cornell Law School together in the late 1930s and have been close friends socially and politically over the years. When he ran for nomination as President in 1972, Muskie counted Linowitz among his supporters. Linowitz, in his months as the President's negotiator on the Panama Canal Treaty and in the West Bank-Gaza autonomy talks, often had Muskie as a dinner guest at his home.

While the appointment of Muskie, which the Senate is certain to confirm quickly, was a surprise, the fact that the President went into the Senate to make his choice was not unexpected. It was understood, when news broke of Vance's resignation, that the President would seek a prominent national figure to take charge of the State Department in a vastly different period in American foreign affairs.

Widespread reports that Linowitz or Robert Strauss, Carter's re-election Campaign Manager, were in the running were not taken seriously in more knowledgeable circles. There was a feeling the President would elevate Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher but with Muskie's acceptance, Christopher was asked to stay in his present position.

Major Mideast Policy Changes Unlikely

Muskie's accession is seen as unlikely to bring major changes in U.S. policy in the Arab-Israeli situation. President Carter himself sets the policy and much of its detail. Muskie, like Linowitz, reportedly agrees with him on the basic elements or he would not have accepted the assignment.

Muskie's record of 16 years in the Senate — his third term expires in 1982 — and six years in the House shows a positive record in friendliness toward Israel's needs and Jewish community concerns. However, he voted for the Carter Administration's package of military equipment for Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel when friends of Israel strongly opposed it because they thought increasing the arsenals of the Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, would upset the Israeli-Arab power balance.

A former aide to Muskie recalled to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Vance called Muskie "at the last minute" and persuaded him to vote for the package.

On Soviet Jewish matters, Muskie has been consistently supportive of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment which ties U.S. government credits to the Soviets to freer Soviet emigration and elimination of harassment of emigrants' families.

Unique Feature Of Muskie's Appointment

A unique feature of Muskie's appointment in American political history is that three citizens of Polish origin are in foremost positions in the U.S. foreign affairs establishment. The others are Zbigniew Brzezinski, head of the National Security Council, and Rep. Clement Zablocki (D. Wisc.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Another who is prominent in world affairs outside of Poland itself, it has been noted, is Israeli Premier Menachem Begin who, like Brzezinski,

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

MUSKIE AS NEW SECRETARY OF STATE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 30 (JTA) — President Carter's selection of Edmund Muskie, Maine's Democratic Senator, as his new Secretary of State to succeed Cyrus Vance is understood here to have been at the suggestion of his

is Polish-born. Muskie and Zablocki are native Americans.

Their common ethnic background however is no assurance their relationships will develop untroubled. A prime topic in Washington is whether the President will listen more to Brzezinski, as State Department officials have long complained and which ultimately resulted in Vance's resignation, or whether Brzezinski will become less prominent with Muskie's ascendancy as an elder statesman with support of long-time associates on Capitol Hill.

Fully aware of the discussion over the rivalry between Vance and Brzezinski, who had become dominant in foreign policy strategy, particularly as it affects the Soviet Union and China, and now possibly between Brzezinski and Muskie, President Carter has declared his confidence in Muskie's capabilities by his service on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and as chairman of the Senate Budget Committee which oversees all U.S. expenditures including foreign aid and military funds. But the President also noted that he is free to receive advice from whatever quarter he chooses.

LINOWITZ, BEGIN MEET TO PREPARE NEW ROUND OF AUTONOMY TALKS

By David London

JERUSALEM, April 30 (JTA) — Special Ambassador Sol Linowitz met with Premier Menachem Begin for more than two hours today in preparation for the new round of autonomy talks between Israel, Egypt and the U.S., which begin tomorrow in Herzliya. Linowitz, President Carter's representative to the talks, told reporters later that he had discussed some new American ideas with Begin. The Premier was to report to a special session of the Cabinet later today.

Linowitz indicated that he and Begin also discussed the four-point paper that Begin submitted to President Carter when they met at the White House two weeks ago. Israeli newspapers reported today that the American envoy brought Begin Egypt's negative response to his four points.

Begin's Four Points

According to Israeli officials, Begin's paper "encapsulated" and "sharply defined" Israel's position on key autonomy issues which, they said, has been consistent. The points are: security, both internal and strategic in the autonomous territories, must remain in Israel's hands; Israeli settlements must remain under Israeli law and administration; the autonomous council will have administrative powers only, not legislative powers; the autonomous council shall be constructed to correspond to a dozen or so functional areas of jurisdiction, such as health and education among others.

The Egyptian position differs sharply and was reiterated this week. Cairo wants legislative powers for the autonomous authority, special negotiations to determine Israel's security needs and the full withdrawal of the Israeli military government from the autonomous areas. Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil and Foreign Minister Butros Ghali are due in Israel today for the Herzliya talks which are tentatively scheduled to run through May 8 and then shift to Alexandria.

All parties have agreed that this next round of talks will run without interruption in an effort

to reach an agreement by the May 26 target date. Israeli sources concede that they do not expect a final agreement by that date but hope that progress will be sufficient to justify further negotiations beyond May 26. This appears to be the hope of the American and Egyptian negotiators as well. Egypt is especially concerned to be able to show the Arab world that the talks are visibly moving toward a credible degree of autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On his arrival here, Linowitz spoke pointedly of "the many problems that still have to be overcome." But he expressed his belief that the problems are solvable, "If we have the will and the determination," adding: "History will not forgive us if we fail."

DAVID SCHWARTZ DEAD AT 84

NEW YORK, April 30 (JTA) — David Schwartz, roving newspaper reporter, Jewish Telegraphic Agency columnist and special editorial writer for the national Israel Bonds Organization, died yesterday from heart failure in Beth Israel Hospital here at the age of 84. Funeral arrangements will be in the process of being completed today.

Schwartz, widely known among Jewish readers for the mild and occasionally wry observations on Jewish personalities and events, never married. Born in Brunswick, Ga., his father fled with his family from Brunswick to escape an influenza epidemic and the family settled in Atlanta, a residence of nearly two decades before moving again to St. Paul, Minn.

The future columnist enrolled at the University of Minnesota but dropped out after a year to seek a reporter's job. Over the years he worked on newspapers in Minneapolis, West Virginia, Ohio, North Dakota and Texas. He eventually wound up in New York, joining the staff of the Israel Bonds Organization at its inception in December, 1951. There he wrote articles on Israel and performed other editorial tasks until his retirement in March, 1971.

Began With JTA In 1930s

Schwartz began his association with the JTA in the early 1930s as a staff member of the Daily News Bulletin. He initiated his JTA column, "Panorama," in the mid-1930s. The column was widely used by publications in this country and abroad. During his years at the JTA he published several books based on his columns.

Schwartz's columns focussed on the quirks and ironies of history as they affected American Jews, the Jewish yishuv in Palestine and, later, Israel. He was famous for his applications of American history and the history of the Jewish people, particularly Zionist history, to current events affecting American Jewry and Israel.

Schwartz had a rich background in American and Jewish history and could refer with ease to statements and events involving the famous as well as obscure American and Jewish personalities. Each column sought to draw links from the past to current events, in a witty and urbane style. Occasionally he was not above coining an outrageous pun.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The West Bank Military Governor ordered a ban on May Day parades Thursday.

GENERAL STRIKE IN SWEDEN FORCES POSTPONMENT OF WALLENBERG TRIBUNAL

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, April 30 (JTA) — An international hearing in the case of the missing Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg, which was to have begun in Stockholm tomorrow has been called off until the fall because of a strike of public employes that has shut down all communications and transportation in Sweden, including incoming and outgoing flights.

Lena Björck-Kaplan of New York, chairman of the U.S. Working Group for the Free Wallenberg Committee, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Swedish Wallenberg committee asked that the meeting be postponed because of the strike. She said there was no grounds to believe that there may have been pressure from the Swedish government not to hold the hearing which is aimed at proving that Wallenberg, who was arrested by Soviet troops who liberated Hungary in January, 1945, may still be alive in a Soviet labor camp.

Mrs. Björck-Kaplan said that because the participants come from all over the world and have busy schedules it was decided to try to reschedule the hearings for late October. She said they were presently trying to locate a site for the meeting.

Postponement Might Be Advantageous

Annette Lanks, of Hillsborough, California, Western states secretary for the Wallenberg committee, told the JTA that the postponement might work out to the group's advantage since she believes additional witnesses may be located by then who have seen Wallenberg alive in Soviet prisons. She said the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies at the Yeshiva University of Los Angeles recently agreed to help the committee.

Wallenberg, who, if still alive, would now be 67 years old, is credited with saving about 100,000 Hungarian Jews from deportation to Auschwitz.

British Labor MP Greville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, is expected to discuss the Wallenberg case at a meeting of the World Jewish Congress' European Executive in Paris this weekend. Elie Wiesel, chairman of President Carter's Commission on the Holocaust, who was scheduled to lead the American delegation to Stockholm, will also attend that meeting. Janner and Wiesel were also planning to go to Stockholm as was Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal and Israeli MK Gideon Hausner, head of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem and the prosecutor of Adolf Eichmann.

EILTS SKEPTICAL THAT AUTONOMY TALKS WILL BE CONCLUDED BY TARGET DATE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 30 (JTA) — Hermann Eilts, former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, said today he does not believe the autonomy talks currently underway between Israel, Egypt and the United States will be concluded by the May 26 target date. He predicted that a final settlement in the Mideast will take at least a few more years.

Addressing a symposium on American foreign policy in Southern Asia and the Mideast, held at

the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, sponsored by the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, Eilts said he supports the Carter Administration's approach to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that this approach, which is based on the Camp David agreements, is the most sound option to solve the 32-year-old crisis.

He said, however, that the Carter Administration was mistaken by setting a target date for the autonomy negotiations, noting that "it is a mistake to set dates in the Mideast" conflict and that problems there should work themselves out without the imposition of time limits.

Eilts also said he sees no chance for solving the Mideast crisis by reconvening the Geneva peace conference or by changing United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, noting that both Israel and Egypt, for their own reasons, object to these approaches.

At one point in his speech the former Ambassador, who is presently Professor of International Relations at Boston University, said that up to now all American Administrations rejected suggestions to pressure Israel into concessions by cutting economic and military aid. But he said he does not exclude a partial cut in American aid to Israel in order to wrest concessions from the Jewish State.

HADDAD ACCUSES UNIFIL OF COOPERATING WITH PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 30 (JTA) — Maj. Saad Haddad, commander of the Christian militia in southern Lebanon, accused United Nations forces there today of active cooperation with Palestinian terrorists and claimed that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has lost control of the various national contingents that make it up.

Haddad spoke to reporters after his release from Rambam Hospital in Haifa where he was treated for injuries sustained in a land mine explosion yesterday. He claimed that his jeep was in pursuit of eight terrorists when it struck the mine.

According to Haddad, the terrorists infiltrated the Christian enclave through a salient held by Nigerian troops attached to UNIFIL and that they escaped back into the Nigerian controlled territory. In both cases, the terrorists' movements were unhampered by the Nigerians, which proves, he contended, that they cooperate with each other.

Haddad said that because UNIFIL has lost control of its various units which obey the instructions of their respective governments, he no longer recognizes the authority of UNIFIL commander Gen. Emmanuel Erskine. He said that from now on any unit commander may contact his headquarters directly without going through the UNIFIL command.

Haddad criticized the 10 countries which supply troops to UNIFIL for agreeing to a request by the Irish government to meet in Dublin instead of discussing their problems in the UN Security Council. He claimed that this indicated that the governments of those countries no longer intend to carry out the instructions of the UN but to follow policies of their own.

The leader of the Christian militia said he and his men would continue to struggle for survival and for the return of Lebanon to the Lebanese, not the Palestine Liberation Organizations. He asked the U.S. to help him. He expressed regret over the failure of the U.S. hostage rescue mission in Iran and offered to help the Americans if they need it.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS ON IMPRISONED DISSENTERS IN THE USSR

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, April 30 (JTA) — In a searing new indictment of political repression in the Soviet Union, Amnesty International, which defends prisoners of conscience, has accused the Soviet authorities of using hunger, forced labor and dangerous drugs to punish imprisoned dissenters.

The charges are listed in a 200-page report, issued yesterday, entitled "Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR: Their Treatment and Conditions." A revised version of an Amnesty report first published in 1975, the document includes much recent evidence of the abuse of psychiatry for political repression and an analysis of Soviet law as applied to nonconformists.

Amnesty International says that between 1975 and mid-1979, when the latest report was compiled, it learned of more than 400 people newly imprisoned or restricted for exercising fundamental human rights. This is in addition to those imprisoned before then and scores of new cases since the latest report was completed. Many of the prisoners referred to in the report are Jews who have applied unsuccessfully to emigrate to Israel.

Once confined, prisoners of conscience are treated indiscriminately and routinely with powerful drugs which have dangerous side effects when used this way. These drugs, including potent tranquilizers, are administered as punishment and as a form of pressure on dissenters to renounce their views. Insulin shock treatment is one of these punishments.

The Case Of Vasily Shipilov

Much of the harshest treatment is inflicted on those sent to special psychiatric hospitals where some prisoners have been known to have been kept for decades. The report names Vasily Shipilov, who was first arrested in 1939 while studying in a religious seminary; he was sentenced for "counter revolutionary activities" and ten years later was ruled mentally ill.

Shipilov's case was virtually unknown until 1978 when it was exposed by an unofficial Soviet commission investigating the use of psychiatry for political purposes. He was finally released last year after spending more than 30 years in a mental hospital.

According to Amnesty International, Shipilov is far from being the only prisoner of conscience to have been held for more than 30 years. It published a photograph of a Ukrainian, Danylo Shumuk who is said to have been imprisoned for 35 years.

Plight Of Jewish Refusniks

The plight of Jewish refusniks is dealt with in the report's chapter on freedom of movement. It noted that between 1972 and 1977, the Soviet authorities permitted approximately 130,000 Jews to emigrate. During the same period, it allowed 40,000 Soviet Germans to leave for the West. There is also an emigration movement among Christian believers, particularly Baptists and Pentecostals.

The report said that the Soviet authorities have made "significant concessions in allowing

Jewish and German-origin citizens to emigrate." However, it added: "The authorities have placed many difficult obstacles in the way of would-be emigrants. The application procedure is difficult, applicants being required to wait long periods for official permission to emigrate, while many are refused permission on a great variety of grounds."

"Soviet Jews, Germans, religious believers and others have in many cases been imprisoned for persisting in their application to emigrate. The same has happened to people who have been active in public campaigning for official respect for the right to leave the country."

List Of Jewish Prisoners

The report gave names. It said that "Among Soviet Jews during the four years preceding the writing of the report (the following) have been sentenced to imprisonment or exile for trying to emigrate through legal means: Joseph Begun, Grigory Goldstein, Boris Kalandarov, Anatoly Malkin, Ida Nudel, Lev Roitburd, Anatoly Shcharansky, Simon Shnirman, Alexander Silnitsky, Maria Slepak, Vladimir Slepak, Alexander Vilik, Yakov Vinarov, and Anner Zavurov.

"At least two Jews were confined briefly to psychiatric hospitals after submitting applications to emigrate: Lazar Brustlovsky (from Rostov in 1977) and Yefim Porgammanik (from Kiev in 1977). Most of these prisoners have been sentenced either under non-political articles of the criminal law or for refusing to obey call-up to obligatory service in the armed forces."

Jews imprisoned for refusing to obey call-up papers between June 1975 and May 1979 are listed in the report as: Boris Kalandarov, Anatoly Malkin, Simon Shnirman, Alexander Silnitsky, Alexander Vilik, and Yakov Vinarov. "In each case, the subject had applied unsuccessfully for permission to leave the country and had been called up for military duty only after applying to emigrate," Amnesty reported.

"In each case, the subject had a double motive for refusing military service. In the first place, each was a Jew who regarded himself as a citizen of Israel, a State which for many years has had hostile relations with the USSR. Second, each would have been aware that in many cases the authorities have refused would-be emigrants permission to leave the country on the formal grounds that, as a result of having served a period in the armed forces, they had access to sensitive information."

"On such grounds the authorities have refused Jews permission to emigrate for five years or longer, even where the person's armed-service did not involve any sensitive work or information. Soviet dissenters estimated in the mid-1970s that 40 percent of known refusals to permit Jews to emigrate were officially based on the fact that the applicant or his relatives had performed military service."

...

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Aliya figures for the first quarter of this year show a 27.4 percent drop compared to the same period in 1979. The overall number of immigrants was 6769. Some of the drop is apparently accountable to a decline in the number of Soviet Jews leaving the USSR. The dropout rate at Vienna for the January-March period was just below 60 percent.