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NEARLY 200 SOVIET JEWS FAST TO PROTEST VISA REFUSALS AS HELSINKI REVIEW CONFERENCE OPENS

NEW YORK, Nov. 12 (JTA) Close to 200 Soviet Jews began hunger strikes in several Soviet cities yesterday to protest the continuing refusal of authorities to allow them to reunite with their families in Israel, it was announced by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). The hunger strikes were timed to coincide with the opening day of the Madrid Conference, the second review meeting of the 1975 Helsinki Accords.

The conference in Madrid opened with a brief ceremony at midnight and then began today despite the lack of an agenda and timetable. The 35-nation meeting has been deadlocked over the Soviet Union's attempt to limit discussion on Soviet human rights violations and the USSR's invasion of Afghanistan during the 12-week meeting. In a compromise agreement, it was decided to let each national delegation make general statements over the next week while efforts to agree on an agenda continued. (see separate story P. 3)

(In Washington today, the State Department expressed "hope that the Soviet Union will ultimately join a reasonable compromise which will allow the Helsinki Commission to go forward with the whole implementation review that has been envisaged by all of its members." Department spokesman John Trattner observed that "Almost alone, the Soviet Union has stood against a review and has tried to limit severely the time envisioned in the conference to conduct implementation of the review. That attitude on the part of the Soviets has brought the conference to the present impasse.")

Moscow Petition

In Moscow more than 100 refuseniks gathered at the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet to deliver a petition to President Leonid Brezhnev, signed by 268 Jews from Moscow, Leningrad, Riga, Kishinev and elsewhere. The letter, signed by those who declared the hunger strikes and by others who did not join the symbolic fast, accused the Soviet authorities of violating agreements on emigration that were part of the 1975 Helsinki Accords.

The petition asserted that "our countless appeals and applications are simply ignored. Many of us haven't been able to get any response to requests. Very often the reason for rejection is not cited.

"In the past year the number of those refused has reached 50,000 by conservative estimates. Judicial persecution of people wishing to leave for Israel is continuing. Our innumerable letters and statements sent to various organizations at all levels are simply ignored.

"Having been placed, in effect, outside the law, we on this day of the opening of the conference, begin a three-day hunger strike in protest and insist on an authoritative explanation of the legal basis of our situation."

Reports from Jewish activists in the Soviet Union indicate that 84 Jews are fasting in Moscow, 28 in Leningrad, 27 in Riga, 15 in Kiev, 7 in Kishinev, 10 in Kharkov and 2 in Tbilisi.

Reacting to the organized protests, Viktor Brailovsky, well-known Jewish activist and refusenik, pointed out that the hunger strikes have materialized into "the widest demonstration in 10 years ... We can't control the Madrid Conference; this is all we can do."

MRS. SADAT SEES PEACE BENEFITS

By Michael Solomon

CAIRO, Nov. 12 (JTA) — Mrs. Jihan Sadat, wife of President Anwar Sadat, addressing a delegation of Hadassah-WIZO today at the Sadats' Cairo residence, in a people-to-people leadership mission, expressed her conviction that the peace process between Israel and Egypt would benefit all Arab countries.

"Instead of concentrating their efforts in wars, which bring only death and destruction, all Arab countries should concentrate their efforts on peace," she said. "What we, as humans, can benefit from peace is of great importance to us and to our children. Every one of us wishes to live in peace."

Mrs. Sadat stressed in a 25-minute address to the 54 women delegates of the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, the role of women in fulfilling humanitarian aims and the improved status of women in Egypt.

Making the presentation on behalf of the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, Mrs. Mirial Small, president of the Canadian group, described its aims and activities and its major projects in Israel. Both Mrs. Sadat and Mrs. Small emphasized the similar aims of women all over the world in preserving peace and good understanding.

BEGIN CITES JABOTINSKY'S 'VISION' AS ARCHITECT OF JEWISH STATE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin of Israel paid tribute last night to Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the Zionist Revisionist Jewish leader who was one of the architects of the Jewish state, declaring that "without him, without his vision, without his thought and his suffering, without his fight, the State of Israel would not have come into being."

Addressing more than 2000 people at a dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here, commemorating the 100th Anniversay of the birth of Jabotinsky, the Israeli premier said that Jabotinsky was his "spiritual father," adding: "Our whole generation, and all the generations to come, owe a debt of gratitude to him, who led us and them from bondage to liberty."

Begin's 13-page address at the Centennial Dinner last night was conspicious for avoiding any reference to contemporary political events. It was devoted from beginning to end to Jabotinsky whom Begin described as a "poet, philologist, statesman, sociologist, author, orator and soldier."

Jabotinsky, Begin declared, "is a victorious personality. We owe him our ultimate salvation, when with the last vestige of our national strength we rose and fought and won in the unequal struggle of the few against the many, of the weak against the strong."

The Centennial Dinner was sponsored by the Jabotinsky Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating the ideological and literary legacy of Jabotinsky.

A dramatic presentation depicting the life of Jabotinsky was performed during the first part of the evening by Lee Strasberg, Roberta Peters, Jan Peerce, Otto Preminger and Ellen Burstyn. Sherry Lansing, president of the 20th Century Fox Productions, moderated the dramatic event.

A few hours before the dinner, Begin presented the Jabotinsky Centennial Medal to 100 distinguished Americans of all faiths and from all walks of life, including the arts and sciences, commerce and public affairs. The awards were conferred at a special ceremony in the Starlight Room of the Waldorf Astoria. They were given in recognition of distinguished service to the state of Israel and the Jewish people.

Among prominent Americans receiving the awards were: the Rev. Billy Graham, Sens. Henry Jackson (D. Wash), Jacob Javits (R.NY), and Daniel Moynihan (D. NY); Secretary of Commerce Philip M. Klutznick, Dr. Edward Teller, writers Leon Uris and Eli Wiesel, Danny Kaye, the comedian, Rev. Jerry Falwell, leader of the Moral Majority movement and Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, former chief of Naval Operations.

Church Refuses Award

One of the scheduled recipients, Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho), rejected the award because Falwell was also being honored. In a telegram to Mordechai Hacohen, chairman of the dinner committee, Church declared that "Mr. Falwell has attempted to distort the American political process by imposing his views and morality as a political litmus test of a man's moral fitness to hold office." He added that "I have great respect for the integrity of the American political process and also for the rights, beliefs and prayers of the American citizens."

Church, a liberal Democrat who was defeated for re-election on Nov. 4, also declared that "Our political and religious freedoms are cornerstones of our system and should not be undermined. Israel's security and America's freedom are inextricably bound together" and "I shall continue to fight for both."

Hacohen told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that as of this afternoon he had not received any letter or telegram from Church. He added, however, "the telegram should not have been addressed to me in the first place. I was not the one who decided who received the awards."

Hacohen stressed that he shared the views of Church as expressed in the telegram that was read to him over the phone by the JTA. "I deeply regret it that Church, who is a staunch friend of Israel, refused the award," he said.

Falwell told reporters last night that he was a Zionist and friend of Israel for 25 years. He said support of Israel was one of the tenets of Moral Majority.

Demonstrators Outside

While Begin was honoring Jabotinsky at the Centennial Dinner two small demonstrations against his government's policies took place outside the Waldorf Astoria.

Some 70 members and supporters of the Jewish Defense League demonstrated against the Camp David accords and Begin's agreement to return captured territory to Egypt as part of the peace treaty. A few blocks away pro-Palestinians demonstrators shouted slogans against Israel's occupation of the West Bank. They carried an effigy of Begin with a placard hanging from his neck stating: "Palestinian blood is on Begin's hands."

Begin went today to Washington where he is scheduled to meet tomorrow with President Carter at the White House.

BEN GURION'S YARZHEIT OBSERVED
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- On the eve of the seventh anniversary of the death of Israel's first premier, David Ben Gurion, the Knesset devoted a special session today in his memory.

The main address was made by Knesset speaker Yitzhak Bermann, who praised Ben Gurion as the man who radiated confidence in time of doubts, knew when to declare independence, and introduced the statehood to a new country composed of people from many origins. "Despite the fascinations of philosophic literature which he loved," Bermann said "BG did not follow doctrines blindly. Despite his sometimes aggressive style, his actions demonstrated a belief in the power of the compromise."

ITALIAN JEWS OPPOSE PLAN

ROME, Nove. 12 (JTA) -- The Italian Jewish community has urged major Jewish organizations to have "second thoughts" about a proposed plan aimed at reducing the high rate of drop-outs -- Jews leaving the Soviet Union who opt to go to countries other than Israel.

The Board of Deputies of Italian Jews, the umbrella organization of Jewish communities, has directed its plea to the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) currently holding its annual assembly in Detroit, the Jewish Agency, the World Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and HIAS. It is opposed to the plan -- on the agenda of the CJF meeting in Detroit -- to substitute Naples for Vienna as the transit point for Jews leaving the USSR. The Italian Jewish community expressed regret that it was not consulted on the issue and stressed that the Naples plan could have grave and dangerous consequences for those Jewish emigres left behind without the assistance given them until now by international Jewish organizations.

The Naples plan is favored by the Jewish Agency because ostensibly it would allow its emissaries more time to persuade the emigres to go to Israel rather than to the U.S. or other Western countries. The Austrian government allows Jews in transit from the Soviet Union only 24 hours in Vienna.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The history of an overlooked radical movement, composed of Jewish emigres to the United States and the newspaper that became their voice for 87 years, is explored in the documentary "Free Voice of Labor -- The Jewish Anarchists" airing Nov. 17 at 10 p.m. on many PBS stations. In the New York metropolitan area it airs on Channel 13 at 8 p.m. Saturday, November 15.

MONTREAL (JTA) -- A new Canadian Jewish Congress committee has been established to advise the Canadian Government on how to aid the development of the third world. CJC national president Irwin Cotler was named chairman of this committee.

PERES AT SOCIALIST MEETING
By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 12 (JTA) Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres left for Madrid today at the head of the Israeli delegation to the Socialist International Conference opening in the Spanish capital. He told reporters before his departure that the Israeli delegation would support Egypt's application for admission of its ruling National Democratic Party into the Socialist International as an associate member.

He said his delegation would make a determined effort to forestall any move to grant the Palestine Liberation Organization observer status in Socialist International institutions and would oppose resolutions condemning the Camp David process or attacking Israel for its Jerusalem Law. Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria has prepared a resolution to that effect and another calling for mutual recognition by Israel and the PLO.

JEWS CONVERGE IN MADRID TO SUPPORT RIGHTS OF SOVIET JEWS
By Edwin Eytan

MADRID, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish activists and Jewish Circles working in conjunction with the Presidium of the Brussels Conference plan to launch an intensive campaign on behalf of Soviet Jewry this week. They have held back for several weeks while the United States delegation and other Western representative tried to save the European Conference for Security and Cooperation.

This morning, as it became clear that the Soviet delegation will not accept any agenda ensuring a thprough discussion of the human rights violations despite the Helsinki Agreement, the Jewish groups decided to launch their campaign.

Jewish soutces in Madrid told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency "we waited till the last minute to try and have our issue debated on the conference floor. Now, as it seems evident that the Soviets will not agree to any conceivable solution, we plan to go ahead with our plans."

The Conference for European Security and Cooperation is attended by delegations from 33 European countries plus the United States and Canada. It was convened to study the applications and implication of the agreement signed in Helsinki. For the last six weeks, while the delegates held preparatory talks, the Soviet delegation and representatives of other East European countries tried to block any serious discussion of these issues.

Chief Rabbis to Demonstrate

The Jewish groups now plan several spectacular actions to help to focus world public opinion on the plight of Soviet Jewry. Next month, the chief rabbis of most West European countries will demonstrate outside the meeting hall and later call a press conference to air the issue. The chief rabbis of France, Britain, Italy, West Germany and Denmark are due to attend and others might join them.

The titular heads of Western Europe's two largest Jewish communities, Baron Alain de Rothschild, President of the Representative Council of French Jews (CRIF)and Labor MP Greville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, are also due to arrive in Madrid next month. Parliamentarians from 14 West European countries are also due in the Spanish capital next month and will ask to be heard by the Conference's presidium to officially raise the question of Soviet violations of Jewish rights in spite of the Helsinki agreement and concrete Russian pledges.

Three Russian Jewish women whose husbands and sons have been unable to leave the Soviet Union, plan to start a hunger strike tomorrow in front of the conference hall. A spokesman for the women said that they will keep their silent vigil outside the hall in spite of the cold and rain until they feel that their problem is likely to be examined by the conference.

The hall where the delegates meet and have been haggling for the last few months is like a fortress cut off from the rest of the world and, some say, reality. Spanish policemen with a long experience in wielding batons are keeping the area clear of all demonstrators and Jewish activists have been unable until now to enter the meeting hall building to meet delegates or present their cases. Even newsmen have a hard time gaining admittance to the building. The Spanish authorities apparently are trying to give the conference as low a profile as possible.

Several organizations not connected with the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry, such as the Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry, are also active in the Spanish capital. They had planned a major press conference earlier this week with Ida Nudel's sister, Ilana Friedman. It was cancelled at the request of the American delegation which hoped at the time to reach a compromise agreement on the agenda with the Soviet Bloc.

Kampelman Praised

All of the Jewish activists in Madrid pay tribute to the role played by the head of the American delegation during the preliminary talks, Washington attorney, Max Kampelman. They say that Kampelman's request to postpone major action on behalf of Soviet Jewry was not motivated by a desire to push the matter into a corner but to have a valid platform for a long and thorough discussion of the subject.

The Socialist international which is also meeting in Madrid, though not connected with the Security and Cooperation Conference, is expected to examine the situation of Soviet Jewry at the request of the Israeli delegation led by Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres.

JEWISH POPULATION DECLINING
By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- A study made by the Hebrew University indicates that the world Jewish population presently stands at under 10 million and by the end of the century will number no more than eight million. According to the study, the commonly accepted figure of more than 11 million Jews today, is erroneous.

Prof. Roberto Becchi, who has studied Jewish demographic changes, said the Jewish population will continue to decline in the 21st century because of the declining Jewish birth rate in the diaspora. According to Becchi, Israel is the only country where natural growth exceeds the death rate. He said that if Israeli families continue to have three or more children, they may compensate for the lower Jewish birth rate abroad. However, he said, there are signs that the average birth rate in Israel will drop below three children per family.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israeli smokers will have to pay 20 percent more for local cigarettes.

GOVERNMENT MAY END ACTION AGAINST NYC JEWISH SCHOOLS CHARGED WITH FALSIFYING APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- The U. S. Government and eight Jewish schools in New York it has accused of using false information to obtain federal finances for education have reached a "tentative agreement" that may close the actions against them.

The agreement to settle the case which has been underway for 18 months has been worked out between counsel for the schools and the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, Richard B. Lowe III. The agreement is now under review in the U.S. Department of Education which will decide the issues.

Developments were made known to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by Richard Hastings, chief of the Division of Certification and Program Review in the Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance.

Hastings said that after aid to the schools was terminated last Jan. 13, the administrative law judge, Manuel Taxel of Brooklyn, appointed by the Education Department to conduct proceedings, was asked by the Department to delay setting a date for them while the inspector general was attempting to negotiate a settlement with the schools.

Hastings explained that under the administrative proceedings, as contrasted with judicial proceedings, final determination is made by the Education Department. That Department's ruling, he said, may be subsequently appealed by the defendants in the courts.

No Public Announcement

Hastings said that no official public announcement has been made about the case but that education journals had reported it last winter after aid was first suspended. Thomas A. Butts, deputy assistant secretary for financial assistance, suspended the funding for 30 days on Jan. 30. This was followed on Feb. 27 with a letter to the schools stating termination based on "the gravity of information" obtained by the government.

The current issue of "Federal Times," reported the case under headlines "Millions in U. S. Aid Cut Off for Eight Jewish Schools in N.Y." and indicated the Carter Administration took into account the political campaigns in New York in its handling of the charges.

The newspaper's report, by Lewis M. Helm who was assistant secretary for public affairs of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in the Ford Administration, declared "no announcement is planned about pending criminal prosecution until after the presendential election Nov. 4" and that "this decision was reached by (HEW) Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris."

Denies Political Motives

When interviewed by JTA, Hastings rejected the "political motivation" reported in the Federal Times. However, the issue was not determined before Nov. 4 and the possibility remains of criminal proceedings being undertaken by the Department of Justice in the future against the schools.

The investigation of the schools started under HEW and it continued the probe although the Education Department was established in the meantime. Hastings said the amount of money involved in the total U.S. payments to the schools for the four U.S. fiscal years 1977 through 1980 inclusive was "in excess" of $8 million.

Under the government's Basic Educational Opportunity Grants Program, college students under certain financial circumstances are entitled to U.S. payments for up to half their college costs. Payments run from $200 to $1,800 a year. The Inspector General's files contain copies of falsified documents from hundreds of students in all parts of the country who applied for assistance.

In this particular case, according to federal sources, the eight schools allegedly processed applications from non-college students with false names and false social security numbers. The schools then allegedly billed the government for the amounts approved by HEW on the basis of the student applications.

Hastings identified the schools that received termination letters as follows: Be'er Shmuel Talmudical Academy, United Talmudical Academy, Rabbinical College of Sanz, Yeshiva F. Shearim-Mishore Halachoth Godoloth Institute, Bais Yaakov Seminary of Brooklyn, and Rabbinical College of Tash, all in Brooklyn; Ohr Yisroel Rabbinical College in Forest Hills, and Rabbinical Seminary of New Square in New Square, N.Y.

DAYAN URGES CONTINUED SUPPORT

NEW YORK, Nove. 11 (JTA) -- Climaxing a record-setting United Jewish Appeal regional conference last week, former Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan called for the reinforcement of what he termed two parallel strands of strength emanating from the United States: a bolstered U.S. presence in the Middle East, and the assurance of continuity in American Jewish support of Israel's people.

Dayan was the keynote speaker at the banquet session of the UJA mid-Atlantic regional conference. The more than 1,000 American Jewish community leaders from five states and the District of Columbia established a new record for a regional UJA event. Pledges for the 1981 UJA campaign announced two days earlier at the Inaugural Dinner launching the conference showed a 63.6 percent rise over last year, the highest increase registered by any campaign event to date.

As a superpower in the world, Dayan declared, the U.S. has the right and responsibility to make its presence felt clearly and unmistakably in the Middle East. This was not a matter of sheer superpower confrontation, he indicated, but of effective support of peace and stability for all the peoples of the region.

"It is essential for the Middle East and for the entire world," he said, "for the U.S. to show that it is not only a great and powerful country but really means to use that power if necessary ... The American presence in Egyptian military bases is good for Egypt, for Israel, for the world ... Further than that, I would hope that the U.S. would try to influence France not to build installations for nuclear weapons for Iraq... The key to many issues involved in peace or war lies here in this country."

Dayan described the parallel domestic strand as the need to strengthen the historic partnership of the American Jewish community with Israel's people. Particularly needed, he declared, was the transmission of Jewish values and a sense of global Jewish unity to the new generation of American Jews. "It is a matter of strength through continuity," he stated, "a matter of helping the younger generation to remain Jewish and to care for their fellow Jews throughout the world."

Some $3 million in pledges was announced at the dinner. In addition, almost $2 million was pledged for Project Renewal.