DOCTORS STRIKE, FAST END AS ARBITRATION PROCEEDURES BEGIN: HOSPITALS RE-OPEN

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, June 27 (JTA) — The four-month-old doctors strike ended today along with the mass hunger strike by doctors that began 11 days ago and forced many of the major hospitals to close and sacrificially curtail their services.

Dr. Yehoshua (Yossi) Wizman, chairman of the Israel Medical Association (IMA), ordered the doctors to return to work this morning. The doctors' representatives and government negotiators spent the night working out details of binding arbitration to which the Cabinet agreed yesterday in face of an unprecedented medical crisis. The IMA Council convened at noon today for a formal discussion of the agreement. But the priority now seems to be to get the country's hospitals functioning normally.

Medical experts said this would take 2-3 days. But it may be months before the backlog of postponed and delayed other medical treatments can be brought up to date and the accumulation of paper work untangled. Meanwhile, representatives of the doctors and the government will each name an arbitrator. The two persons chosen will then nominate a third arbitrator who will serve as the neutral chairman of the panel.

The issues up for arbitration are salary increases and improved working conditions which the normal process of negotiations failed to resolve during the 118-day strike. The Finance Ministry which had firmly opposed arbitration, declined to comment on the outcome of the strike, generally regarded as victory for the doctors. But unofficial sources maintained that it was not the Finance Ministry but the government as a whole that suffered defeat.

No Victory

The doctors insisted that there were no victors or vanquished. One physician who had fasted for eight days observed that the doctors may make some financial gains "but we lost morally." He was apparently referring to the prolonged disruption of hospital and other medical services which put the burden of suffering on the ill and infirm.

It was generally agreed that the hunger strike, which began less than two weeks ago at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba created the crisis that turned the tide after negotiations between the IMA and the government became deadlocked. Dr. Izraelevitch, of Soroka Hospital welcomed the end of the fast today. He said he was surprised by the speed with which the hunger strike spread and the huge number of doctors who joined it. As of yesterday, it was estimated that some 3,000 physicians, half of the government-employed medical force, were fasting. They were joined in many places by nurses and medical students.

As scores of doctors collapsed from weakness, surgeries were shut down along with emergency rooms and other facilities and several of the country's largest hospitals simply closed.

Faced with this crisis, the government was forced to act and in so doing it emerged that Premier Menachem Begin's son, Dr. Binyamin Zev Begin, a geologist by training, played a major role behind the scenes. It had long been rumored that Begin was relying increasingly on his son for political advice not only on the doctors' strike but on other matters of state as far back as the Camp David accords in 1978.

The younger Begin is regarded as ideologically even more hardline and rightwing than his father. Because he holds no political office and is outside the government, the Prime Minister's Office took pains to conceal his role. Nevertheless, Binyamin Begin reportedly influenced his father to support binding arbitration as the only way out of the medical crisis and did much of the behind-the-scenes negotiating with reluctant Cabinet ministers.

Reporters who regularly attend Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor's briefing at the close of every Cabinet session were, yesterday, ushered into a side room instead of Meridor's office. No explanation was given. One reporter, who left the room briefly, noticed Begin's son was ensconced behind Meridor's desk busily engaged in telephone conversations. When this was brought to Meridor's attention, the Cabinet Secretary was visibly embarrassed. He noted that Begin was a close friend of his and of other top officials.

Meridor denied that the younger Begin had been receiving regular full reports of Cabinet deliberations. He indicated however that the Premier's son was closely informed of affairs of state. That involvement made headlines in the Israeli press this morning. Some commentators predicted that the younger Begin would soon become active in politics.

REFORM LEADER WARNS AGAINST ADOPTING 'WHO IS JEW' LAW

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 27 (JTA) — A leader of the Reform movement warned here today that if the Knesset was ever to pass the "Who is a Jew" bill, non-Orthodox aliyot to Israel would dry up completely.

Gerard Daniel, president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, was referring to the measure that would invalidate conversions by other than Orthodox rabbis by inserting the words, according to halakha (Jewish law) into the Law of Return. The Law of Return automatically grants Israeli citizenship to any Jew settling in the country who desires it. Premier Menachem Begin has pledged to do everything in his power to see that the bill is adopted during his term in office. But when it was brought before the Knesset last March 21, it was defeated by a vote of 58-50.

Daniel spoke at a press conference preliminary to the 22nd International conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism which opens here tomorrow. The conference will be attended by 600 Reform Jews from Israel and 23 other countries. Although the "Who is a Jew" issue is not on the agenda, it is expected to figure in the deliberations this week, just as it has at previous conferences.

Another controversial issue is the decision by the Reform Movement in the United States to recognize as Jewish the offspring of a Jewish father and a non-Jewish mother. Until now, all three branches
of Judaism—Reform, Conservative and Orthodox—have observed the tradition that Jewish identity is determined only by its mother.

Rabbi Mordechai Ratner, secretary general of the Reform movement in Israel, said in response to questions at today's press conference that "the movement in Israel did not accept this (American) approach." He said, "We shall have to deal with this development when the time comes. I pressure that we shall treat each case on its merits and see to what extent the assumption that this person was raised as a Jew proves itself correct." He added, "We shall not hesitate to send such persons to be converted—but not by Orthodox rabbis."

Reform Committed To Zionism

Daniel explained that the conference was taking place in Israel despite the discriminatory attitude of the authorities toward Reform Judaism "because for us the commitment to Zionism is total—so total that we are the only international Jewish organization, with most of its members living abroad, which has its headquarters in Israel."

Rabbi Richard Hirsch, director of the World Union's executive, complained that notwithstanding its accomplishments in recent years, the Reform movement in Israel has not yet been recognized. Rabbi Ratner noted that there are 17 Reform congregations in Israel, youth movement and two kibbutzim, Yahel and Lotan.

The Reform leaders unveiled a new prayer book for Reform Jews in Israel which had been in preparation for more than 10 years by a special committee of Progressive rabbis here in cooperation with other scholars in the movement. It is called "Avodah Shebaalev" (Service of the Heart). It is written in Hebrew and is based on traditional versions of prayers adapted to the contemporary ideology of Progressive Judaism. According to Ratner, the new prayer book allows worshippers "a sincere expression of the heart, rather than a meaningless recitation of lips and mouth."

NY LIMITS CORONER'S POWER TO PERFORM AUTOPSY IF THERE IS RELIGIOUS OBJECTION

ALBANY, N.Y., June 27 (JTA) — The New York Legislature has passed an unprecedented measure which will substantially limit the power of medical examiners throughout the state to perform an autopsy over religious objections, an issue of vital concern to observant Jews. The bill's principal sponsor, Assemblyman Sheldon Silver (D, Manhattan) said it is the first and only law of its kind in any of the 50 states.

Silver said the measure, unanimously approved both by the Assembly and the State Senate in the closing hours of the current legislative session, is expected to be signed by Gov. Mario Cuomo. Silver said the measure was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Jim Lack (R, Suffolk) and was drafted with the help of Dennis Rapp, executive director of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), and COLPA attorneys Judah Dick and A. David Stem.

Silver said that, under existing law, autopsies must be performed in all cases when death occurs in the absence of medical supervision, such as in traffic accidents and other occasions when a doctor is unable to certify the cause of death.

Silver said that some courts have, on occasion, banned autopsies when objections were raised on religious grounds. But, he added, those opposing the autopsy had to promptly start a court action to prevent the exercise by the medical examiner of his discretion ostensibly approved by existing law.

The bill provides that an autopsy may not be performed over religious objections unless there is a "compelling public necessity," defined as a situation in which the autopsy "is essential to the conduct of a criminal investigation of a homicide of which the decedent is the victim," or one in which "discovery of the cause of death is necessary to meet an immediate and substantial threat to the public health" and "a dissection or autopsy is essential to ascertain the cause of death."

Silver said the measure also provides that a next of kin or "friend" of the dead person, defined as someone "who maintained regular contact with the decedent as to be familiar with his religious beliefs," can oppose an autopsy. The bill also requires that all permitted autopsies must be the "least intrusive procedure consistent with the compelling state interest and cannot be performed until there has been 48 hours notice to permit an objecting party to challenge the propriety of the particular dissection."

If a medical examiner maintains that an autopsy is warranted by a compelling public necessity other than investigation of a homicide or prevention of disease, the bill requires the obtaining of a court order "on notice to next of kin or friend, or if none is known to them, to such party as the court may direct."

Reverses Current Procedure

Silver said this approach reverses the current procedure under which opponents of an autopsy must go to court to have clearly objectionable autopsies" and provides a mechanism for a court to rule in extraordinary circumstances.

Jewish religious law imposes severe limits under which dissection of a cadaver is permitted and improper dissection is considered a defilement of the body and a desecration of the good name of the dead person.

Silver said he was satisfied that the approved measure strikes an appropriate balance between the legitimate needs of members of minority faiths and the law enforcement and public health interests of all citizens of New York state. He introduced a similar bill in the 1981 session but it failed in the Senate after being approved by the Assembly.

Rapp said that, based on the experience gained in helping get the New York law enacted, COLPA will now start an effort to get similar legislation adopted in the 14 other states in which there are COLPA chapters.

3 UJA MISSIONS IN ISRAEL

By Gil Sadan

JERUSALEM, June 27 (JTA)—Three major leadership groups representing Jewish communities in the United States will be visiting Israel together for the first time this week to prepare for the United Jewish Appeal's 1984 campaign.

Leaders of the Women's Division of the UJA and the chairman of Project Renewal in some 50 American-Jewish communities linked with distressed communities in Israel, will join the UJA campaign leaders to study the issues and human needs underlying the 1984 campaign.

They will follow parallel itineraries to make in-depth studies of human support services of the Jewish Agency and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) which are funded by the annual UJA/community campaigns.

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There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated Monday, July 4 because of the 4th of July postal holiday.
SPECIAL CABINET SESSION TO DISCUSS REDEPLOYMENT OF ISRAELI TROOPS IN LEBANON

By David Landau

Jerusalem June 27 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin said today that he will convene a special Cabinet session this week to discuss the redeployment of the Israel Defense Force in Lebanon. Begin made the disclosure at a briefing to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee shortly after meeting with the U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, who arrived here yesterday.

Some observers interpreted Habib's visit at this time as a U.S. effort to head off any Israeli decision on redeployment in Lebanon until after Begin's scheduled meeting with President Reagan in Washington at the end of July. The U.S. fears a partial Israeli pullback would be a signal to Syria or Palestine Liberation Organization units to move forward, unless the Lebanon army backed by U.S. marines and other multinational forces elements, moved into the vacuum.

But Israeli sources made it clear this evening that while a Cabinet discussion might begin this week, the Premier did not expect the Cabinet to reach a final decision until after his talks with Reagan.

Peres Urges Immediate Pullback

Opposition leader Shimon Peres urged Begin to go ahead with the pullback before his Washington visit. "Why drag it out?" Peres was quoted as saying at the committee. "It is a matter of lives." Begin responded that the withdrawal was not necessarily linked to the timing of his visit to Washington.

Begin said the Americans appeared to be coming around to Israel's assessment that the Syrians have no intention of cooperating in an overall withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon at least for the time being. Begin said that was the impression he got from Habib. Other Israeli sources confirmed that the U.S. envoy had been "less optimistic" than in the past on the prospects of the Syrians eventually agreeing to pull out. Habib left today for Saudi Arabia, apparently in a new American effort to encourage Arab pressure on Syria to withdraw.

But another distinguished American visitor, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, said after a meeting with Begin today that in the past President Hafez Assad of Syria had put forward "strong positions" only to moderate them later.

Kissinger said he did not know if his own negotiating experience with Damascus in 1975 was "still relevant." But he did not preclude the same process occurring now. He expressed a "high respect for Assad's intelligence and for Syrian nationalism." He said it would surely be "very controversial" if the Administration were to ask the Congress for more U.S. marines in the multinational force to step into the areas vacated by Israel in a partial pullback.

If their deployment were part of an Israeli-Syrian accord on a demilitarized zone, "that would be one thing," but otherwise Congress would likely balk at introducing American troops into areas that the IDF felt were too dangerous to stay in, Kissinger remarked.

GARDEN IN LONDON'S HYDE PARK IS BRITAIN'S HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

By Maurice Samuelson

London, June 27 (JTA) -- Britain's first national memorial to the victims of the Nazi Holocaust was officially unveiled today--more than 38 years after the Allies liberated the death camps.

It is a small garden in a quiet corner of London's Hyde Park, in which newly planted silver birch trees surround a cluster of large boulders, inscribed with a passage from the Book of Lamentations. On behalf of the British government, Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, declared the garden open describing it as "a reminder of the past and a warning for the future."

Under grey skies, a crowd of about 500, including many Holocaust survivors, then listened to the Chief Rabbi, Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, read from the Psalms. After the singing of the memorial prayer by the Reverend Simon Hass, the crowd recited the Kaddish and sang "Adon Olam."

The garden was sponsored by the Board of Deputies of British Jews whose president, Greville Janner, Labor MP, has negotiated for the past four years with the government over a suitable site.

Janner later told luncheon guests at the City of London's Guildhall that the garden was "not only a reminder of past tragedy but a flavor of warning for the future, that any threat to Jewish rights is an immediate and an inevitable threat also to the rights of every other minority."

Gerold Kaufman, the opposition Labor Party's environment spokesman, whose grandmother was murdered in Poland by the Nazis, said that the memorial was essential because the German responsibility was partly shared by other countries.

It was also needed now, he added, because the sheer horror of the Holocaust made it difficult for today's generation to believe that it ever happened.

Prof. Thomas Bergenthal, dean of the Law School of Washington University, who praised the simplicity of the Hyde Park Garden, said Holocaust memorials must not become places that people are too frightened to approach. Bergenthal was one of the youngest inmates of Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.

4 JEWS HONORED IN CANADA

By Ben Kayfetz

Toronto, June 27 (JTA) -- Four prominent Canadian Jews are among the recipients of the Order of Canada to be awarded this Friday on the occasion of Dominion Day. Named on the list announced by Governor General and Chairwoman, are Naim Katchen of Ottawa, Max Enkin of Toronto, Jacob Lowy of Montreal and Klaus Goldschlag, the Canadian Ambassador to West Germany.

Kattan, an author and editor and a senior official of the Canada Council, was born in Iraq and was first employed in Canada by the Canadian Jewish Congress. He directed its Cercle Julie de Langue Francaise and is an authority on French and English literature in Canada. One of his books describes growing up as a Jew in Iraq.

Enkin, 84, is a clothing manufacturer who already holds the Order of the British Empire (OBE), He was involved in bringing refugees to Canada after World War II as part of a clothing industry project. He is a past president of the Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto and an officer of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

Lowy, 75, was born in Czechoslovakia. He has donated a valuable collection of Judaica and Judaic artifacts to the National Archives. Ambassador Goldschlag is a member of the family expelled from Germany by the Nazis.

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Toronto (JTA) -- Only four out of 28 books sent to refuseniks in the Soviet Union reached their destination, despite provisions in Soviet law which prohibit interference with the postal services, according to the B'nai B'rith Canada Soviet Jewry Committee.
PRISONER GETS COURT OK FOR KOSHER FOOD HIS WAY
By Ben Gollob

NEW YORK, June 27 (JTA) — A federal judge, in what was described as the first case of its kind, has ordered the federal Bureau of Prisons to provide a Jewish inmate with food certified by a Hasidic rabbinic agency, Howard Zuckerman, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, reported today.

The ruling by Judge John Larkin, Jr., of the federal district court for the eastern district of North Carolina, was handed down in Trenton, N.J., and ruled that the prisoner, whose name was withheld and who is believed to be from Montreal, was entitled to provisions certified as kosher by the Central Rabbinical Congress (CRC) of the U.S., A., and Canada, the umbrella agency for all Satmar Hasidic groups. The CRC has an extensive kosher product certification program.

The ruling was in response to a suit filed on behalf of the inmate at the federal Correctional Institution at Butner, N.C., which challenged the bureau’s policy of providing only kosher products certified by the Kashruth Division of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, designated by the O-U symbol.

COLPA Aided Case

COLPA had assisted the inmate’s attorney and filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case. The COLPA brief was drafted by David Butler, a Washington lawyer and member of COLPA’s Washington chapter.

Butler said the issue was the meaning of rules relating to observance of Jewish dietary laws in federal prisons. In 1975, COLPA assisted the Bureau of Prisons in drafting regulations to provide a kosher diet for federal prisoners asking for such a diet. The regulations provide that all kosher-observing Jewish inmates shall be provided food “certified or deemed acceptable by the Kashruth Division of the Orthodox Union” or any other Jewish agency deemed acceptable by the inmates.

Butner prison officials said they could satisfy these regulations by providing O-U certified food but the inmate claimed that his traditions required him to eat only CRC-approved foods. In his brief, Butler argued that the Hasidic inmate had the right — based on the regulations and the First Amendment of the constitution — to insist on getting food acceptable to his religious beliefs.

O-U Listed in Regulations

Butler cited the text of the regulations which recognize that “some Jewish inmates may require food that is approved by an organization other than the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.”

Butler also argued that, under the First Amendment, which protects the right to the free exercise of religion, an individual cannot be required to sacrifice his religious beliefs to maintain his health.

Dennis Rapp, COLPA executive director, said that the Orthodox Union is specifically named in the regulations because it is a non-profit organization whose certification trademark is the most widely recognized symbol of kashruth.

NEW ISRAELI THINK TANK

NEW YORK, June 27 (JTA) — Israel spends 20 percent of its gross national product for social services such as welfare, education and health, the same amount it devotes to national defense, according to the first report issued by the Jerusalem-based Center for Social and Political Studies in Israel.

The report was released simultaneously with the announcement here of the establishment of the new Center by officials of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) which aided in its establishment and continues to help finance it. The Center is headed by Dr. Israel Katz, a former Israeli Minister of Labor and Social Affairs. It is modeled on the Brookings Institution in Washington. JDC president Harry Taub, who congratulated Katz, said the Center “will prove to be a significant tool for social planning in Israel.”

According to the report, the largest portion of the Israeli government’s allocation for social services is for income maintenance (welfare) at 40 percent. Allocations for education are 30 percent and health, 20 percent with an additional 10 percent for personal and community social services.

Health Care Cost Increase

The report predicted a significant growth in health care costs in Israel in the years ahead, due in part to the aging of the population, a growing proportion of which is aged 75 or older. It noted that Israel’s elderly population grew at double the rate of the general population in the last ten years. Although the rate of its growth will be moderated in the 1980s, the increases will still exceed the increases in the general population by 25 percent, the report said.

The burden on medical services therefore will be particularly severe in the area of hospitalization and there will be a need for “expanded alternatives to hospitalization such as day care units,” according to the Center’s report.

The report also projected increased costs in the area of education, partly due to the increased number of students attending secondary schools which have a higher per capita cost than elementary schools.

The authors of the report were among others, Dr. Yaakov Kop, project director; Dr. Yaakov Habib, director of the JDC/Brookdale Institute; and Prof. Gur Offer of the Hebrew University.

BLUMENFELD HEADS HOLOCAUST COMMISSION

NEW YORK, June 27 (JTA) — Dr. The New York City Holocaust Memorial Commission announced the appointment of David Blumenfeld of Great Neck, N.Y., as executive director. The commission was initiated by Mayor Edward Koch to create “a living memorial” in the city to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Blumenfeld is giving up his present position as a director of the Israel Bond organization to assume full-time duties with the memorial commission.

He will coordinate all aspects of the commission’s activities, including site selection, content and programming for the memorial and fund-raising. The co-chairman of the commission are Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau and George Klein, a New York business leader.

Noting that New York City is home to the largest number of Holocaust survivors, Klein said “the mandate of the commission is to set up a memorial which would house a museum, reference library, archives and educational and conference facilities.”

Before joining the Israel Bond Organization, Blumenfeld was executive head of the National Federation of Jewish Men’s Club.