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**1 MILLION ISRAELI WORKERS STAGE
2-HOUR STRIKE TO PROTEST AGAINST
THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES**
By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- About one million wage-earners and salaried workers, virtually the entire labor force of Israel, staged a two-hour strike today to protest the government's economic policies. The strike, called by Histadrut, was 100 percent effective, inasmuch as it was observed by all branches of labor and professionals regardless of party affiliation.

The economic crisis which precipitated the mass walkout, the largest in Israel's history, continued to create turmoil. The situation topped the agenda at today's Cabinet meeting where Premier Yitzhak Shamir was having difficulties finding a replacement for Finance Minister Yoram Aridor who resigned last Thursday under heavy pressure from his Cabinet colleagues no less than from the opposition.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange remained closed for the seventh consecutive day and there was no indication when trading would be resumed. The mood of the working population was hardly improved when it became apparent that the 20.5 percent cost-of-living increment to be added to their October salaries has already been wiped out by the drastic price hikes instituted by the government.

Record High Consumer Price Index

The consumer price index for September, published Friday, showed a nine percent increase, a record high for that month. During the first two weeks of October, the price of government subsidized food products, fuel and other consumer items rose by 50 percent and the cost of imported goods by 23 percent, equal to last week's devaluation of the Shekel.

Inflation in October is expected to soar to a rate of 16-20 percent, an unprecedented high for a single month. The next cost-of-living increments will not be paid until January, 1984. Economists expect the inflation rate for all of 1983 to be as high as 190 percent or even higher. Prices rose by 86.8 percent during the first nine months of the year.

The wildly soaring inflation and the absence, at this time, of any firm government plan to deal with it, set the stage for today's strike and gave the trade union federation a chance to show its muscle.

Histadrut Secretary General Yehoram Meshel stressed that the strike was not against Aridor himself but against the Likud government's policies which, he charged, eroded workers' incomes while protecting the interests of the well-to-do who were able to buy foreign currencies with cash raised by the sale of their bank shares.

Strike Cuts Across Political Lines

Civil servants, most factory workers and others struck from 2-4 p.m. Teachers, electrical workers and professionals stopped work for two hours at other times of the day. The railroads, ports and airports, postal services, radio and television were paralyzed for the duration of the walk-out.

The small National Trades Union, founded by Herut, appealed to its members not to strike against the government but its call was largely unheeded. Workers at the port of Ashdod, a stronghold of Likud voters in the last two national elections, struck for the full work day and were joined by the work forces at factories in the Ashdod area who felt that a two-hour stoppage was not sufficient to reflect their protest and anger.

Aridor resigned his office after his plan to link Israel's currency exclusively to the U.S. Dollar created a storm of protests when it was leaked by an aide to the newspaper Yediot Achronot last Thursday morning. The aide, Ezra Sadan, Director General of the Finance Ministry, was castigated by Likud for leaking the proposal, apparently before it was brought before Shamir.

Pressure To Name Aridor's Successor

The new Premier, who has been trying to cope with the economic crisis almost from the moment he was sworn in last Monday, apparently hoped to persuade Deputy Premier David Levy to take the Treasury portfolio. Levy flatly refused and insisted today that his decision was final.

Levy, a potential candidate for the office of Prime Minister in the future, reportedly believes the Treasury post is a death trap for any politician with higher ambitions. It has had a higher rate of turnover than any other senior Cabinet portfolio.

Shamir is under pressure to name a successor to Aridor by tomorrow. He reportedly has narrowed his choice to two Herut colleagues, Yigal Cohen-Orgad, head of the Likud caucus in the Knesset Finance Committee, and Haim Kaufman, Deputy Finance Minister. About 150 members of the Herut Central Committee signed a petition over the weekend supporting Kaufman.

But the post is believed likely to go to Cohen-Orgad, a political hawk, an economist by training and one of the most vociferous critics of Aridor. Cohen-Orgad seems to have the support of all of Shamir's coalition partners.

Meanwhile, Yaacov Meridor, Minister of Economic Affairs, has indicated that he, too, will resign shortly. He said his decision had nothing to do with Aridor's resignation.

The Cabinet ended its session today with no word of Aridor's probable successor. It appointed a special committee, headed by Levy, to work out a plan to salvage the depressed bank shares. Their collapse a week ago threatens the savings of tens of thousands of investors and could precipitate a wave of bankruptcies.

**ISRAELIS, U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT
AND AMERICAN JEWS CONDEMN
THE 12-YEAR SENTENCE IMPOSED ON BEGUN**
(From the JTA Wire Services)

Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Israelis, American Jews and others from all walks of life angrily condemned the maximum sentence imposed on Soviet Jewish activist Iosif Begun by a court in Vladimir last Friday after a three-day trial.

Begun, a 51-year-old engineer and unofficial teacher of Hebrew in Moscow -- where such activity is banned -- was sentenced to seven years imprisonment

to be followed by five years of internal exile. He had been charged with "anti-Soviet" activities.

The U.S. State Department expressed the official American protest in a statement that referred to Begun's trial as the cutting edge of a "new wave of repression" in the USSR and an "increase in officially sanctioned anti-Semitism."

Actions In Israel

The Israeli government issued an official statement after today's Cabinet meeting denouncing the Soviet policy of discrimination against Jews.

It appealed to all nations of the world and lovers of freedom to appeal to the Soviet government to overturn the sentence and to allow Begun and other Jews to leave the Soviet Union for Israel. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem instructed Israeli embassies abroad to urge their host governments to bring pressure to bear on Moscow for Begun's release.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer issued a separate appeal to his counterparts in other countries and to teachers and academicians everywhere to protest the sentence. He also instructed teachers in Israel to talk to their pupils about Begun and his struggle to emigrate to Israel and his efforts to teach Hebrew in the Soviet Union.

Fourteen former Prisoners of Conscience who had been jailed in the USSR and now reside in Israel staged a protest outside the Russian Church in Jerusalem today. A major protest demonstration has been scheduled for Tuesday outside the Knesset building. Legal circles in Israel and the Bar Association called on lawyers abroad to protest "this travesty of justice."

Begun Was A Special Target

Begun, who had long sought in vain for permission to emigrate, has been a special target of the Soviet authorities and KGB harassment. He was first arrested on March 3, 1977, charged with "parasitism," having lost his job at the Moscow Central Research Institute years before when he first applied for an exit visa.

He was tried in June, 1977 and sentenced to two years of internal exile which he spent in the remote city of Magadan. He completed his sentence in February, 1978 but was arrested in June and sentenced to three more years in Magadan. He returned in August 1980.

On November 6, 1982, he was arrested a third time and charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." He was reportedly held in solitary confinement for most of the time until his trial opened last Wednesday.

The possible sentences were 2-3 years' internal exile or seven years in prison plus five years' internal exile. He drew the maximum.

Says USSR Is 'Making a Grave Mistake'

Avraham Haman, chairman of the Israel Public Committee for Soviet Jewry, said today, "The Soviet Union is making a grave mistake if it thinks that by this verdict Isaf Begun will be forgotten. We vow that we will protest on his behalf every single day" against this "malicious and evil" sentence.

Histadrut Secretary General Yerahum Meshel asked the International Federation of Free Trade Unions to intervene on Begun's behalf. Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, called the sentence "vile."

Begun was guilty only of teaching Hebrew and seeking to return to his ancestral homeland, Dulzin said. Science Minister Yuval Neeman appealed to Amnesty International, the organization that seeks to help political prisoners everywhere, to help seek Begun's release.

In New York, Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), noted that this was the third trial of Begun. "The real offense which Begun committed is the attempt to teach and foster a 5,000 year-old language and literature of which has furnished the world with moral insight and great beauty -- Hebrew. His treatment is another horrible example of Soviet inhumanity to man and disrespect for the decent opinion of mankind," Abram said.

Calls For Ending Trade With The USSR

Avigdor Eskin, a former unofficial teacher of Hebrew in Moscow, who is now in Israel, spoke of Begun at a rally at the Western Wall in Jerusalem organized by the Israel branch of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ). Eskin, a close friend of Begun, recalling the silence during the Holocaust, urged the free world to cease trade with the Soviet Union.

At the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, professors and researchers in Russian culture and language, called on "our colleagues around the world to join" their call to release Begun with permission to emigrate to Israel and to make possible free Jewish culture in the USSR.

The State Department noted in its statement that Begun's trial began on the heels of the Madrid conference on compliance with the human rights clauses of the Helsinki accords, of which the Soviet Union is a signatory. The Department called on the Soviet authorities to acknowledge the "legitimate, widespread concern" for Begun and "grant him the permission to emigrate he has so long sought."

LEBANON TOWN UNDER CURFEW AFTER IDF UNIT IS ATTACKED BY VILLAGERS

TEL AVIV, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- The south Lebanon town of Nabatiya was placed under curfew today after a clash between an Israeli unit and local villagers. None of the Israelis were hurt but 10 villagers were injured by the troops trying to extricate themselves after two vehicles were set on fire.

The incident started when light arms fire and grenades were thrown at the IDF patrol near the local market place. Thousands of local Shiite Moslem workers streamed out of mosques where they had been observing a Moslem feast and attacked other IDF patrols rushing to the rescue of the group under attack.

CLARK'S APPOINTMENT RAISES QUESTIONS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- President Reagan's surprise appointment of his National Security Advisor William Clark as Secretary of the Interior has focused attention on who will be named to replace Clark.

The expected replacement is Robert McFarlane, the senior deputy National Security Advisor who has been Reagan's special envoy to the Mideast for the past three months. However, there is some speculation that the post may be given to Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said last Friday that no decision had yet been made.

McFarlane met with the President for a half hour Friday morning, but this was a scheduled meeting to discuss the situation in the Mideast, particularly Lebanon. McFarlane's return from Beirut last week signals the start of high level review of U.S. Mideast policy.

Clark's appointment to replace the controversial James Watt came last Friday. Earlier in the week there had been reports of strong disagreements between Clark and Secretary of State George Shultz over McFarlane's handling of the negotiations in Lebanon. The State Department denied that Shultz had made any comment about Clark going to Rome October 1 to meet with McFarlane.

Shultz reportedly had no inkling of the impending Clark appointment when he had lunch with Clark and McFarlane at the State Department Thursday. Clark is one of Reagan's closest advisors and had been named to the National Security Council post and before that Deputy Secretary of State under Alexander Haig, despite his lack of knowledge about foreign affairs.

U.S. Stresses Its Lebanon Policy Remains Unchanged

Meanwhile, the Administration was at pains Friday to stress that there was no change in its policy in Lebanon despite the Clark reassignment and the death of a U.S. marine who was killed by snipers Friday at Beirut International Airport.

"We are deeply concerned that our marines continue to come under fire and are saddened by the death today of another marine," Reagan was quoted as saying. Friday's casualty was the fifth marine killed in Lebanon.

However, U.S. officials reportedly said that the marine who died and another one who was injured were the result of a direct attack on the U.S. force rather than being caught in the cross-fire between various Lebanese groups as happened in the past.

Speakes, however, stressed that the "fact that the cease-fire is holding by and large and the national reconciliation project is moving forward indicates" that the multinational force with the marine contingent in part "exerts a positive force in moving Lebanon towards stability, security and eventual peace."

Reagan, joined by Clark, Shultz and McFarlane met Friday morning with Wadi Hadad, Lebanese President Amin Gemayel's National Security Advisor. Hadad told reporters that he was sorry about the death of the marine but said this was the price the U.S. had to pay to defend democratic interests.

Hadad said he urged the Americans to "neutralize" the effect the occupying forces are having on Lebanese citizens -- an apparent reference to Syria -- making national reconciliation difficult. Speakes refused to comment on the conversation with Hadad. He said that the U.S. is not directly involved in negotiations for national reconciliation but it has tried to be "helpful" in achieving "the instrument" to bring about national reconciliation.

U.S. REMAINS MUM ON REPORTED PLANS TO EQUIP JORDAN'S ARMY By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration continued to maintain an official silence over the weekend on reports that the U.S. plans to equip two Jordanian army brigades to serve as part of a joint U.S.-Jordanian strike force to meet special emergencies in the Persian Gulf.

But White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said last Friday that since both Jordan and the U.S. are interested in Mideast security "it should surprise no one that questions of regional security are regularly discussed."

According to reports, the Administration has secretly proposed a \$225 million appropriation for the two brigades and to provide the Jordanians with C-130 transport planes, medical evacuation transport and advanced infantry and river crossing equipment.

The plan, which has been in the works since 1979, has been discussed with key members of Congress and with the Israelis. The Administration apparently hopes to persuade Israel not to oppose the plan but the Israelis fear the force can be used against them.

Speakes said Friday he would neither "confirm or deny" the report. "Jordan is an important friend" of the United States with which we have long-standing and well known military supply relationships," Speakes said.

"It is in the interest of the United States to continue these relationships as both countries have an interest in regional security that is equally well known. It should surprise no one that questions of regional security are regularly discussed."

Speakes' statement was exactly the same as State Department spokesman John Hughes made last Thursday when the report became public. Strong Congressional opposition to the plan is expected, since there have been moves in Congress against any additional arms to Jordan in the wake of King Hussein's refusal to join the Mideast peace negotiations.

HAMBURG URGED TO PRESERVE FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMP AS A WARNING AND MEMORIAL TO FUTURE GENERATIONS By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- More than 10,000 persons, including leading West German political figures and academicians, Nazi victims and groups and individuals from Israel, the United States and other countries are urging the City State of Hamburg to preserve the former concentration camp at Neuengamme as a memorial and warning to future generations.

An appeal, bearing the signatures, among others, of some 400 former inmates of Neuengamme which was used by the Nazis for slave labor, was presented to Hamburg Mayor Klaus von Dohnanyi. The appeal notes that from 1938-1945, 106,000 persons were held at Neuengamme of whom 55,000 perished, mainly because of inhumane living and working conditions.

At present, most of the remaining buildings at the camp serve as a prison. Hamburg cultural groups have called for the preservation of the other buildings not in use as a monument. But the local authorities decreed that they are not worthy of preservation.

The former brick factory where thousands of deportees died is to be torn down and other buildings are expected to be incorporated into the prison complex over the next few years.

Signatories to the appeal include such prominent Germans as Hans-Jochen Vogel, Justice Minister in the previous Social Democratic-led government; Horst Ehmke; several Bundestag members; scientists, authors and theologians and Nazi victims from France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Israel.

DODD: USSR EFFORT TO REGAIN GOOD WILL AFTER DOWNING AIRLINER MAY HELP IMPROVE CONDITION OF SOVIET JEWS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Sen. Christopher Dodd (D. Conn.) predicted last night that the Soviet Union's effort to regain the international prestige it lost when it shot down a South Korean airliner may result in improved conditions for Soviet Jewry.

"The Soviet Union's massacre of KAL 7 and its passengers dealt a heavy blow to the image of the Soviets," he told the annual meeting of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ).

"At some point even a regime as unfeeling as Yuri Andropov's is going to try to recoup some lost good will. Keeping the attention of the world focused on the plight of Soviet Jewry is laying the groundwork for such an eventuality. It will make clear to the Kremlin leadership one unmistakable way in which it can make a positive gesture to the world."

Dodd, who received the UCSJ's Anatoly Shcharansky Freedom Award from the organization's president, Lynn Singer, said there was a need to "redouble our efforts" for Soviet Jews who he said are now facing a "new wave" of officially sponsored anti-Semitism. "We have to unceasingly uncover, publicize and condemn incidents of Soviet mistreatment of its Jewish population and the Soviet refusal to permit voluntary immigration."

Urges Strengthening Of Jackson-Vanik Amendment

Dodd said public officials must continue to speak out on the issue and the Administration must bring up the plight of Soviet Jewry at all meetings with the Soviets and at any international forums where human rights is discussed.

He also called for the strengthening of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment which he said was successful in increasing emigration from Hungary and Rumania but not the USSR. He suggested that ways might be made to make trade concessions more favorable to the Soviets so that they would be willing to increase emigration in order to get these benefits.

The 150 to 200 persons from across the country who have been attending the annual three-day meeting which ends tomorrow have participated in workshops and lectures. Singer told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a sense of "despair" hit the organization when it learned of the sentencing Friday of Iosif Begun. Three of Begun's fellow activists and fellow Hebrew teachers in Moscow, Lev Ulyanovsky, Yuri Shtern and Alexander Shipov, are attending the meeting.

But Singer said she found a "renaissance" of spirit among the people attending the meeting and a desire to work even harder for the cause of Soviet Jewry.

ULTRA-ORTHODOX ATTACK ON KOLLEK IS WIDELY CONDEMNED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Mayor Teddy Kollek, set upon and pummeled by gangs of ultra-Orthodox Jews in the Mea Shearim quarter yesterday, was back at his desk this morning as Cabinet Ministers sharply condemned the attack. It was also condemned last night by President Chaim Herzog and by Shlomo Tussia-Cohen, the Likud candidate for mayor who will oppose Kollek in the next municipal election.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir said at today's Cabinet meeting that the government expected the police to take drastic action "to put an end to such disgraceful acts."

A spokesman for the Mayor said this morning that the government must take a strong stand against Kollek's assailants. He said it would help if the Aguda Israel party stopped putting up bail for Orthodox Jews arrested for disorderly conduct, as it has done in several cases in the past.

Hundreds of Jerusalemites called on Kollek last night and this morning to express their regret over the incident. The callers included some ultra-Orthodox Jews.

200 Zealots Attack the Mayor

Kollek was attacked by more than 200 religious zealots as he was leaving the Persian synagogue in the Bukharian quarter which borders Mea Shearim. He had been harassed during the services by some 20 zealots who stood outside the synagogue shouting "Nazi" and "enemy of Israel."

When he emerged, escorted by leaders of the Persian congregation, he and his escorts were surrounded by a mob who struck and kicked them. Kollek, knocked to the ground, fought back as he was kicked, punched and scratched. He injured a knee which was later X-rayed.

By the time the police arrived, the Mayor had already left. He drove himself home and later visited another synagogue. He declared that he would continue to walk anywhere in the city without police protection. The immediate cause for the attack appeared to be Kollek's stand against religious opposition to the construction of a mixed public swimming pool in the Ramot quarter, near Orthodox neighborhoods.

BERMAN: POSITIVE U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP IS 'BACK IN HARNESS'

LONDON, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- The traditionally positive relationship between the United States and Israel is "back in harness" and the strains over President Reagan's September 1982 peace initiative and the war in Lebanon are now over, Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said here today.

Berman presented this assessment to a plenary session of the Board of Deputies of British Jews during which he traced the evolution of the U.S.-Israeli relations during the Reagan Administration. He said the U.S. now realizes the invalidity of its initial hope that the so-called moderate Saudi Arabia, together with Jordan, would act as the catalyst towards a Middle East peace settlement.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Up to 300 Russian emigrants to the U.S. and Canada will leave for Israel on December 5 to explore living conditions and job opportunities in that country, according to Moshe Shechter, director of the Israel Aliya Center. The pilot trip, coordinated by the Aliya Center and Tour Va'aleh, would be the largest such tour of Russian Jews to Israel ever organized. The tour is subsidized and will be paid for by the participants themselves, Shechter said.