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Soviet Journalist In Unofficial Article Calls On Jews To Refuse Tax Payment

MOSCOW — A Soviet journalist this week called for Soviet Jews to refuse to pay the new tax on educated emigrants, charging that it would doom thousands of Jews to years of waiting as "unsold slaves" until ransom money could be raised abroad.

Viktor Perelman, who was dismissed from his job after he applied to emigrate to Israel earlier this year, estimated that the total costs of the new taxes could run as high as \$250-million and questioned whether such large sums could be raised soon.

In an unofficial article circulating in typescript copies and titled "Reflections Before the Auction," Mr. Perelman contended that Soviet authorities were trying to convert emigrating Jews into a "commodity on the international financial market" to earn badly needed hard currency.

Soviet authorities, he contended, were eager for some Jews to begin paying the taxes though so far as is known none have. Officials, he said, were trying to induce payments from Jews with approved visas and threatening to withdraw the visas if they delayed too long.

'Sale Might Flop'

"It seems that the authorities are hurrying to declare the auction open, fearing that the sale might flop if civilized society said 'no.'"

Mr. Perelman rejected the official assertions that would-be emigrants should repay the state for their education as "no more than camouflage, devoid of any legal basis," on grounds that educational costs were recouped by society early in an individual's working career.

In support of this thesis, Mr. Perelman cited an article published by a leading Soviet demographer, Prof. B.T. Urlanis, asserting that "After the first five or six years of his working life, a person has completely paid off his debt to society" for the costs of education.

"There then begins a period of credit balance between the value of the material wealth created by him and what has been invested in him," Professor Urlanis wrote in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, the Writers' Union weekly, on July 29, 1970.

Expelled From Party, Too

Mr. Perelman worked on the staff of that newspaper until seven months ago after having applied for a visa to Israel. He was also expelled from the Communist party and was later told that his visa application was being rejected because he knew too much about the internal workings of the Soviet Establishment, he said.

Last week, he was arrested by

three plainclothes men after meeting with a foreign correspondent but was later released.

Mr. Perleman contended that even without the new tax, the state was gaining financially from emigration because emigrants were forfeiting pension benefits that they had accrued.

His estimate that as much as \$250-million might be needed to pay education taxes was based, according to his article, on the assumption that there were now 80,000 applicants for visas to Israel and that 20 per cent to 25 per cent had higher education.

Mr. Perelman is said to have reckoned that on the average individuals would have to pay 11,000 rubles — about the median amount of the taxes — meaning that 20,000 educated applicants would face total levies of about 220 million rubles, or roughly \$250-million.

Western diplomats and other Jewish activists consider these

figures vastly overstated. One knowledgeable activist reckoned the amount at more than \$25-million. But even such figures are hypothetical because no official statistics even on the number of applicants, let alone their educational levels, have been made public.

Says Authorities Open

Mr. Perleman contended that Soviet authorities had been fairly open about their intentions of making the new education tax a money-making proposition, though other analysts have thought its primary purpose was to stop a drain of educated people by checking the emigration of intellectuals to Israel.

On August 15, Mr. Perelman said, a group of Jews was told by Sergei Alyoshin, a Finance Ministry officer: "We are not so naive as to suppose that you have as much as this. Put you know where to get it and I imagine you'll be able to do so."

Court Sentences Arab To Die; Punishment Always Commuted

TEL AVIV — A military court sentenced an Israeli Arab to death last week for a bomb explosion on a bus that wounded two persons in Tel Aviv nearly a year ago, the military command said. Israel has never carried out an execution of a guerrilla sentenced to die.

The court condemned Yussuf Mahmoud Ahmed Mansur, 22 years old, of Tira for having planted a grenade last November in a spare tire hooked to the rear of an intercity bus when it stopped in Tel Aviv. The explosion sent glass flying into the bus, wounding two persons.

Mansur, who had pleaded guilty, was convicted as a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist Arab guerrilla group, the command said. It said that the defense would appeal the court decision, which is routine.

The court action came amid public demands to sentence all guerrillas or fedayeen, to death after the slaying of 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team in Munich, West Germany.

Two other guerrillas have been sentenced to death since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, one of them on July 13 for having thrown a grenade into a crowd of tourists in the Old City of Jerusalem about a year ago. Both sentences were commuted.

Military courts this summer waived the death penalties for Kozo Okamoto, the survivor of a three-man Japanese terrorist squad whose attack at Tel Aviv

airport May 30 resulted in the death of 28 persons and two women accused of hijacking a Belgian jetliner to the airport May 8. All were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Although capital punishment is legal in Israel for treason and war crimes, it has been carried out only once, in 1962 when the convicted Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann was executed.

Brown To Offer Course In Yiddish

An independent study course for academic university credit in Yiddish Language and Literature will be offered at Brown University. The course, the first of its kind at Brown, will be taught by Rabbi Nathan N. Rosen, Jewish college chaplain and director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel in Providence.

The course will use as its text, *College Yiddish* by Professor M. Weinreich. The university Language Lab facilities will supplement the text. The class will meet four hours weekly.

The office of Yivo, the international organization for the promotion of Yiddish language and literature, reports that Brown is now one of more than 30 universities and colleges offering Yiddish. Among them are Columbia and the City Colleges of New York, University of Florida, University of Arizona, and University of Texas.

Herald ads get good results.