

NIXON IN RUSSIA
(Continued from Page 1)
cause the continuing deadlock impaired their position in the Arab world and the U.S. was anxious to see at least a partial settlement that would not weaken Israel.

A similar belief was expressed in Chicago by Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who said that after the Moscow visit "there will be increased pressure on Egypt and Israel to enter talks aimed at reopening the Suez Canal." He added "it is very unlikely that our government will withhold military supplies or economic assistance to Israel to pressure her into changing her position."

Spokesmen for the emergency National Leadership Assembly for Soviet Jews, which drew top Jewish leaders to New York from across the country, stressed that "We expect the President to raise the issue of Soviet Jewry on the highest level." Deputy Secretary of State for

European Affairs, Richard T. Davies, assured the Assembly that "your concern would be represented in the appropriate way to Moscow." A full page ad in the New York Times signed by more than 2,000 academicians urged the President to intercede for Soviet Jews in his Moscow talks stating "Your intercession could well prove decisive."

A delegation of the Zionist Organization of America met in Washington with Leonard Garment, a special consultant to the President, and presented him with 60,000 petitions urging that Pres. Nixon take up the "repatriation" of Soviet Jews to Israel during his Moscow visit. Also in Washington, two Soviet Jews held a 36-hour hunger strike as an expression of "support and solidarity" for Jews being harassed in the USSR. They were Dr. Michael Eppelman, whose wife and daughter are unable to leave the USSR, and Katya Palatnik, sister of Raiza Palatnik, imprisoned in the Potma labor camp,

BEING HELD AS HOSTAGES BY RUSSIA



PAULINA EPELMA, LENINGRAD PHARMACOLOGIST AND NINE YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, JULIA, HAVE BEEN DENIED EXIT PERMITS TO JOIN HUSBAND, MICHAEL IN ISRAEL. SEPARATED 14 MONTHS, MRS. EPELMA NOW PLANS HUNGER STRIKE. HADASSAH HAS ORGANIZED APPEAL ON HER BEHALF.

NEW YORK -- Paulina Eppelman is the head of Pharmacology at Leningrad Hospital in Soviet Russia. Until 14 months ago she was a strictly non-political person. A Jew, she was neither a Zionist nor a

member of the Communist Party. Then her husband, Michael, a university lecturer in mathematics attended an academic conference in Sweden, and from there he fled to Israel.

Paulina has been allowed to keep her job, but great pressure has been put on her by colleagues at the hospital to divorce her husband. She has resisted and six times has applied to the passport office for

exit visas for herself and nine-year-old daughter, Julia, to be reunited with her husband in Israel.

Six times, she has been rebuffed. Meanwhile, the pressures have turned her into a militant Zionist, who is now studying Hebrew.

Michael came to the Hadassah headquarters here to ask for help. Mrs. Faye L. Schenk, the national president, said that Hadassah, as an organization involved in medical work for 60 years, would appeal to the director-general of the World Health Organization, Dr. M. G. Candau, and the Soviet Minister of Health B.V. Petrovski, to intercede on her behalf.

"You think that sending a cable or releasing a story isn't much," Professor Eppelman said to Mrs. Schenk, "but the fact is that every effort is important. It has a mounting impact on the Soviet officials, more people become aware of the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union, and it encourages the Jews there to keep up their fight for freedom.

"Don't be disheartened," he urged Mrs. Schenk, "tell your members that their efforts do count."

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