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DEFENSE DEPARTMENT REPUDIATES GERALD L. K. SMITH PROGRAM; SAYS PROGRAM HAS 'BEEN PULLED OUT OF SERVICE'

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Department of Defense information administrators repudiated Friday a program featuring Gerald L. K. Smith, the professional anti-Semite and racist, which had been broadcast over the Armed Forces network Jan. 23 and they also reported that the New Jersey Council of Churches, which had been associated with the program, had directed its producer not to use the council's name with his productions.

The Armed Forces Radio and Television Service had picked up the broadcast, prepared by Mutual Broadcasting System in cooperation with the council's radio and TV department, and transmitted it to its 492 radio and television stations, serving some 2 million American military and civilian personnel. Mutual had broadcast the program on Jan. 21.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency, which first reported the story, was told by John Broger, director of the Defense Department's information for the armed forces, that "Obviously the broadcast will not be repeated. Normally a program is recycled. This one has been pulled out of service."

(See separate story p. 3 on protests by Jewish Organizations.)

Church Council Forbade Use Of Name

Hoyt Wertz, chief of AFRTS and Broger's subordinate, told the JTA that he had been informed by James Roberts of the New Jersey church council that the council had cooperated in the production of the first four programs in the series but forbade the producer three months ago to use the council's name in connection with the series. Roberts, production manager for the council's communications department in East Orange, could not be reached by the JTA for comment.

However, Wertz said Roberts told him that the council had cooperated with Bill Bertenshaw on the preparation of the first four programs in the series, called "Suggested Solutions," but not on any programs after that. According to Wertz, Roberts said the council had supplied personalities for the four programs in a contract with Bertenshaw but that Smith was not one of them.

Wertz described Bertenshaw as a free-lance producer and a member of the council's TV and radio group. According to Wertz, Roberts said the council "in no way sponsors or cooperates. In the production of these shows and credit on the participation should have been removed." JTA also was unable to reach the administrator reportedly connected with the Bertenshaw program.

Smith's Appearance Prime Complaint

Both Broger and Wertz indicated that high officials of the department were involved in the investigation. The appearance of Smith on the network, rather than what he said in the broadcast, was considered the prime complaint. Smith is connected with development of a "sanctuary" in Eureka Springs, Ark.

Smith said on the broadcast that "we are now launching the building of a new Holy Land due to the fact that the original Holy Land, which was visited

by Jesus Christ 2000 years ago, has been scarred and marred and its appearance has been changed and some of the most sacred shrines are being blighted by the building of housing projects. Therefore we feel that the image of the Holy Land should be built here in the United States." Apparently Smith did not use the word "Israel" in his program as had been initially reported.

Broger said he was working with an office assistant of Defense Secretary Melvin Laird in providing Sen. Jacob Javits (R. N.Y.) "with all the information we have." Javits had asked for an explanation of the Armed Forces network's use of the program.

RABIN: NIXON-MEIR MEETING KEY TO FUTURE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin said here today that Premier Golda Meir's meeting with President Nixon in Washington March 1 will be a key point in the future development of relations between Israel and the U.S. Rabin, who met with Nixon and Presidential advisor Dr. Henry Kissinger at the White House last Thursday, arrived here today for what was described as a private visit and to consult with Mrs. Meir regarding her visit to Washington. (See separate story p. 4.)

He said the timing of the latest Nixon-Meir meeting was very appropriate and that the meeting would be very important. According to Rabin, the U.S. will attempt to bring about proximity talks between Israel and Egypt under its auspices with a view to reaching a partial agreement to reopen the Suez Canal and to create the conditions for an overall settlement.

In reply to questions at the airport, Rabin said the U.S. favored Jordan and would very much like to see an agreement between that country and Israel. However, the U.S. understands that there are difficulties on the road to such an agreement and does not wish an imposed peace, Rabin said. The Israeli envoy said that U.S. arms supplies for Israel seemed assured for the near future and there seemed to be no problems in that respect. He said that Premier Meir would be able to settle the problem of future arms supplies during her visit to Washington.

ISRAELI GUNNED DOWN BY TERRORIST ON BUSY THOROUGHFARE IN MADRID

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA)--The fatal shooting of an Israeli in Madrid Friday by a suspected member of the Black September terrorist organization was seen by some observers here today as the latest incident in an ongoing undercover war between Arab terrorists and Israeli secret agents that has ranged over European capitals in recent months. The victim, Moshe Hannan Yishai, 36, of Tel Aviv, was gunned down on a main thoroughfare in the Spanish capitol by an assailant who escaped in the crowd.

Newspaper sources in Madrid quoted a person reportedly close to the Spanish government who told a reporter that he had no doubt that the shooting was "an affair between the Arabs and the Israelis related to the problems of the Middle East." Last week Israeli newspapers published excerpts from an article in the current issue of "World," a New York magazine, which described a counter-terrorism campaign being waged in

Europe by the Mosad, Israel's equivalent of the CIA.

Although Yishai was registered in Madrid as a tourist, observers here believe he may have been an undercover agent who managed to track down an Arab terrorist but lost his life in the process. The World article, written by Raphael Rothstein, a correspondent for the Israeli daily, Haaretz, and co-author of the recently published book, "Fedayeen Guerrillas Against Israel," mentioned several recent unsolved killings in various European cities in which the victims, according to the writer, were either Israeli or Arab agents.

Spanish Authorities Take Precautions

Yishai was shot at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Madrid time, outside a cafe on Madrid's fashionable Jose Antonio Street in view of hundreds of shoppers and strollers. The cafe is operated by a Syrian businessman. The assailant is believed to have used a 6.35 mm. pistol equipped with a silencer. Yishai collapsed on the pavement near a news kiosk. He was rushed to a hospital where he died of wounds in the stomach and left arm.

Madrid authorities immediately took precautions to protect the new trade center which is reportedly financed largely by Jewish capital. Reports that the Black September had kidnapped Max Mazin, former head of Madrid's Jewish community, proved to be unfounded. Mazin and his wife, Atara, were reported today to be in Haifa.

Yishai was the father of four children, aged 6-11. His wife, Nurit, and their children were visiting her parents at Kibbutz Ayelet Hashachar when news of the killing reached them. Mrs. Yishai was put under sedation by the kibbutz nurse. Yishai's parents in Tel Aviv were not immediately informed of the tragedy.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON SPY RING SHOWS SYRIANS DID NOT TRUST JEWS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Further information was disclosed today on the activities of six suspected members of a Syrian-directed Arab-Jewish spy ring indicted by a Haifa district court last Thursday. The six, including two Israel-born Jews, Ehud Adiv and Dan Vered, are expected to go on trial Feb. 11.

It is not certain whether the suspects will be tried separately or collectively as the charges contained in the indictments vary. The prosecution is reportedly preparing charges against the remaining 24 suspects who have been held in custody since the ring was broken up early in Dec. but have not yet been indicted.

A study of the charge sheets released Thursday indicated that Israeli authorities may have learned of the spy ring on a tip from a Jew who the ring leader, Daoud Osmah Turki, tried to recruit. According to the charges, Turki attempted to recruit more people for the ring but some refused. The charge sheets also indicated that the Syrian authorities who ran the ring from Damascus did not have complete trust in its Jewish members.

Jews, Arabs, Unknown To Each Other

The Syrians rejected Turki's proposal to name Adiv as his deputy. Although Adiv allegedly was put in charge of the ring's Jewish section, the No. 2 post was assigned to Simon Hadad, an Israeli-Arab who is one of the six indicted last week. The Syrians apparently wanted to be sure that if anything happened to Turki, the ring's documents would not fall into Jewish hands, one official said here.

The Syrians also insisted that the Jewish members of the ring should not meet or know any of the Arab members except Turki. The Syrian authorities

arranged that the Jewish members should meet their contacts only in an Arab country. This was a form of insurance against the Jews defecting, an official said. The Syrians believed that any Jew known to have visited in an Arab country would face espionage charges at home if he tried to defect.

One of the six suspects indicted Thursday, Anis Karawi, was reportedly trained as a frogman and was to have been assigned to sabotage missions against Israeli shipping; the charge sheets indicated. Karawi underwent training with underwater explosives in Syria, according to his indictment.

Terrorist Bases In Cyprus, Greece

Israeli sources said here Friday that the determination of the Cypriot authorities to maintain absolute neutrality in the Arab-Israeli conflict was turning Cyprus into a base for terrorist activities. They asserted that Greece too was becoming a terrorist base. The sources claimed they had definite information that several Cyprus-based terrorists attempted to sabotage Israeli ships at ports on the island. Sources said that terrorists on Cyprus also aided a group of terrorists who planned a suicide raid on Haifa.

Earlier this month, four suspected Arab terrorists travelling to Israel on Afghanistanian passports were removed from an Italian passenger ship at Famagusta, Cyprus, the night before they were to land at Haifa. The four were apparently taken off the vessel on the basis of information provided by Israeli intelligence and were placed on a plane to Lebanon.

150 JEWISH LEADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE CONVENED BY MRS. MEIR

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA)--More than 150 North American Jewish leaders prominent in civic affairs, business and the professions departed from Kennedy Airport last night aboard a special El Al Israel Airlines plane to participate in an extraordinary conference on Israel's economic needs which opens today in Jerusalem and ends Wednesday.

The four-day conference is expected to lay the groundwork for the launching of the largest worldwide campaign for the sale of Israel Bonds ever undertaken since the first Israel Bond issue was floated in the United States in 1951. An unprecedented total of \$270,404,750 in Israel Bond sales was recorded in 1972, bringing to \$2.2 billion the total sold since the inception of the Israel Bond drive. The key community leaders from the United States and Canada received personal invitations from Premier Golda Meir to take part in deliberations on ways to expand and strengthen Israel's economy at a crucial period in its history.

In a statement issued prior to the departure, Leo Bernstein, executive vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, emphasized the importance of the extraordinary campaign which will be undertaken this year, when Israel celebrates its 25th anniversary. He pointed out that Israel's economic tasks have been increased as a result of the unresolved crisis in the Middle East and increased immigration from Soviet Russia and other countries.

During the conference, the participants will confer with Mrs. Meir, Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon, Finance Minister Pinchas Sapir, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, and other Government leaders; will visit strategic areas of the country and inspect major development projects to view the progress accomplished in the past two decades with Israel Bonds, and meet with Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

TWO JEWISH GROUPS DEMAND PROBE OF DEFENSE DEPARTMENT BROADCAST Pentagon Officials Express Concern

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Two major national Jewish organizations have reacted strongly to a disclosure by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Defense Department's Armed Forces Radio and Television Service has transmitted a broadcast by the notorious anti-Semite Gerald L. K. Smith. Investigations of the incident were demanded by Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, and Mrs. Henry Rapaport, president of the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America.

A spokesman for the AZF told the JTA today that Pentagon officials reached by telephone over the week-end expressed "genuine concern" over the incident which they said came as news to them. One official was quoted by the AZF spokesman as saying that "It probably happened out of stupidity more than anything else" and added that "once the AZF protest is received there will probably be some quick action on this matter."

In a telegram sent Friday to Secretary of Defense-designate Elliot L. Richardson, Rabbi Miller referred to the JTA report and said: "On behalf of the 700,000 members enrolled in the American Zionist movement, we express our sense of shock and strongly protest the action of the AFRTS in transmitting to U.S. installations throughout the world the broadcast of Gerald L. K. Smith, the notorious anti-Semite who used the occasion for his usual anti-Semitic and anti-Israel diatribe. We urge an immediate investigation into such an incompressible action on the part of the AFRTS which operates with public funds and look toward your assurances that such unfortunate incidents will not be allowed to recur."

MBS Shows Little Concern

Rabbi Miller, in a similar telegram to Edward Little, president of the Mutual Broadcasting System which first carried the Smith broadcast, added: "We consider your action in allowing the use of Mutual's facilities to be given to one of America's notorious anti-Semites as an affront to American Jews and other decent Americans of all faiths."

An AZF spokesman told the JTA that in contrast to the concern voiced by Pentagon officials, top officials at MBS indicated that they did not regard the matter as serious. The spokesman said that both Little and Gary Worth, vice president in charge of station relations, refused Friday to answer repeated phone calls from the AZF although they were fully apprised of what the calls were about.

According to the spokesman, several hours later a secretary returned the AZF's calls with the message, "If the AZF cared to explain its concern about the Smith broadcast in a letter to us, we shall be glad to send them our reply." The AZF spokesman said it wasn't known whether Little had received Rabbi Miller's telegram when the message was given.

Mrs. Rapaport said: "Something must be terribly wrong with the way our government operates when a well known anti-Semite such as Smith is allowed the facilities of the U.S. government to vent his poison on unsuspecting soldiers stationed throughout the world." She said she was forced to raise the question of "who is minding the store?" to see that such an incident does not occur again.

**MRS. ETHEL AGRON, HADASSAH
LEADER, DEAD AT AGE 78**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Funeral services were held here today for Mrs. Ethel Agron, widow of Jerusalem's late Mayor Gershon Agron, who died

Friday at the Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv after a long illness. She was 78. Mrs. Agron was a native of Baltimore, Md., and was an honor graduate of Goucher College there. She came to Palestine with her husband in 1923.

Mr. Agron was the founder, editor and publisher of the Jerusalem Post, originally the Palestine Post, the country's only English-language daily newspaper which commenced publishing in 1932. Mrs. Agron served for many years as chairman of the Hadassah Council in Israel. Following her husband's death she moved to Tel Aviv.

GOREN URGES STATE TO PROVIDE MOST RELIGIOUS SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren urged the government today to provide religious services free of charge to Israeli citizens. Addressing the Managers Club here, the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi said he thought such services as marriage, burial and kashrut should be provided by the State, although not divorce which involves expenses on both sides. According to Rabbi Goren, the free services would improve the image of religion in all matters connected with public life.

Rabbi Goren also said he planned to raise the "Who is a Jew?" question with the political parties with a view to amending Israel's Law of Return so as to stipulate that conversions to Judaism must be made in accordance with halacha--religious law. He said he would ask the various factions to waive party discipline and permit a free vote on this matter.

Temple Mount Findings To Be Released

Rabbi Goren revealed that shortly after the Six-Day War he commissioned a team of Engineers Corps to survey the Temple Mount area, the site of the ancient Temple. He said he hoped the findings would be published shortly. Contrary to the generally accepted halachic view, Rabbi Goren maintains that Jews may walk on certain areas of the Temple Mount. The area contains two major Islamic shrines, the El Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock (Mosque of Omar). Jewish worship there has been prohibited by Israeli authorities.

SYRIANS RESTRAIN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, BUT STRENGTHEN OWN FRONT LINE POSITIONS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Syrian authorities have apparently put some restraints on terrorist activities against Israel from Syrian territory but the Syrians have begun to strengthen their own front line positions in the central and southern sections of the Golan Heights, Israeli intelligence reported today.

The Syrians have been seen using tractors and other heavy equipment to build protective ramps in front of their positions and between them, Israeli sources said. The activity may be the result of the heavy tank losses suffered from Israeli artillery and tank fire along the front during the battles of Jan. 8.

According to Israeli sources many terrorists have been forced to leave Syrian border villages where they were based. But the Israelis do not believe that terrorist activity from Syria has been eliminated permanently. Sources here said that the Syrian authorities would not be able to resist terrorist pressure and would probably permit them some controlled activity in the future.

ONE OF LEJUS LAST LETTERS WAS WRITTEN TO UJA NATIONAL OFFICIAL

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA)--One of the last letters written by the late President Lyndon B. Johnson before his death Jan. 22 was addressed to Irving Bernstein, executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. It was a response to an invitation to meet with the UJA's National Young Leadership Cabinet at a seminar scheduled to be held next Sept. 13-16 in Austin, Texas. Bernstein, in releasing the letter, described it as "a poignant footnote to the life of Mr. Johnson and only one reflection of his interest and action on behalf of the Jewish people."

President Johnson's letter, dated Jan. 17, received by Bernstein on the morning of his death, was in reply to a letter from Bernstein dated Jan. 12 in which the UJA official described the nature of the National Young Leadership Cabinet which he said was "composed of the most active and influential members of our Young Leadership Program." He advised President Johnson that the group was holding its annual retreat in Austin next Sept., the first in the Southwest.

Bernstein asked Mr. Johnson "if you could agree to meet with them during their retreat at a special seminar dealing with the situation affecting the people of Israel as you saw it during the period of the Six-Day War, as well as anything else you may wish to discuss with them." Bernstein suggested that the seminar could be held at the retreat site or at the Johnson Library.

In his response, the former President said he was "interested to know more about the Youth Leadership Program and the seminar planned for September," adding: "You were kind enough to invite me to meet with the young men -- to share with and learn from them. I will hope to be able to do this, but I must ask that you get back in touch with me closer to the date, so that I will better know what my health and schedule situation will be. I want to do it and will remember your invitation."

NEW ZOA HIGH SCHOOL TO AID POOR

AFRO-ASIAN YOUTHS IN ISRAEL

Washington Couple Gives \$187,500
For First Building Of High School

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA)--In an action designed to help close the educational gap between Israeli Jewish youth of Western and Afro-Asian backgrounds, the Zionist Organization of America announced yesterday the establishment of a technical high school at its educational center near Ashkelon.

Herman L. Weisman of New York, ZOA president, said the school is the first venture in a \$10 million program to provide a secondary education for up to 1,000 teenagers annually, primarily those whose parents come from Middle Eastern or North African countries. He outlined details of the program in a report to the National Executive Committee, the ZOA's highest policy body, which opened its annual midwinter meeting here yesterday.

Although Israel spends more than \$1.2 billion annually on education -- making it the second ranking item to defense in the country's budget -- the government is currently able to subsidize free schooling only through the ninth grade, Weisman said. As a result, he said, Israeli parents who want their children to go on to high school must pay for their education.

"Jewish youths from families of Middle Eastern and North African backgrounds are most disadvantaged by

this expense," he said. "Only 38 per cent of these children attend high school in Israel, compared to nearly two-thirds of those whose parents are sabras or of American or European origin."

Israel Will Match Couple's Gift

Weisman said the new facility, Kfar Silver Technical High School, began operation last fall to commemorate the start of the ZOA's 75th anniversary year. He said that the ZOA plans to add at least two additional schools on the 520-acre campus which would offer instruction in laboratory sciences and construction industry skills. The overall program will provide scholarships for Israeli students.

A gift of \$187,500, contributed by Sylvia and Alexander Hassan of Washington, D.C., will be utilized to erect the first building of the technical high school. Hassan is a national vice-president of the ZOA and a leader in the United Jewish Appeal, Israel Bond campaign and other Jewish, communal and philanthropic organizations. Weisman said that the Israel Ministry of Education will match the Hassans' gift with a \$187,500 grant towards construction of the building, groundbreaking for which is scheduled to begin next month. The 2000-square meter structure will include classrooms, faculty rooms, workshops and storage space for machinery and equipment.

Leon Mitovich, executive director of the ZOA, is now in Israel on a special assignment to accelerate completion of a new library on the campus and arrange for contracts to construct additional student and faculty dormitories there.

RABIN MEETING WITH NIXON, KISSINGER, DESCRIBED AS 'VERY FRIENDLY'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin conferred with President Nixon and his foreign affairs advisor Dr. Henry Kissinger for one-half hour Thursday morning in what was described by both the White House and the Israeli Embassy as the envoy's formal farewell to the chief executive. Rabin is scheduled to return to Israel early in March after the visit of Premier Golda Meir with Nixon in Washington on March 1. Rabin has been the Israeli envoy here since 1968 arriving a few months after the Six-Day War in which he was Chief of Staff of the Israeli Armed Forces.

The meeting was described by Israeli sources as "very friendly" and touched on the "close relations" between the two countries during the past few years. Mrs. Meir's visit was discussed, but neither the White House nor Israeli sources would comment further on that discussion.

The White House source did not discourage speculation that the relationship between Israel and the United States continued on the "unparalleled" plane. The word "unparalleled" was used by a top Israeli source in Washington last Oct.

A TV special devoted to Amsterdam Jews will be shown in Holland April 15. Special attention will be given to 17th Century Sephardic Jews who supported North America's oldest Jewish congregation in Newport, Rhode Island.