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WZO EMISSARIES, EMPLOYEES ARRESTED IN ARGENTINA HAVE BEEN RELEASED

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA)--The five World Zionist Organization shlichim and the three Argentine Jewish employees of the WZO who were arrested in Cordoba, Argentina July 22, have been released, the Foreign Ministry announced today. The announcement, which was made early this morning, came after the Ministry was informed of the release by the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. The Ministry immediately called WZO officials and families of the five detained Israelis.

Yosef Almogi, chairman of the WZO Executive, in a radio broadcast today, thanked the Foreign Ministry for handling the situation discreetly and successfully. The release was greeted with a sign of relief by officials here who had maintained the arrests were the result of a misunderstanding. All eight were arrested after attending a Zionist seminar in Cordoba. There is still no information here as to the cause of the arrests.

The release came after diplomatic efforts in Jerusalem and Buenos Aires and two days after three major Argentine Jewish groups announced that they had asked the Argentine government to free the eight prisoners. The DAIA, the central body of Argentine Jewry; the Federation of Jewish Communities in Argentina and the Argentine Zionist Organization said in a Communique Monday that the arrests had "caused justified concern in the (Jewish) community" and had noted that the eight Jews were devoted exclusively to teaching and spreading Jewish and Zionist values.

Shlichim May Remain

In Israel, the official efforts for the release of the WZO representatives were handled entirely by the Foreign Ministry through Ram Nir Gad, the Israeli Ambassador in Buenos Aires. He met with the Argentine Foreign Minister, Interior Minister and chief of staff among others.

A Jewish Agency spokesman here said today that there is no reason why the shlichim should not resume their work in Argentina since they had been released without any conditions. The JTA has learned that one of the shlichim, Amnon Rudin, whose father is an Israeli police official, has already called his parents in Jerusalem to tell them he was okay and ready to continue with his mission in Argentina.

The other shlichim are Mr. and Mrs. Yitzhak Estrugo of Kibbutz Bahan and Mr. and Mrs. Yosef Pick, of Tel Aviv, who had immigrated to Israel from Argentina. The names of the three Argentine Jews were never released.

TWO RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE URGING THE U.S. TO TAKE LEAD IN STAMPING OUT AIRLINE HIJACKINGS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Two resolutions have been introduced in the House urging the United States to take the lead in seeking international cooperation in stamping out airline hijackings.

Seventy-three Congressmen from 18 states joined in co-sponsoring a resolution introduced

yesterday by Republican Jack Kemp and Democrat Edward Koch, both of New York, which urges President Ford to initiate negotiations for an international treaty which would eliminate sanctuaries for terrorists and provide for enforceable sanctions for countries that give asylum to hijackers.

The other resolution introduced Monday by another New York Republican, Benjamin Gilman, urges Ford to seek formation at the United Nations of a permanent international commission which would define international terrorism and propose methods to deal with it. The resolution also asks the President to renew efforts begun at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) meeting in Rome in 1972 to establish an international convention providing aviation sanctions against countries that "refuse to punish or extradite persons responsible for unlawful acts against civil aviation."

Noting that more than 800 persons have been killed and 1700 injured by terrorist incidents since 1968, Kemp declared that "We shall be a long way from stamping out terrorism unless it is possible to penalize countries harboring terrorists and to achieve some kind of unanimity in the treatment of terrorists."

Kemp said he believes that Ugandan President Idi Amin would never have provided sanctuary for the terrorists who held the hostages on the Tel Aviv-to-Paris Air France plane if he knew that this would have resulted in Uganda's loan privileges at the International Monetary Fund being suspended.

The three New York Congressmen hailed the U.S.-British resolution in the Security Council last month which called on the Council to condemn terrorism and called on all governments to prevent and punish "all such terrorist acts." The resolution failed to be adopted but Kemp said the "issue is far from being over" in the Council.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES REPUBLICANS PREPARING FOR THEIR NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL CONVENTION

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA)--The Republican national platform committee opens its week-long sessions in Kansas City Aug. 8 in an atmosphere of uncertainty on the specific wording of policies and philosophy it is ordained to offer the party's quadrennial convention that begins in the same city, Aug. 16 to choose its nominees for President and Vice-President.

Unless the nomination for the Presidency appears assured for either President Ford or former California Governor Ronald Reagan before it completes hearings and begins drafting, the committee may emerge with tenuous positions on some major issues, including possibly even those so-called Jewish concerns, and leave it to the convention itself to draft the precise language in the planks.

The committee comprises 106 representatives -- two each from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands; Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray is its

temporary chairman.

The Reagan forces, concentrating on the nomination, have not spelled out their positions on matters of high Jewish interest. A group led by Peter Hannaford of Los Angeles is reported preparing them. However, expressions by Reagan and his running mate, Pennsylvania Senator Richard Schweiker, would indicate their firm backing for Israel and emigration rights for Soviet Jews and others.

Reagan, who four years ago, received an Israeli award from the then Foreign Minister Abba Eban, challenged the Administration's position on Israel on March 31, saying it was insufficient for our ally Israel. He also affirmed in an interview in the Los Angeles Times that he favored providing Israel what she requires for her security. Schweiker's voting record, as JTA has already reported, establishes him as a stalwart supporter of issues of deep concern to the American Jewish community, namely, on foreign policy matters, including the Arab boycott.

Ford's own position on the "Jewish issues" is on the public record he has established over his past two years in the White House. This includes his advocacy of a record amount of financial aid to Israel—more than \$4 billion over 27 months ending in September of next year.

Forecast Of Republican Platform

A forecast of what will appear in the Republican platform about Jewish issues was indicated by the New York State Republican Chairman, Richard M. Rosenbaum, who is seeking planks "supporting Israel's security, strength and integrity" and "free emigration for Soviet Jewry." Rosenbaum said in a recent press statement that he has received the support of the 14-member Northeastern U.S. Republican State Chairmen's Association which he heads and that he recently discussed the proposals with Ford and top Republican and Presidential aides at the White House.

According to Rosenbaum's statement, his proposals would have a Republican Administration "continue to work for progress toward a permanent peace settlement" in the Middle East. "The U.S.," his statement says, "should strive for an end to economic boycotts, the free passage of the ships of all nations through the international waterways of the area, and, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 338, the terms of a peace settlement should ultimately be negotiated directly between the parties involved in the conflict."

He also urges "appropriate military equipment" for Israel to maintain the power balance and economic assistance to "relieve its economy overburdened with defense expenditures."

Other Proposals Indicated

The Rosenbaum proposals also would, "provide economic and development assistance to such moderate states as Egypt to aid in their social and economic development and develop stronger trade ties." They "recognize the responsibility of the world community for a just solution to the problems of Palestinian refugees" to be resolved within the "context of an overall Middle East settlement while continuing the current policy of not dealing with any Palestinian group unless it accepts both Israel's right to exist and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338."

His proposals support "a unified status for Jerusalem and free access to all holy places which now is provided to all faiths." He does not

call for moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Ford set aside that idea in his first news conference as Chief Executive, and Presidential news secretary Ron Nessen reiterated that position several weeks ago.

Regarding Soviet-related matters, the Rosenbaum proposals urge the Soviet government to "immediately cease the coercion, intimidation, arrest and trial of Soviet Jews who seek to emigrate to Israel, in accordance with the Helsinki accords." They also urge "full religious and cultural opportunities for Soviet Jews, including essential Jewish institutions, be restored." In addition, his proposals urge that "the plight of Soviet Jews be on the agenda of all appropriate international forums."

FIRST BRAIN TUMOR REMOVED BY INSTRUMENT DEVELOPED IN ISRAEL

BONN, Aug. 4 (JTA)—An Austrian professor has successfully performed the world's first brain tumor removal by laser technology using an instrument developed in Israel. The operation was carried out on a 56-year-old man by Prof. Fritz Heppner of the Graz University's neuro-surgical division.

The "carbon-dioxide laser scalpel" was developed by Prof. Isaac Kaplan of the plastic surgery department at Israel's Baillinson Hospital in Tel Aviv. Heppner told the JTA the instrument had been used for other operations but this was the first time it was employed for removing a brain tumor.

Although the operation can be carried out by conventional methods, laser technology offers big advantages, Heppner said. "It provides completely smooth cutting edges, and results in minimum destruction of healthy tissue. In cancerous diseases it causes evaporation of tumor deposits not visible to the naked eye which sometimes remain behind and cause a recurrence."

YURI VUDKA RELEASED

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA)—The National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today that Soviet Prisoner of Conscience Yuri Vudka has been released from the notorious Vladimir Prison after a seven-year jail sentence.

Intensely interested in "Samizdat" literature dealing with Jewish religion, history, culture and language, Vudka and five of his friends formed a small study group to expand their knowledge in this area. During July and August 1969, all six were arrested by KGB agents, following a thorough search of their apartments during which a typewriter, some photographic equipment and literature were confiscated. These items were introduced as "incriminating" evidence during their trials.

During the proceedings, an exchange between Vudka and the presiding judge took place. Vudka criticized the Soviet Union for not providing Jews with schools or the opportunity to study their own language and develop their own culture, as is provided for other nationalities. The judge accused Vudka of being a nationalist and deemed that, although he entered a plea of "guilty," his repentance was "insincere" and Vudka was sentenced to seven years.

While serving his term, Vudka participated in demonstrations protesting the refusal of camp authorities to make kosher food available to the POCs. His activities resulted in his transfer to Vladimir Prison where he continued protesting.

ISRAEL-LEBANESE ARMY TALKS BASED ON COMMON DESIRE TO KEEP SYRIA OUT By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4 (JTA)--A common desire to keep Syria out of southern Lebanon is the reason for the talks that Israeli officers have been having with the officers of the Arab Lebanese Army, the group that has been fighting together with the Palestine Liberation Organization against Lebanese Christians.

This was the explanation given by sources in Jerusalem last night after it was revealed earlier in the day that the meetings had been held at Rosh Hanikra, the high cliff overlooking the Mediterranean at the Israeli-Lebanese border. The last meeting was held on the Israeli side at the Panoramic View Restaurant familiar to Israeli and foreign tourists who visit the area.

The Jerusalem sources point out that it is Israeli policy which has permitted the Arab Lebanese Army to be in south Lebanon since Israel has announced it would not allow Syria to move into the region. This has become the main guarantee of safety for PLO and Moslem leftists who have moved into southern Lebanon after fleeing from the Syrian army.

Israel says the initiative for the talks came from the Arab Lebanese Army which asked the United Nations to arrange them. The Israelis stress that the talks are directly between the two parties and the UN officers take no part in them.

The two sides discussed problems about the border, including those concerning the crossing into Israel of southern Lebanese villagers seeking medical and other aid. They reportedly agreed that these people will not be interfered with and that the Arab terrorists will not be allowed near the border.

Israeli officials stress that the meetings have no political significance and are regarded as a continuation of the meetings that Israeli officers have long had with Lebanese army officers. The Arab Lebanese Army is made up of Moslem soldiers led by Lt. Ahmed El Khatib who broke away from the regular Lebanese armed forces which is headed by a Christian general.

ALONI JOINS LABOR PARTY FOR FORTHCOMING WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Shulamit Aloni, who left the Labor Party to form the Civil Rights Party which now has four Knesset seats, has joined forces with the Labor Party again for the forthcoming World Zionist Congress. Aloni's group, with seven delegates to the congress, signed an agreement this week with the Labor Zionist Movement for a joint list to the congress. It was announced by Yitzhak Koren, the movement's secretary. Koren, who reported this to the Labor Executive which met to discuss the movement's platform for the congress, also announced that although the Zionist General Council (Actions Committee) approved a clause last month to forego elections to the congress in countries where 90 percent of the factions represented in Zionist Federations are agreed on the number assignment of delegates for each faction, 14 of the 21 Zionist Federations will hold elections. These include the Federations in Great Britain, Australia, France, Argentina, Sweden and Canada. There will be no elections in the U.S., he said.

JEWISH CENTER VANDALIZED

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA)--The Jewish Center of Brownsville in Brooklyn, Hatzila II, a project

of the Council for the Jewish Poor, was vandalized and robbed Monday night, Marty Rosen, a member of the Council's board, reported today.

Rosen said police were notified and made an investigation but that they found no clues to the vandals. He said the center was the only one in Brownsville for the 400 to 500 elderly Jews still living there. He said the burglars had destroyed all of the center's Jewish books, records and newspapers and had stolen a television set, a radio and a record player.

Rosen reported that the center is still open but operating on a limited basis because of the losses of equipment and materials used by the Jewish elderly. He said it was the first vandalism-theft since the center opened in 1971. The Council is the working arm of the Association of Jewish Anti-Poverty Workers.

SAUL KAPLAN DEAD AT 65

CHICAGO, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Saul Kaplan, recently retired director of research at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, died July 27 in Miami, Fla., it was reported here by the JF. He was 65 years old. During his 12 years in Chicago, his department was instrumental in preparing studies that led to major Federation programs, including the establishment of its newest agency, the Council for Jewish Elderly.

A former research statistician for the U.S. Bureau of Public Assistance and the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Kaplan was the only Federation research director to be an associate scientific consultant in the National Jewish Population Survey. Prior to joining Federation, he was the research director, Health and Welfare Association of Allegheny County (Pa.).

ISRAELI UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEMBERS ATTEND SCIENCE CONGRESS IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Mexican President Luis Echeverria inaugurated here today the 30th International Congress of Human Sciences in Asia and North Africa. Many Israeli university faculty members were in attendance at the congress which is also known as the Congress of Orientalists. The Israeli scholars included Itamar Rabinowitz, Haim Shaked, Shimon Shamir, and Arie Shmulowitz.

16 NEW SETTLEMENTS PLANNED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Sixteen new settlements will be established in Israel and in the administered areas one day during the 29th World Zionist Congress here in January and the delegates will visit the sites to take a symbolic part in the opening of the settlements. Yosef Almogi, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive, announced yesterday to newsmen on a radio program. It was learned that all of the settlements have been approved by the WZO Executive in coordination with the government.

Almogi stressed that the 29th Congress would be "a large Congress and a turning point," adding that a four-year plan for all WZO departments will be presented at the meeting. Asked what he had proposed to the Horev Commission, which is investigating immigration and absorption procedures, Almogi said that if the present structure is continued, "strict divisions" must be set between the Jewish Agency and the Absorption Ministry, but would prefer a joint authority for immigration and absorption to replace the Agency's aliya and absorption department and the Absorption Ministry.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**SHARON'S REAL ESTATE VENTURES**

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4 (JTA)--A Polish-born French Jew, who immigrated to Israel after the Six-Day War, is head of the real estate investment group that bought the bankrupt Royal Manhattan Hotel in the heart of New York's theater district. "It is our first experience in the United States," Shmuel Sharon, the head of the group of Jewish investors from Holland and Switzerland, said.

The group bought the 1300-room hotel for \$1 million. "We plan to invest \$3 million more," Sharon told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He said he plans to convert the building into 600 apartments to be used primarily for foreign businessmen and others coming to the United States for short stays.

The Royal Manhattan, which closed down in December 1974, is located on Eighth Avenue, a street that is dotted with hard-core pornographic theaters and book shops, massage parlors and prostitutes. It is one of the streets that New York City officials have been trying to clean up in their efforts to restore the Times Square area.

Active in Many Countries

Sharon, who was active in France in real estate under the name Samuel Flatto, has built several major projects in Israel during his eight years here. He and his group of investors have helped build such projects as the Tel Aviv bus station and Dizengoff Center, a commercial project in the heart of Tel Aviv.

They are now involved in a housing and office project in Ramat Gan and are building 6000 housing units in Sao Paulo, Brazil and 2000 housing units in Venezuela. In Venezuela, Sharon is working in partnership with the Histadrut's Solel Boneh construction company.

Sharon, who looks younger than his 46 years, was born in Lodz, Poland in 1930 as Shmuel Shayewitz. His family left Poland in 1937 and moved to France. Sharon, then known as Flatto, started producing washing machines after World War II, but then discovered that his talents were better suited to real estate activity.

He set up companies which bought houses, renovated them and then sold them at tidy sums. His business continued to expand to a point where tens of millions of francs were involved. Sharon set up numerous ad hoc companies for special projects involving the buying, improving, developing and selling of houses and began to include in his companies individuals involved in the higher echelons of the French government, a move which proved an asset to his business.

However, with the frequent changes of political regimes during the post-World War II period those business firms which included political personalities on their boards found themselves in difficulty. Sharon's operations, like others, came under scrutiny from the opponents of political board members as well as from income tax officials who thought that some of his operations were not in strict keeping with income tax laws.

'That Was It'

Sharon said that after the Six-Day War he became interested in Israel and began donating funds. The late Pinhas Sapir, then Israel's Finance Minister, asked him why he didn't operate any businesses in Israel. "I told him, 'Just bring me the right business and I am in,'" Sharon said. Sapir

then brought him together with Aryeh Pilitz, an Israeli businessman who was planning the new Tel Aviv bus station. "That was it," he said, and in 1968 moved to Israel.

Meanwhile, France has charged that Sharon owes millions of francs in income tax. His lawyers, he said, are working on the matter and are expected to clear it up soon. Till then, Sharon, whose business enterprises in France continue to expand, is refraining from visiting that country.

While waiting out the legal moves, Sharon resides in the posh Savoyon suburb of Tel Aviv. His home is decorated with French Impressionist paintings and a treasured plaque from Asher Ben Nathan, Israel's former Ambassador to Paris, praising the investor for his efforts in behalf of Israel. And he is busy with his business trips to the United States, Europe and South America. "If his first venture in the United States turns out well, 'we may continue there,'" Sharon said.

PLEA FOR SOVIET JEWRY INCLUDED IN ACTIVITIES AT EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 4 (JTA)--The 41st Eucharistic Congress here this week includes a plea for Soviet Jewry amongst the week-long activities. That plea has been carried by women staffing a booth on Soviet Jewry at the exhibition at the Philadelphia Civic Center. The exhibit closes Sunday.

The booth--one of 1000 at the Civic Center--is sponsored by the Interfaith Women's Committee, composed of local Catholic, Jewish and Protestant women who have been active on behalf of Soviet Jews for nearly two years. The committee is an outgrowth of the annual Women's Plea for Soviet Jewry initiated six years ago by the Jewish Community Relations Council and its women's constituent agencies.

Eileen Sussman, program assistant for Soviet Jewry at JCRC, said that by the time the exhibit closes, more than 50,000 pieces of literature on Soviet Jewry will have been distributed. The exhibit includes a slide and tape show on the plight of Soviet Jews, and is being manned by volunteers who are discussing issues related to Soviet Jewry with visitors at the exhibit hall.

ANCIENT HEBREW TABLET FOUND

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Two fragments of clay tablets inscribed with five lines of 80 Hebrew letters were discovered by Israeli archaeologists at Izbet Sarté, about 10 miles northeast of Tel Aviv. The tablets are believed to contain the oldest Hebrew writing, even older than the 10th Century B.C.E. Gezer calendar, to be uncovered until now.

Dr. Moshe Kochavi of Tel Aviv University and Dr. Moshe Garsiel of Bar Ilan University, who supervised the excavations, said that the inscription on the two clay tablets could not as yet be deciphered because of the very shallow print. They said it will take scientists some time to decipher the writing.

The new specimen was discovered at the bottom of a silo at Izbet Sarté. The two archaeologists identified the site with Even Ha'Ezer, mentioned in Chapter Four of the First Book of Samuel, where the Philistines defeated the Israelites and captured the Holy Ark. A wall of a large building and some silos on the eastern and northern sides of Izbet Sarté also were unearthed.