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RELATIVES OF ARGENTINE JEWISH POET KIDNAPPED IN BUENOS AIRES BY 6 MEN BELIEVED TO BE PART OF DEATH SQUAD

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA)--The Council on Hemispheric Affairs today confirmed reports that the son and daughter of Juan Gelman, a leading Jewish Argentine poet and journalist, were abducted Tuesday from their apartments in Buenos Aires, along with the son's pregnant young wife, Maria. The six armed men who staged the kidnappings were believed to be members of a right-wing death squad.

Laurence R. Birns, director of the COHA, said Gelman had left his daughter, Nora Eva, 19, and his son, Marcelo Ariel, 20, behind in Argentina when he was forced to flee Argentina last year after receiving a death threat from an extreme right-wing organization, called the A A A.

At the time of the abduction, the kidnappers told the poet-journalist's wife that the kidnapping was an act of reprisal against her husband who is now in exile in Europe. He has been denouncing the excesses of the new Argentine military regime and its chronic violations of the human rights of its population, Birns said.

Gelman, 46, is considered one of Argentina's most highly-regarded modernist poets who characteristically writes stanzas emphasizing political motifs. He had been editor of *L'Opinion*, an independent liberal daily. Among his published works of poetry are "Relaciones" (1973) and "Violin y otras Cuestrines" (1956).

Concerted Action Mounted

Birns said that, since the abduction, COHA has been making every effort to communicate the "extreme gravity" of the abduction to the Argentine government and the necessity for its authorities to immediately seek the release of the latest victims of the collapse of law and order in Argentina.

Birns said COHA has made efforts to be in touch with the State Department, the Organization of American States, the Argentine Embassy in Washington and major Jewish agencies in efforts to free the three members of the Gelman family before it is too late.

"We are absolutely certain that the three young Gelmans are entirely apolitical," Birns said, adding that the abductions had taken place against a backdrop of rising acts of neo-Nazism and acts against prominent Jewish families in Argentina.

He said Morton Rosenthal, director of the Latin American Affairs Department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and a board member of COHA, had acted to express the ADL's extreme concern over the situation in Argentina in general and the Gelman case in particular.

Birns described COHA as an American organization comprising leading citizens from different sectors of the nation's life who have joined to increase the attention directed to United States-Latin American relations and to increase the breadth of those who influence and make regional policy.

MONDALE SAYS BOTH MAJOR PARTIES SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THEIR SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AS AN AMERICAN POSITION By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA)--Sen. Walter F. Mondale, the Democratic candidate for Vice-President, said today that both the Democratic and Republican Parties should make clear their support of Israel so that her adversaries can see that "this is not a political position but an American position."

Speaking at the American Jewish Committee, Mondale stressed that the United States must both support Israel and seek peace in the Middle East. But in seeking peace, he said, the U.S. must not tie its aid to Israel to any blueprint or timetable. About 60 persons attended the AJ Committee meeting, including representatives of other Jewish organizations.

Mondale, responding to a question about the Palestinians, said "Israel should decide with whom she will negotiate. I don't think Israel can be criticized for refusing to negotiate with an entity that is not a state" and that calls for Israel's destruction, he said. The Minnesota Democrat noted that Israel has said that it will make concessions for peace and he said the U.S. must not "crowd" or "push" Israel but allow the Jewish State to make its own decisions.

Support Anti-Boycott Bills

On the question of the Arab boycott, Mondale said he and Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter support bills before Congress banning tax credits for American companies that comply with the boycott, and ban tertiary boycott compliance. He said many American companies have refused to comply with the boycott and have found it has not adversely affected them.

In response to a question from Jerry Goodman, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, Mondale said that Carter has pledged to make the question of freer emigration for Soviet Jewry a "priority position" in his dealings with the USSR. He accused the Ford Administration of refusing to stand up for issues of "human liberty and decency."

School Aid Issue Discussed

When Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg, an official of Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, asked what a Carter-Mondale Administration would do about federal aid

to children in parochial schools, Mondale said he had always supported providing social service funds to children in private and religious schools. He said the best solution would be a proposed tax credit for dependents which would allow parents to have extra money to be used for private and religious schools or any other purpose they might wish.

At the outset of his talk, Mondale noted that he had always enjoyed a "close, warm and personal relationship with the Jewish community" and praised the Jewish community for its "lack of parochialism" in regard to public issues.

Peter J. Strauss, president of the AJ Commit-

tee's New York Chapter, said Mondale's Republican opponent, Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas, and, Carter and President Ford will also be invited to speak before the group. At the same time, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed by a spokesman for the Carter campaign staff in Atlanta that 80 prominent American Jews will be in Atlanta Monday for an all-day briefing by Carter's campaign staff. Carter himself will address the group and answer questions.

OFFICER KILLED IN KOREA WAS JEWISH

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (JTA)--First Lt. Mark T. Barrett, one of the two American army officers killed by North Koreans in a demilitarized zone last week, was converted to Judaism in May 1974, a month before his marriage to Julianne Reiner of Hollywood, Florida in a Jewish ceremony in Gainesville, Fla. Barrett and his bride met while students at the University of Florida at Gainesville. He was graduated in 1973 and as an ROTC officer was assigned to the Army Training Center at Fort Jackson, near Columbia, S.C.

Shortly after his arrival there he approached Rabbi William A. Greenebaum, the Jewish chaplain at Fort Jackson, and expressed his desire to convert to Judaism. Eleven months later he became a convert after taking instructions from the chaplain. Barrett and his fiancée invited Greenebaum to perform the wedding ceremony. Barrett's immediate family members are Catholics.

Barrett and his wife attended services regularly at the Jewish Chapel in Fort Jackson and were active in its programs, Greenebaum said. "Lieutenant Barrett felt himself very Jewish," the chaplain said.

Greenebaum conducted what he described as "a completely Jewish service" at Fort Jackson Tuesday. He said the kaddish with Mrs. Barrett. Also participating in the service was Chaplain Mark Manzak, a Catholic priest, who was invited by Greenebaum to join him in the rites.

Greenebaum described Barrett and Maj. Arthur G. Bonifas, the other U.S. officer slain by the North Koreans who was buried at West Point on the same day, as "two precious jewels, young men in their prime who have been taken from us."

\$2 M RAISED TO AID ISRAEL'S ECONOMY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (JTA)--A national employer-union salute honoring Edward J. Carlucci, general president of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association (AFL-CIO), which was held here last night, produced close to \$2.5 million in Israel Bond sales. More than 1000 prominent industry and union personalities from all parts of the United States and Canada attended the event, which was sponsored by the union and leading management figures in the sheet metal industry, in cooperation with the Israel Bond Organization.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.) and Simcha Dinits, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, were among the principal speakers at the testimonial dinner. In his address, Jackson stated that "people who have invested in Israel have invested in freedom." He told the assembled group that all their efforts for Israel's economic upbuilding have been repaid with solid achievement. The Entebbe rescue mission struck a blow for freedom throughout the world, he said, adding that it also has reaffirmed faith in Israel as a bulwark for democracy in the Middle East.

Dinits, presenting the Israel Prime Minister's Medal to Carlucci, declared that Israel's action

in Uganda demonstrated that resistance to tyranny and to blackmail can succeed. George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, in a congratulatory message to Carlucci, praised the Sheet Metal Workers for supporting the State of Israel at a time of great decision for the young nation.

ISRAELI VISITORS FIND WORMS IN 'THE BIG APPLE'

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA)--Moshe Tzahar, the Mayor of Tiberias, his wife and 33 other residents of that Israeli biblical city are visiting "The Big Apple" this week as part of their American tour. The group, which includes 10 teenagers comprising a dance and singing troupe, earlier visited Allentown, Pa., which became a "Sister City" of Tiberias last year. A delegation from Allentown went to Tiberias last year and the Tiberians now returned the visit.

Tzahar, known affectionately as "the little Ben Gurion" throughout Israel and who served in 1948 as Israel's first acting Premier, met Mayor Abraham Beame at a City Hall reception where the teenage troupe serenaded New York's chief executive and guests. During the reception, Tzahar, 72, and Beame, 71, engaged in light banter in the spirit of comradeship and affection.

As the two mayors were introduced, Beame smiled and said, "I'm going to enjoy this. I've just found a mayor as short as I am." The New York Mayor is five-foot-two. Beame presented Tzahar with a lithograph of City Hall and Tzahar reciprocated by presenting the New Yorker with a reproduction of a coin used in Tiberias almost 1900 years ago.

Ripped-Off On Lower East Side

But it wasn't all fun and games for the Tiberians. There were no mishaps in Allentown or on their bus tour of Niagara Falls, Toronto and Washington, nor for that matter in New York where they visited Wall Street, Chinatown, Staten Island and Rockefeller Center. But a visit to the Lower East Side Tuesday jolted their equanimity and left them minus eight suitcases filled with an estimated \$4000 worth of heirlooms, presents and two passports.

As far as they could reconstruct the rip-off caper, it happened while they were having lunch at a deli. While they were eating there, their bus driver was eating at a dairy restaurant around the corner. The thieves apparently looted the bus at that time. The Tiberians didn't miss their luggage until later that night. The visitors were crestfallen but said they couldn't blame the city. Tzahar appealed to the thieves to return objects that could only be of sentimental value to their owners. The Tiberians are leaving in a few days and are hoping all their luggage will be accompanying them.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Foreign Minister Yigal Allon revealed Thursday that Israel is considering allowing students from southern Lebanon to study in Israeli universities. Addressing a Labor Party meeting in Holon, Allon said an arrangement for this will be worked out if there are enough students who are willing to take a crash course in Hebrew and pay tuition. Lebanese universities have been closed for some time because of the war there.

WHITE HOUSE REPUDIATES OFFICIAL'S SLUR ABOUT N.Y. INTEREST GROUPS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (JTA)--The White House yesterday repudiated a statement by a high Administration official who said provisions of pending congressional legislation designed to combat the Arab boycott could result in an American company being "harassed by certain New York interest groups."

The statement was made by John C. Bennisson, acting general counsel to the White-House Council on International Economic Policy (CIEP), with regard to the public disclosure provision of the Stevenson-Williams proviso in the Tax Reform Bill before the Senate. The statement was in the form of a letter dated Aug. 10 to Anthony Scotto, vice-president of the International Longshoremen's Association.

Edward C. Schmults, deputy counsel to President Ford, said the Bennisson letter was written by a "staff lawyer at CIEP who should not have attempted to summarize the administration's position on a complex issue." In referring to "certain New York interest groups," Schmults said the "summary and choice of words are offensive and inappropriate." The lawyer, Schmults added, "regrets his action and has apologized" and has "emphasized that he had not intended to offend anyone." Schmults did not disclose the lawyer's name or to whom he had apologized.

ADL, Solon Issue Protests

David A. Brody, director of the Washington office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, telephoned the ADL's protest to the White House over the Bennisson statement, expressing "shock and outrage" at what the ADL called "a not unsubtle appeal to prejudice." Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr. (D,NJ) demanded an apology to "Jewish persons, organizations and causes" from Treasury Secretary William E. Simon who is chairman of the CIEP.

Williams, who is co-author of the legislation with Sen. Adlai Stevenson (D,Ill.), said Bennisson's letter had "blatant anti-Semitic overtones." He added, in a letter to Simon: "I find it difficult to read this phrase (regarding 'New York interests') as having any other meaning than one which is discriminatory and derogatory toward Jewish people and causes and persons sympathetic to the State of Israel."

Not only does this letter "misstate and exaggerate the likely consequences" of the legislation on American business, Williams noted, "it does so in a way deliberately calculated to inflame base, even vulgar instincts of persons who may be affected by this legislation to persuade them to align themselves with the Administration."

In a statement today the ADL expressed "approval" of the White House "repudiation" of the Bennisson statement. Williams' office told the JTA it had not yet received a response from Simon.

George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, in a letter to Stevenson, assailed as "appalling" the statement by Bennisson. He said that the reference to New York special interest groups "can only be taken to mean the individuals and organizations who support the right of Israel to exist and who reject the notion that good business practice requires American citizens and corporations to support the Arabs in their implacable determination to destroy Israel and her people." He also scored the Administration's hostility to the anti-

boycott law.

Meanwhile, the Administration continued yesterday to oppose the Senate bill. At a hearing, a Treasury Department official, Charles M. Walker, assistant secretary for tax policy, testified against it. His testimony drew a remark from Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D.Conn.) that he and Simon lacked "guts."

20 U.S. JEWS, INCLUDING KAHANE, ARRESTED AT HEBRON PRAYER-IN

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26 (JTA)--Some 20 American Jews, led by Rabbi Meir Kahane, the founder of the Jewish Defense League, were arrested yesterday by Israeli authorities after they prayed, danced and sang on the roof of an abandoned Jewish synagogue in Hebron which had also served as a Hadassah Hospital before the 1929 Arab massacre of Jews in that city. This was the latest in a series of incidents this week and last by Jewish militants from Kiryat Arba and the Gush Emunim to assert a Jewish presence in Hebron, in defiance of a government ban.

The arrests yesterday of Kahane and his followers, who were waving American passports during the demonstration, avoided a major clash between them and hundreds of angry Arab residents of Hebron who gathered to watch the scene. "This is a Jewish city," Kahane told the crowd. "Abraham lived here and so will we. This is the building where Jews were murdered by Arabs."

As the group was led away by Israeli army personnel, Arab youngsters in the crowd tossed rocks at the Jewish group. They were dispersed by the Israeli armed forces. Kahane and his followers were arrested on charges of trespass and released on bail pending a hearing. Later in the day another group of some 100 residents from Kiryat Arba conducted evening prayers near the building.

ROSENTHAL MEMORIAL FUND SET UP

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (JTA)--Establishment of a fellowship fund in the name of Harold W. Rosenthal, who was killed by Arab terrorists at Istanbul Airport three weeks ago as he was boarding an El Al plane, was announced today at a memorial service in his memory in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Upwards of 200 persons attended the service at which Rabbi Mitchell Wohlberg of Washington pronounced the kaddish. Speakers included Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R,NY), on whose staff Rosenthal was serving when he was gunned down.

Ken Colburn, a Congressional aide and a friend of Rosenthal, announced that a fellowship in international relations will be set up and administered by a national organization concerned with American-Israeli relations. The fellowship, he said, will provide an opportunity for young people to work in the Congress assisting legislators on foreign affairs issues. It was also announced that the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, which was where Rosenthal was bound for to attend an academic seminar, is setting up a perpetual seminar in Rosenthal's name.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry received word Thursday that Shmuel and Raya Bronfman from Odessa were granted visas to Israel. Dying of leukemia, Raya was recently taken to the regional hospital in grave condition. She was denied an exit visa when an ovir official told Shmuel that the USSR "has the capability of taking care of life and death."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA**THE PLIGHT OF DR. BENOR GURFEL**

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 26 (JTA)--The steady erosion of personal freedom and deprivation of individual rights will evoke different responses from human beings. For Dr. Benor Gurfel, 43, internationally known econometrician now in the midst of a hunger strike in protest of the Soviet government's policies of repression against Jews who have applied for exit visas to Israel, his refusal to take food represents deep feelings of anguish and frustration.

The Kafka-like maze of bureaucracy in which Gurfel and his family have been enmeshed over the past four years since they first applied for emigration to Israel was related by Alvin H. Glens, associate national campaign director and Western Region director of the United Jewish Appeal, who has just returned from a 12-day survey of conditions being faced by Soviet Jewish "refuseniks," those denied exit visas to Israel.

Gurfel, who works in a plastics complex in Tallin, the capital city of Estonia prior to being absorbed by the Soviet Union after World War II, co-authored a scientific paper for the Econometric Society of Europe in collaboration with Dr. Ilya Zlobinsky, formerly of Kiev, who was allowed to emigrate to Israel.

The excellence of their work gained an invitation to both for the presentation of their paper before the conference of the society in Helsinki which concludes Aug. 30. Although Helsinki is 60 miles from Tallin, and the official conference program lists Gurfel as a participant, the Soviet government has denied him the right to participate on the basis that he had not received a formal written invitation.

Time Running Out For Family

It is obvious, Glens pointed out, that the record of continuous harassment of Gurfel and his family by Soviet authorities will prevent him from ever receiving the invitation. He cited the fact that every time Gurfel has applied for an exit visa he has been refused because of possessing "secrets." The alleged "secrets," Glens observed, are available in numerous scientific journals which circulate freely throughout the world.

Compounding the plight of Gurfel's family, which includes his wife, Soroti, 40, a physicist, and son, Eliezer, 17, who will complete high school in the near future, is that time is running out for them. Eliezer will apply for an exit visa on his own prior to his 18th birthday. If it is denied, he must serve in the Soviet armed forces. If this happens, it will all but eliminate the chances for the Gurfel family to emigrate to Israel, since the regulations state that one who serves, or any member of his family, cannot be allowed to leave the USSR for a period of five years after discharge from the military because of "secrets," according to Glens.

Gurfel's hunger strike coincides with the dates of the conference in Helsinki. Yet, it is much more than that, Glens observed. It represents the tragedy of the individual who chooses to live as a Jew in a nation which for centuries has imposed every form of repression and persecution upon the Jewish people. Glens noted that Benor Gurfel is alone. He begins the eighth day of his hunger strike today.

HEARING ON BIAS CLAIM

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA)--A hearing was held last week on the complaint of a Hasidic Jew

who claims he was forced to resign his position as a Federal Protection Officer because of his beard. The Federal Protection Service provides security personnel for federal facilities.

The hearing was on a complaint filed last March with the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer of the Federal General Services Administration. The complainant, Gershon Eigner, is being represented by Dennis Rapps, executive director of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) and Leo J. Kimmel, a COLPA volunteer attorney.

At issue is the validity, as applied to Eigner, of an employment regulation which provides "The face will be clean shaven, except for a mustache, if desired."

According to Sidney Kwestel, president of COLPA, aside from constitutional requirements which, in the absence of a "compelling necessity," bar governmental action which adversely affects a person because of his religious observance, the U.S. Civil Rights Act protects such observance in employment. Kwestel noted that witnesses at the hearing, including Eigner, testified that it is a common practice of Black Federal Protection Officers to sport small tufts of hair between their lip and chin. A decision by the GSA is expected within the next two months.

Kwestel noted that Rabbi Michell Geller, represented by Nathan Lewin, a COLPA vice-president, was recently ordered reinstated by a federal judge as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force. Geller was separated from the Air Force because he refused to shave his beard which he wears as a matter of religious observance. An Air Force regulation requires that except for medical reasons, all Air Force personnel must be clean shaven.

ANTI-BOYCOTT BILL SIGNED

BOSTON, Aug. 26 (JTA)--Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts has signed into law the Discriminatory Boycott Bill. Albert Schlossberg, president of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston, hailed passage of the bill as "a reaffirmation of American protection for all."

A number of community and national Jewish and non-Jewish groups were actively involved in supporting the statewide drive for legislation led by the chairman of JCC's Arab-Boycott Subcommittee, Maurice Zilber, who represented the American Jewish Committee. Principal draftsman for the bill was attorney Kenneth Swager, chairman of the American Jewish Congress Commission on Law and Social Action.

The bill prohibits companies doing business in Massachusetts from making agreements with foreign persons to discriminate against Massachusetts companies or persons on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin or appearance on foreign blacklist. Massachusetts companies also are prohibited from actually discriminating against persons in the state because of foreign boycott agreement and are prohibited from employment discrimination within the state or in appointment in the state for jobs abroad.

The state's Attorney General is authorized to enforce this statute through civil procedures including injunctions. Injured persons may also sue in actions for damages and may be awarded up to three times the amount of damages resulting from violations of the act.