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ALLOIN; WJC CONFERENCE WAS HELD AT THE WRONG PLACE AND WRONG TIME By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Yigal Alon criticized today the Madrid conference of the European Executive of the World Jewish Congress as "an unfortunate one, at the wrong place and at the wrong time--from both Israeli and Jewish points of view." He also told the Knesset that the WJC delegates had not consulted the Israeli government nor sought its views before they decided on the Madrid meeting.

Allon argued that while the WJC is an independent body which did not have to accept Israeli advice, the delegates should have, at the least, consulted the Israeli government on matters which might bring repercussions against Israel. Had that been done, he said, the WJC delegates would have been told in clear terms not to meet in Madrid.

Asserting that Spain surrendered to Arab blackmail in cancelling the scheduled appearance at the conference's opening session last Saturday night of Spanish Deputy Justice Minister Rafael Mendizabal, Alon said that even in the new Spanish regime there were still elements which would have to depart before the new regime could be considered as one of the enlightened democracies.

Allon also said that in addition to the "insult" which the Madrid conference had brought on its organizers and to some extent on the entire Jewish people, the results might jeopardize the creation of normal relations between Israel, Spain and the Jewish people.

DUTCH ART DEALER, WANTED FOR WAR CRIMES, ARRESTED IN SWITZERLAND By Sari Rauber

GENEVA, Dec. 8 (JTA)--Pieter Menten, a 78-year-old Dutch art dealer wanted for war crimes committed against Jews and others while serving in the Nazi SS during World War II, was arrested by Swiss police yesterday in Uster, an industrial town near Zurich. He had been the object of an international man-hunt since he disappeared from his country home in Blaricum, Holland on Nov. 14 only hours after he was to have been arrested. Dutch police believed that he had been warned of his impending arrest.

Menten, described as a multi-millionaire, was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment during the 1950s for collaboration with the enemy but no proof was brought to light at the time of complicity in war crimes. Evidence linking him to the killings of several hundred Jews and Poles at Lemberg in Galicia in 1941 was unearthed recently by the Dutch newspaper "Accent" acting on information supplied by an Israeli journalist.

It was not immediately clear whether Menten can be extradited to face trial in Holland. Swiss police said they had received no extradition request. Holland and Switzerland have an extradition treaty dating from 1895. But Swiss law provides a 20-year statute of limitations on war crimes after which a suspect cannot be extradited. However, this law can be by-passed under

certain circumstances.

Arrest Credited To Jewish Journalist

Menten's arrest at an Uster motel was credited to Hans Knoop, a Dutch Jewish journalist who wrote a series of articles exposing the former SS officer's wartime activities. Knoop received a telephone call Monday from a Swiss journalist who spotted Menten in Zurich. He alerted the Swiss police and officers of the Dutch Criminal Investigation Division who flew to Zurich and were present at the arrest. Dutch Minister of Justice Andries Van Agt also flew to Zurich to consult with his Swiss counterpart, apparently about extradition proceedings.

Van Agt, who is expected to head the Christian Democratic Party list in next year's parliamentary elections in Holland, came under political fire in the Dutch chamber because Menten escaped. The Chief Public Prosecutor in The Hague subsequently issued a warrant for "unknown persons" who may have tipped Menten that his arrest was imminent.

WALL EXCAVATIONS COME TO AN END

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA)--After nine years of work, excavations at the southern wall of the Temple Mount, the target of frequent international attacks on Israel, have come to an end. A team under Prof. Binyamin Mazar of the Hebrew University has completed almost 85 percent of the digging work in an archaeological project that is believed to be unique and historically significant. The site will be prepared for public visits beginning next year if the budget permits, and final work will begin on the remaining 15 percent.

The team has uncovered 25 layers of various periods in a five-acre area. The most important findings at the site were of the Second Temple with crossroads uncovered, staircases unearthed and Jewish art found. In an interview with the Jerusalem Post, Mazar said the cessation of the expedition had nothing to do with the condemnation of the dig by UNESCO. He said one difficulty caused by the UNESCO resolutions was the time he had to devote to journalists visiting the site as a result.

ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN HOLD INFORMAL, NON-POLITICAL TALKS AT HARVARD

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA)--When Eleazer Shmueli, director general of Israel's Ministry of Education, was in Nairobi, Kenya, for the UNESCO general conference last month, Israeli delegates could not even get a "hello" from the Arab representatives. But last week at Harvard University, Shmueli was able to engage his Egyptian counterpart in informal talks about professional and personal matters, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview here.

The occasion was a week-long seminar with three representatives each from Israel, Egypt, Iran and Turkey to discuss plans for a seven-week seminar at Harvard's Summer School next year in which educators will discuss youth, society and general education.

Shmueli was accompanied to Harvard by Baruch Levi, advisor on social services to Premier

Yitzhak Rabin, and Prof. David Chen, dean of Tel Aviv University's School of Education. The Egyptian group was headed by Mansour Hussein, first undersecretary in the Egyptian Ministry of Education.

The atmosphere between the Israelis and Egyptians was friendly and stimulating, Shmuell reported. He said they discussed common problems such as teacher training, vocational education, curriculum development and exchanged pamphlets and other information on how these matters are handled in their countries.

Shmuell said the Israelis and Egyptians also talked to each other about their personal lives and life in their countries. But, he noted, the conversations were conducted with "tact." "We refrained deliberately from political talks," Shmuell explained.

The cordiality extended to the representatives' wives. Shmuell's wife, Geula, said that she and two of the Egyptian women found themselves with time on their hands while their husbands were discussing the business of the conference and so went shopping together in the Harvard area of Cambridge. "I speak Arabic," Mrs. Shmuell said. "We had a good time."

Shmuell said he has no delusions that the meeting at Harvard was a major breakthrough in Israeli-Egyptian relations. "But it was a step forward to better understanding," he said.

GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS SIGNS ANTI-BOYCOTT EXECUTIVE ORDER

BOSTON, Dec. 8 (JTA)--Governor Michael Dukakis acted this week to ensure that Massachusetts' state government will in no way support the Arab business boycott. Appearing before a meeting of the American Jewish Congress Monday, Dukakis became the first governor in the nation to sign an executive order which requires businesses contracting with the state to agree not to participate in or cooperate with international boycotts conducted on the basis of color, creed, religion, or national origin.

The executive order specifies that any firm contracting with the state after Jan. 1, 1977 for an amount of \$5000 or more must agree not to participate in an international boycott. The order gives the state the right to cancel the contract if the company violates that agreement. The decision to sign the executive order was based, the Governor said, on his belief that the Arab boycott constitutes "clear interference with our constitutionally guaranteed civil and human rights," which is "morally reprehensible and can no longer be tolerated."

He pointed out that a recently passed Massachusetts law which also goes into effect on Jan. 1, prohibits compliance by Massachusetts firms with the Arab boycott. Dukakis said the law and the executive order put Massachusetts "in the front ranks of the battle against discrimination, whether it be personal, social, or economic."

JULIAN MORGENSTERN DEAD AT 95

MACON, Ga., Dec. 8 (JTA)--Funeral services for Dr. Julian Morgenstern, President Emeritus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio, will be held at the college tomorrow afternoon. He died last Saturday in Macon at the age of 95.

Widely regarded as one of the world's great Bible scholars, he was president of Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati prior to its merger with the Jewish Institute of Religion in New York from

1921 until his retirement in 1947. During his presidency, the number of students and faculty and the scope of the college grew markedly. During the Hitler period, a dozen European scholars found a haven at HUC, chiefly as a result of Morgenstern's efforts. After retiring as president of the college, he continued to teach Bible there for a number of years.

Morgenstern won distinction for his writings. His "Amos Studies" are regarded as of fundamental importance for the understanding of the life, times and impact of the Hebrew prophet. Other works included "Ark, the Aphod and the 'Tent of Meeting'" and "The Book of the Covenant." His "Rites of Birth, Marriage, Death and Kindred Occasions among the Semites," published when he was 85 years old, became a standard work in the field.

Born in St. Francisville, Ill., Morgenstern was graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1901 and a year later was ordained a rabbi at the HUC. He received his doctorate at the University of Heidelberg in 1904.

Morgenstern was president of the American Oriental Society and of the Society of Biblical Literature, a founder and an honorary vice-president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, honorary president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and an honorary fellow of the British Society for Old Testament Study.

CONSERVATIVE RABBIS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM WEDDINGS IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA)--The World Council of Synagogues, which held its Biennial Convention in Jerusalem last month, scored a major breakthrough when the Israeli government announced last week that Conservative rabbis will be allowed to perform weddings in Israel. David Zucker, newly elected president of the World Council, the international organization of Conservative congregations, said here today, "We welcome this positive step toward our objective of full and equal rights for our rabbis in Israel."

The government's announcement on Dec. 1 came several days after the biennial convention concluded. It represented a concession to demands by the Independent Liberal Party that recognition be granted to the non-Orthodox branches of Judaism in Israel. Zucker said that while the accomplishment was the result of political pressures within Israel's coalition government, the climate for it was created by the presence of the representatives of Conservative Jewry in Jerusalem.

The problems of Conservative congregations in Israel were fully aired among the delegates to the convention. They adopted a resolution calling on the government, the Israeli Chief Rabbinate and the local religious authorities to "permit all rabbis of Conservative congregations in Israel to officiate freely with the same rights, authority and full recognition as Orthodox congregational rabbis," Zucker said.

The right to perform weddings was officially granted Conservative rabbis by Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Raphael of the National Religious Party which, like the ILP, is a coalition partner. The weddings must be performed according to halacha and the couples must be certified by the local religious authorities as eligible to marry. According to reports from Jerusalem, Raphael asked that his concession be kept secret so as not to antagonize Orthodox circles.

No Concession To Reform Rabbis

According to the so-called "status quo" that has governed state-clergy relations in Israel since its independence, all family religious matters including marriage have been under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Orthodox rabbinate. However, selected Conservative rabbis have been permitted to perform marriages on an ad hoc basis. Authorization was granted to six Conservative rabbis by local religious councils but this did not constitute recognition by all religious councils.

No such concessions have been granted to Reform rabbis and, according to reports from Jerusalem, the latter are now demanding the same treatment that was just accorded the Conservative rabbis. Rabbi Ady Assabi, coordinator of the Progressive (Reform) movement in Israel said this week that he would take Religious Affairs Minister Raphael before the Supreme Court if he refused to authorize Reform rabbis to perform marriages according to halacha. He said that would constitute discrimination against Reform rabbis.

PERES FEELS CARTER WILL BE TOUGHER ON ARAB PRESSURE THAN PRESENT ADMINISTRATION; NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUTCOME OF GENEVA TALKS

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA)--Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres said here today that he was optimistic that President-elect Jimmy Carter will honor his commitments to help Israel. He said that Carter had his personal religious beliefs as well as political reasons for this and observed that the next President will not be worse and perhaps better than his predecessors with respect to Israel. He suggested that the Carter Administration may prove to be even stronger than prior Administrations in resisting Arab oil pressure.

Peres made his remarks at a closed private meeting here with representatives of the 32 constituent organizations of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The Israeli defense chief will meet later this month with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and is expected to have meetings as well with Carter aides.

Peres said that Israel is willing and ready to go to Geneva but he is not optimistic over the results of a peace conference held in the glare of publicity. He pointed to the lack of progress being made at the Rhodesia conference now taking place in Geneva. He said Israel was ready for compromises for peace but would not sacrifice its essential interests for the sake of favorable headlines such as are being sought by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Peres described Israel's position as a moderate one but stressed that it would fight to preserve a united Jerusalem and defensible borders. He said Israel cannot ever again become a state with a "ten-mile waist." It will not turn over to the next generation a constantly threatened, unprotected country, he said.

PLO At Geneva Is Out

The Defense Minister said that peace could be reached with Egypt but not as long as Sadat assumes the role of spokesman for the PLO. He said that Israel would never tolerate a West Bank state and didn't think the U.S. would support such an entity that would threaten the government of

King Hussein of Jordan no less than it threatened Israel.

Peres stated that Israel would not object if the Jordanian delegation to the Geneva conference included Palestinian representatives. He said that even if Israel agreed to PLO participation at Geneva--which it will never do--the PLO is divided within-itself over whether to go to Geneva. He said the PLO is also split over acceptance of a West Bank state, even if Israel were agreeable. But Israel will never agree because such a state would be "a great tragedy for Israel's future."

Peres criticized Israelis and others who meet with PLO representatives. He said such meetings were doomed to failure and would gain nothing but would divide Israel's supporters and encourage the Palestinians to maintain their extremist positions in belief that the Jews will eventually come around.

WALDHEIM: CHANCES FOR MIDEAST PEACE NOW BETTER THAN EVER
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 8 (JTA)--Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said today that "chances for progress in the Middle East have never been better than now," and said also that he is "confident" that the first months of 1977 will bring a breakthrough in the stalemate in the Middle East.

Addressing a press conference on the occasion of his reappointment to a new five-year term as Secretary General, Waldheim said that there are now "excellent chances" for the reconvening of the Geneva peace conference. He declared that all parties concerned are interested in a negotiated settlement in the Mideast and that recent events in the area, notably the end of the Lebanese civil war, make the prospect of progress better.

Waldheim expressed confidence that all problems and difficulties toward the reconvening of the Geneva conference will be overcome. He added that he is keeping contact with the two co-chairmen to the Geneva conference, the United States and the Soviet Union, and with the parties to the conflict. But, he added, the United Nations "will have to play a useful part" in the Geneva conference.

Answering a question as to whether he considers the present General Assembly less acrimonious on the issue of the Middle East than previous Assemblies, Waldheim said "yes." He said that he detects "a new trend" in the Assembly to go beyond mere resolutions and to start negotiations. He also said that there is much understanding now of the problem of international terrorism, adding he believed that the West German resolution against the taking of hostages had a good chance to be adopted.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Actress Elizabeth Taylor and her newly-wed third husband, former U.S. Secretary of the Navy John W. Warner, arrived in Israel Tuesday as guests of the Jewish National Fund. Wednesday they planted trees in the U.S. Bicentennial Forest at Nea Harim near Jerusalem as swarms of reporters, photographers and TV camera crews recorded the event. The couple was greeted by Premier Yitzhak Rabin at his office and lunched with JNF chairman Yacov Lur. Tuesday night they visited the Western Wall where Ms. Taylor whispered a prayer. The actress converted to Judaism years ago and identifies herself as Jewish.

PLACK OVER PLAQUE

By Jon Fedler

BONN, Dec. 8 (JTA)--A fierce controversy has broken out in the German city of Paderborn (North Rhine Westphalia) about a plaque recalling the deaths of about 2000 people in a nearby Nazi concentration camp from 1941-43. The camp inmates were engaged in renovating an adjacent 800-year-old castle, the "Wewelsburg," for use as an SS center and as a residence of Heinrich Himmler. Many were hanged, shot or tortured to death.

From 1964 to 1973 a memorial plaque provided by the "Association of Victims of the Nazi Regime" was placed in the inner courtyard of the castle, commemorating "victims of the Hitler dictatorship in the Wewelsburg concentration camp."

In 1973 the local authorities controlled by Germany's conservative opposition Christian Democrat Party (CDU) removed the tablet on the grounds that it was "historically inaccurate," the prisoners having died not in the castle but in the now demolished camp below. Observers believe, however, that the real reason was that Wewelsburg had been converted into a youth hostel and local history museum. The CDU, they speculate, did not want local and overseas visitors to be reminded of the killings.

In October the CDU local council rejected a call by the Social Democratic Party, which rules in Bonn with the Liberal Party, for the plaque to be reinstated. One CDU councillor, Reinold Stuecke, justified his party's opposition on the grounds of "the negative attitude of the population."

Last month the SPD again presented a resolution calling for a memorial plaque. Apparently under pressure because of adverse publicity, the CDU referred the issue to the council's subcommittee for culture. Last week the subcommittee, in turn, resolved to set up a special committee to look at the problem. Observers see this as another delaying tactic. One regional television commentator said the CDU wanted to "sweep the matter under a carpet, under the motto: 'Each yes, Hitler no.'"

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR SAYS EVENT BECOMING TABOO IN JEWISH COMMUNITY

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA)--A survivor of the Nazi Holocaust expressed sorrow at the fact that this awesome event is becoming an "uncomfortable" subject in the Jewish community.

In fact, Sigmund Strochlitz, vice-president of the American Friends of Haifa University, stated that the Holocaust "that should serve as a reminder that it can happen again is being pushed away and ignored even by our own leaders. Subsequent developments--Hiroshima, Korea, Vietnam and the fact that our own people are supposedly tired of what happened to their parents, grandparents or great-grandparents--is being used as a reason and maybe as an excuse."

Strochlitz made this observation at the 70th anniversary celebration of Congregation Machzef Avraham last Sunday. The meeting also honored Strochlitz for his work and contributions to the congregation, the oldest Polish-Jewish congregation in this country and which is now comprised of Holocaust survivors, and for the fact that he was the first to establish a Holocaust Chair at Haifa University. The spiritual leader of the congregation is Rabbi Moses Steinberg who was the Chief Rabbi of the Polish army during

World War II.

Strochlitz, who was an inmate at Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps during the war and is now a resident of New London, Connecticut, said that talking about the Holocaust has become taboo. "But it cannot and should not be taboo," he said. "I refuse to believe that it had changed nothing, taught nothing and meant nothing. Somehow I have a feeling that a conspiracy of silence threatens to make the destruction of our people's past history a subject reserved only for psychologists."

Blurring Murderers And Victims

While relating "acts of extreme courage on the one side and acts of extreme bestiality on the other side," Strochlitz noted that some of the children and grandchildren of those who fled Europe many years ago are "adopting strange and alien moral values and standards" by blurring the distinction between the murderers and the victims.

As a case in point he related how distressed he was several weeks ago while watching a television program during which a Jewish lawyer from Long Island "vigorously objected, together with his neighbors, to an attempt to deport a Nazi murderer from the United States, a murderer who was recognized by many people as the man who wiped out an entire Jewish village in Latvia." Strochlitz was referring to Boleslavs Malkovskis, a Mineola, Long Island resident.

That lawyer, he added, considered the attempt to deport the ex-Nazi a crime and the innocent people that he killed, the guilty ones. Reaction such as this is the reason why the Holocaust survivors "have the sacred obligation" to make sure that the horror will never be forgotten or distorted, Strochlitz declared.

ISRAELI RAPS INDIFFERENCE OF GERMAN JEWS TO THE RESURGENCE OF NAZISM

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA)--Israelis are concerned about the resurgence of neo-Nazism in West Germany and are critical of German Jews and the West German Zionist Federation for alleged apathy in face of the threat.

MK Hillel Seidel of the Independent Liberal Party, a survivor of the Holocaust, denounced the indifference of German Jews to the revival of the Nazi movement. He cited last week's incident in Munich where anti-Nazi activist Serge Klarsfeld was beaten up at a Nazi rally and he and his wife Beate were forcibly ejected. The rally was held in the beer cellar where Hitler planned his putsch against the Bavarian State government in 1923. No German Jews took part in the Klarsfeld's anti-Nazi demonstration and none came to their aid, Seidel said.

Meanwhile, supporters of the Public Committee to Fight Nazi Criminals, headed by the Klarsfelds, have cabled World Jewish Congress President Nahum Goldmann to intervene with West German authorities. They want him to urge action against meetings of the neo-Nazi parties in Germany and reunions of former members of the SS and other Nazi groups.

NEW YORK (JTA)--According to reports reaching the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, there are no longer any synagogues in Chabernitki, in the Ukraine, where there were once 20. There is no minyan and a single room is rented for those few Jews attending High Holiday services. Some 10,000 Jews live in the city.