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ISRAEL SEEKING TO EXTRADITE TWO DUTCH WAR CRIMINALS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA)--Two Dutch war criminals linked to the murders of Jews and others during World War II could possibly stand trial in Israel. The Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that it will seek the extradition of Lambertus Johannes Loyen, 58, who received a life sentence in Roermond, Holland yesterday for murdering over 100 Jews while serving as an SS guard at the Boerhuis forced labor camp in Poland in 1942-43.

MK Hillel Seidel, meanwhile, has asked Foreign Minister Yigal Alon to join Holland in demanding the extradition of Pieter Menten, 78, a suspected war criminal who fled Holland last month to avoid arrest and was apprehended near Zurich, Switzerland a week ago.

Much of the evidence against both men was provided by Israeli survivors who were eye-witnesses to their crimes. Menten, a multi-millionaire art dealer, was exposed by a Dutch-Jewish journalist, Hans Knoop, on the basis of information obtained from Israeli sources. He is suspected of complicity in the murders of several thousand Jews and Poles while an officer in a Nazi SS unit at Lemberg, Galicia in 1941.

The Swiss government has not yet decided whether to comply with Holland's extradition request for Menten. The Cabinet is expected to take up the matter Friday. Menten has engaged a lawyer and his wife has appeared on Dutch television from Zurich claiming his innocence. In a letter to the Dutch Minister of Justice, copies of which were distributed to the press, Menten alleged that the victims buried in mass graves at Lemberg were killed by Russians and Ukrainians, not by the Germans. He also claimed to have sworn evidence that he was elsewhere when the mass murders occurred.

Mrs. Menten said she and her husband fled their country home in Holland Nov. 14 because he feared extradition to Poland or the Soviet Union. His lawyer has appealed to the Swiss authorities not to return Menten to Holland on grounds that he would not receive a fair trial there. A Dutch magistrate, meanwhile, has ordered the seizure of a large number of paintings in Menten's possession which he allegedly looted from Jewish and non-Jewish owners in Poland during World War II. Menten had planned to auction the paintings.

IRAQI, LIBYAN UNITS LEAVE LEBANON

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA)--Israeli officials described the situation in Lebanon today as "convenient." They reported that the Iraqi and Libyan units of the inter-Arab peace-keeping force have departed from Lebanon during the last few days and Syrian forces have not moved south of their original positions.

There is a political vacuum in southern Lebanon, but Israel prefers that to a Syrian or terrorist presence near its borders. The vacuum is expected to be filled in 3-4 months by a newly formed Lebanese army, sources said. They noted that since Syria occupied Lebanon, a tacit understanding has developed between Israel and Syria

limiting their movements in the common interest. The U.S. was said to have been apprehensive over the situation in southern Lebanon but its fears have been allayed by the Israeli-Syrian understanding, the sources said.

3 SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS IN ISRAEL TO ATTEND RAKAH CONFAB

TEL AVIV, Dec. 15 (JTA)--Three officials of the Soviet Communist Party arrived here yesterday to attend the congress of the Rakah (Communist) Party. Delegations have also arrived from Rumania, Czechoslovakia and East Germany. Rumania is the only Communist country to have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Alexander Aksenov, second secretary of the Byelorussian Communist Party, told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that resumption of relations between the USSR and Israel could follow a complete Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinians.

The other members of the Soviet delegation were Nikolai Slepov, former secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Israel before relations were broken during the Six-Day War, and Karen Brutenz, deputy director of the Soviet Communist Party Executive's international department.

SEARCH FOR NEW ENERGY SOURCES, INCLUDING COAL DEPOSITS IN NEGEV

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA)--Israel, in need of new energy sources, is searching the Negev for coal deposits and plans a giant hydro-electric project utilizing the waters of the Mediterranean. Prof. Yitzhak Yaacov, chief scientist of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, told newsmen here that traces of coal were found in the Negev in the past.

Drilling will begin soon in the Dimona region to see if sufficient coal exists to make its extraction practicable, Yaacov said. He noted that the government is anxious to use coal as an alternative to high priced oil. One power plant in Israel, located at Hadera, burns coal fuel and others may be built.

Yaacov said that planning will be completed by the middle of next year for a tunnel from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea. The latter lies over 1000 feet below sea level and the plunging waters would be used to generate electric power. The government will decide, on the basis of the plans, whether the project is feasible, Yaacov said. He said that Israel hopes that alternatives to oil fuel will provide 30 percent of its energy needs by the late 1980s.

WRITERS FROM 14 COUNTRIES APPEAL TO USSR TO RELEASE KUZNETSOV

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Dec. 15 (JTA)--More than 120 Western writers from 14 countries have appealed to the Soviet authorities for the release of Eduard Kuznetsov, who faces another nine years imprisonment for his part in the so-called Leningrad hijack plot in 1970.

The appeal, issued by the International Committee for the Liberation of Eduard Kuznetsov, has been sent to Georgi Markov, First Secretary

of the Union of Soviet Writers; Leonid Brezhnev, Secretary of the Communist Party; Andrei Gromyko, Foreign Minister; P.N. Demichev, Culture Minister; and top Soviet officials dealing with cultural affairs, administration of justice and emigration.

Signatories from Britain include Alan Sillitoe, Iris Murdoch, Stuart Hampshire and David Storey; from France, Raymond Aron, Simone de Beauvoir, Jean-Paul Sartre, Eugene Ionescu and Jean Lacouture; from the United States, Saul Bellow, Herman Wouk, Bernard Malamud and Howard Fast; and from West Germany, Heinrich Boell.

The appeal was timed to arrive in Moscow today, the sixth anniversary of the opening of the Leningrad trial, when Kuznetsov was sentenced to death (later commuted to 15 years hard labor) for daring to question his country's denial of the charter of human rights.

In 1974, Kuznetsov's prison diary was published in the West where it earned him the Gulliver Prize. He is also a member of the International Pen Club and the Writers Organization in which the Soviet Union holds observer status. The appeal praised Kuznetsov's literary talents, including his "originality of thought, art of expression, intellectual honesty and courage," and asks: "What will become of this talent--if not of the man himself--under the present conditions which imperil his life?"

Legal Provision Could Justify Release

The appeal notes that two years before he began his 15-year sentence, he had already served seven years imprisonment for "anti-Soviet activity," and that he is now in a specially strict regime labor camp.

Urging the Soviet authorities to show clemency, the appeal points out that a decree of the Supreme Soviet, published last January, sanctions an attempt to hijack an aircraft with five years imprisonment. In view of the six years which he has already served, the appeal asks, "Is it not possible that this legal provision could provide the judicial means to set Eduard Kuznetsov free and thus satisfy not only the exigency of written law, but also that of humanity?"

Although Kuznetsov was attempting to emigrate to Israel--he is the husband of Silva Zalmanson, who was released two years ago and now resides in Israel--no Israelis are included among the signatories of the appeal. Kuznetsov is also the nephew of the wife of the dissident physicist, Prof. Andrei Sakharov, who has recently expressed anxiety about Kuznetsov's whereabouts and state of health.

WEST CAN ACT TO REDUCE OIL PRICES

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)--A leading Israeli economist contends that the Western world, if interested, can bring about a cut in the price of oil. According to Prof. Haim Ben Shahr, president of Tel Aviv University and the author of the newly published book, "Oil: Prices and Capital," the West can widen the already existing conflict between Saudi Arabia and the rest of the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and thereby create a situation in which the price of oil will be cut or at least an increase avoided. The latter would mean a reduction in price because of inflation, Ben Shahr explained.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, he explained that the conflict of economic

interests between Saudi Arabia and the other OPEC countries is that Saudi Arabia is interested in lower prices for petroleum while the others, led by Iran, seek an increase in prices.

The reason for the conflict, Ben Shahr said, is because "Saudi Arabia has far more reserves of oil and a great amount of surpluses in petro-dollars compared to the Iranian group. A reduction in price will increase Saudi Arabia's revenues because of greater demand for oil. Because of its vast amounts of oil Saudi Arabia will be left, therefore, with tremendous amounts of money in the course of the next 15 years."

The West can widen the conflict between Saudi Arabia and the rest of OPEC by giving Saudi Arabia, which is accumulating petro-dollar surpluses, insurance against inflation and by helping that country to increase its oil production, Ben Shahr said. Whether there will be a rise in oil price or not, Israel will find itself in an awkward situation, Ben Shahr said. A price hike will increase Arab revenues while a cut in prices will increase the dependency of the West on the Arabs.

ISRAELIS FACE BLEAK FUTURE

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)--While the "trauma" of the Yom Kippur War has faded in Israel, "the Israelis face a future of lower incomes, higher prices and the specter of unemployment--the cost of maintaining their life-sustaining defense," Melvin Dubinsky told the United Israel Appeal's annual trustees meeting last Friday.

Dubinsky, who was reelected UIA chairman, observed that in the months ahead, "the Jewish people will face other vexing problems. The emigration of Jews from the USSR continues to be a major concern--decisive action must be taken--everything that can be done must be done to strengthen and encourage their quest for freedom in the Jewish homeland."

In the United States, he noted, "the UIA serves as a bridge to the Jewish Agency for Israel for the American Jewish community. Our growing involvement was evidenced in July by the participation of the largest U.S. delegation to the annual assembly (of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem) in the selection of a new chairman of the Executive and the development of new guidelines for our joint efforts to aid immigration and close the social gap."

JEWISH GROUPS URGED TO CONTINUE PROMOTING HOLOCAUST STUDIES

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)--National Jewish organizations were called on to continue to expand their work to promote Holocaust studies, "not out of choice but out of necessity." The plea was made by Eli Zborowski, honorary president of the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims at the organization's seventh anniversary dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel Sunday night.

Zborowski, who was a member of the underground in Poland during World War II, and his wife Diana, were honored by the Federation for "their work and dedication in Holocaust studies and for bringing awareness closer to youth." The theme of the dinner was "Remembering and retelling it (the Holocaust) to your children." Dr. Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University, which has established an Eli and Diana Zborowski Chair in Holocaust Studies, paid tribute to the couple. He urged the Federation to continue its work so that the world "never forgets

what happened in the Holocaust."

Zborowski asserted that the Federation must continue to be "the conscience of the civilized world." He pointed out that the organization had expanded its program by sponsoring mobile exhibits from college campus to college campus; by publishing much information on the Holocaust; by increasing Holocaust studies such as the Holocaust Chair at Yeshiva University; and by sponsoring memorial programs to remember the terrible tragedy of World War II. Some 500 persons attended the dinner.

GENERAL STRIKE SHUTS DOWN VIRTUALLY ALL OF WEST BANK, EAST JERUSALEM By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 15 (JTA)--Virtually all of the West Bank and East Jerusalem was shut down today by a general strike called by local Arab authorities. Israeli security forces were kept busy suppressing riots and demonstrations; mainly by high school youths and curfews were imposed in a number of towns.

One of the most serious incidents occurred in East Jerusalem where some 500 high school students set up road blocks near the Lutheran School. Police opened fire to disperse them and a 15-year-old boy, Tashin Nasser, was wounded in the leg. Police immediately began an investigation of the incident. There was a partial strike in Gaza but shops closed this morning reopened at noon.

The strike is a one-day affair, called by Arab municipalities ostensibly to protest the value added tax imposed on the West Bank Dec. 1. The anti-inflation measure took effect in Israel earlier this year. But it seemed clear that the tax is only a pretext for a new wave of demonstrations against Israeli authorities with a strong pro-PLO tinge.

Teen-aged youths were in the vanguard of these demonstrations, as they have been in earlier West Bank disturbances. They set up road blocks, burned piles of rubber tires and heaps of garbage in main thoroughfares, stoned Israeli vehicles, hoisted Palestinian flags and scrawled pro-PLO slogans on walls.

Many Strike Leaders Support PLO

For the past week, in fact, militant high school youths have been intimidating local merchants to close shop. It would seem to an ordinary observer that the youngsters have taken control. But a closer look at the situation makes it apparent that the students are willing tools in the hands of local authorities--primarily the newly elected mayors in many West Bank towns--who seek to assert themselves as leaders of Palestinian nationalism.

Some of these leaders are outright supporters of a PLO take-over of the West Bank. Others want to share power with the PLO as representatives of the Palestinians. Many are advocating incorporation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into a projected Jordanian-Syrian federation. As a first step they would demand inclusion of Palestinians in the Jordanian and Syrian delegations to a reconvened Geneva peace conference or any other Middle East forum.

Today's general strike was the first instigated by the Arab municipalities against Israeli authority since Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967. The first strike vote was taken in Nablus where the municipality invited high school students to sit in on the deliberations. A strike vote followed in Ramallah and the same measures

were approved in most other West Bank towns--ships and in East Jerusalem.

The strike was effective. Streets in the business districts were deserted. Shops were locked. Schools were closed and all municipal activities were suspended. No strike was called in the East Jerusalem suburb of Kalandia but pupils there staged demonstrations. Curfews were imposed in Nablus and Ramallah but later lifted. The strike is expected to be over by tomorrow. But the West Bank Chamber of Commerce is scheduled to meet in East Jerusalem to consider future measures.

UN MOVES AGAINST TAKING OF HOSTAGES By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 15 (JTA)--A West German initiative against the taking of hostages was adopted by consensus by the General Assembly today. The resolution called for the establishment of a 35-member, ad hoc committee to draft an international convention for that purpose. It did not mention terrorism.

The wording of the resolution represented a compromise reached after a prolonged struggle in the General Assembly's Legal Committee where extremist Arab states, led by Libya and Algeria, attempted to sabotage the German initiative. Libya insisted that the resolution refer only to the taking of "innocent" hostages, implying that certain hostages, namely Israelis, were not innocent.

The Libyans dropped their demand after it was agreed that the resolution would not refer to the punishment of persons taking hostages in the country where they are caught or their extradition to other countries. Israel pointed out, in addressing the General Assembly after the consensus, that the ad hoc committee would have to deal with the issues of extradition and punishment. The Western powers concurred.

The Assembly also adopted a resolution today renewing the mandate of the ad hoc committee on terrorism, established in 1972 at the initiative of Secretary General Kurt Waldheim following the terrorist massacre of Israeli Olympic athletes at Munich. The vote was 100-9 with 27 abstentions.

Israel, the U.S. and Britain voted against the resolution on grounds that it legitimized certain types of terrorism. Israel, in fact, had opposed the creation of the ad hoc committee four years ago because the motivating resolution at that time upheld the right of liberation movements to pursue their struggle in a way that could be interpreted as an endorsement of terrorist acts for that purpose.

The resolution adopted today reinforced that view. One clause said: "The General Assembly urges states to continue to seek a just and peaceful solution to the underlying causes which give rise to such acts of violence." Another clause stated: "The General Assembly affirms the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of all people under colonial and racist regimes and other forms of alien discrimination and upholds the legitimacy of their struggle, in particular, the struggle of national liberation movements."

Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy, in a letter to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, suggested that he visit the Mideast and invited him to pay a visit to Egypt. A UN spokesman said Waldheim was considering the matter.

AGENCY HANDLING IMMIGRATION NEEDS OF JEWISH MIGRANTS TO U.S. WILL SHUT DOWN AT THE END OF THE YEAR

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)--A New York agency, Service for the Foreign Born (SFB), which has been handling special immigration needs of Jewish migrants to the United States for 74 years, is being terminated as of Dec. 31 under an arrangement in which its caseload is being turned over to six New York City Jewish agencies. The union representing the SFB employees has challenged the transition as a threat to future Jewish migrants to this country, a charge in turn rejected by spokesmen for the transition agencies.

SFB, described by the New York section of the National Council of Jewish Women as one of its community service projects, is being terminated, according to Mrs. Sidney A. Bernstein, president of the section, because the section could no longer meet its share of the financing of SFB's \$200,000 annual budget. The section has provided 20 percent of that budget, with the balance of \$160,000 provided by the Joint Distribution Committee. The JDC terminated its subvention when the section ended its support.

Mrs. Bernstein said the six agencies had agreed to cooperate in dividing responsibility for the services heretofore provided by SFB. The agencies are HIAS, the New York Association for New Americans (NYANA), and four member agencies of the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies--the Jewish Family Service, the Jewish Association for Services to the Aged, the Jewish Community Services of Long Island and Westchester Community Services.

Claims Clients May Be Stranded

Plans for termination of SFB were disclosed in November by Richard Morton, executive director of District Council 1707, Community & Social Agency Employees, AFL-CIO, which has represented the SFB staff. Morton said then that SFB's many clients were in danger of being stranded and future immigrants left without hope because of the pending transition. He said there had been no attempt to involve SFB's staff of four immigration specialists in the transition, a statement confirmed today by Ben Winitz, SFB director.

Morton also asserted that "since the SFB staff has not been called upon to participate in the new arrangement, we can only come to the conclusion that the purported projected changeover is purely window dressing and that the essential services to immigrant Jews will, in actuality, be discontinued."

Morton said no other existing Jewish-sponsored agency renders a comprehensive service in the immigration and naturalization field, embracing casework, technical services and authorized representation of clients before the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

350 Open Cases

Alfred Kreech, the senior caseworker at SFB, who is also the union's shop steward, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that SFB handled about 1200 cases a year and currently had 350 open cases. He said the SFB had not taken any new cases for the past two months because of the impending shutdown of the project.

Kreech qualified Morton's assertion that none of the agencies taking over the work of SFB were

equipped to provide the specialized immigration casework of the SFB's four immigration caseworkers. Kreech said that HIAS was handling about 75 such cases a year but he contended that HIAS was providing only "technical" services, which he asserted were not complete.

Flora Rothenberg, executive director of the New York section, which issued the announcement of the transition arrangements, denied that the SFB was handling 1200 cases a year, asserting that its caseload had been dropping steadily. That assertion also was made by a spokesman for HIAS, to which SFB is turning over its records on the 350 open cases. Apprised of those comments, Kreech said that the SFB caseload was 1265 in 1975 and that it had been in that area for many years.

Kreech said that, as of today, there had been no approaches made to SFB by any of the six agencies to hire any of the SFB's four immigration experts. This was confirmed by Ms. Rothenberg, who said the four SFB caseworkers were covered by "adequate" severance and pension benefits. She rejected the union's assertion that Jewish migrants would be left stranded. She also said that if, after evaluation of the 350 open cases, HIAS decided another immigration specialist was needed, one would be added to the HIAS staff.

Plan For Distributing Caseload

The HIAS spokesman, asked about the union's assertion that HIAS handled only 75 cases annually involving immigration problems, said such services were provided during 1975 in 1545 cases by two HIAS immigration specialists and that HIAS officials felt the migration agency could handle the additional casework load without difficulty.

The spokesman noted that HIAS had not yet received the records on the 350 open cases and therefore did not know how many would need special immigration help. The spokesman expressed doubt that all 350 would need such service but confirmed Ms. Rothenberg's statement that if another specialist proved to be needed, HIAS would add a staff caseworker.

Mrs. Bernstein said that after the section decided last January it could no longer provide its annual subvention to SFB, the Federation brought together lay and staff members of Jewish organizations to formulate "a strategy which would close the potential gap in service."

After many months of meetings, she said, the United Jewish Appeal, the Federation, HIAS, NYANA and the Council of Jewish Women developed the plan for the distribution of the SFB caseload. Its substance appeared to be that HIAS will handle specialized immigration services while the family agencies will deal with problems of migrants falling into their fields of service.

PARIS (JTA)--UNESCO Director Amadou Mahtar M'Bow expressed his satisfaction at Israel's inclusion into a UNESCO regional group. Speaking at a press conference Tuesday, he stressed that all member countries "have the right to enjoy all privileges." He also stressed that the UNESCO General Conference which approved at its Nairobi meeting Israel's inclusion into the European group did so without a nominal vote and on the basis of a broad consensus. M'Bow added, the UN has a right to intervene in Jerusalem archaeological digs since "the site is not in Israeli territory."