

AJCOMMITTEE CLOSES OFFICE IN BUENOS AIRES FOLLOWING THREATS AGAINST ITS REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS FAMILY

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, July 7 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee announced today that it has closed its Buenos Aires office after 29 years because of threats against its representative and his family. AJCommittee president Richard Maass told a press conference that the organization will not reopen the office which serves all of South America until it receives physical evidence, not just verbal assurances, that those who make anti-Semitic and anti-American threats will be found and punished.

Jacobo Kovadloff, director of the AJCommittee's Buenos Aires office; his wife Sonia; their daughter, Georgina, 21; and son, Ezechiel, 15, are now in New York from where Kovadloff will temporarily run the organization's South American affairs.

Kovadloff did not attend the press conference and Maass explained that this was because he was still "shook up" after the threats and because as a fifth generation Argentinian he did not want to be in the position of attacking his country from abroad.

Maass said that the United States government has been asked to lodge a protest with the Argentine government against the threats to the AJCommittee and American property in Buenos Aires. He noted that the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires and Consulate General in Rio de Janeiro has been very helpful to Kovadloff and his family.

Elements In Argentine Government Charged

Maass charged that elements in the Argentine government were behind the threats to Kovadloff. David Geller, the AJCommittee's Latin American specialist, said that Kovadloff believes that the AJCommittee was singled out for attack to embarrass President Jorge Rafael Videla, who is considered a moderate, by right-wing elements in the government. As evidence of this, Maass pointed out that one of the notes threatening Kovadloff ended by saying "We do not want offices of Yankees and Jews."

The AJCommittee president said that while Videla and other officials of his government have condemned discrimination and racism they have not mentioned anti-Semitism by name. He said the AJCommittee believes the government can find the persons who threatened the Kovadloffs and should punish them as an example to others that such threats will not be tolerated in Argentina any longer.

In addition, Maass said the government should completely ban the publication of anti-Semitic organs like the magazine *Cabildo* instead of only confiscating one issue as it did recently and should punish the generals and other government officials who attended a recent anniversary banquet for the magazine.

Warnings Began Last Month

The threats against Kovadloff started when an unidentified telephone caller told Mrs. Kovadloff June 20: "Tell your husband that if he does not leave the country, the same thing that happened to Timerman will happen to him." (Jacobo Timer-

man, a prominent Jewish journalist and editor of the newspaper *La Opinion* is being held in jail, linked to David Graiver, a Jewish banker who died in a plane crash last year, in an investigation of illegal economic activities.)

Kovadloff himself received a note, hand delivered to the doorman at his home June 21, saying: "Traitor. You played a double game too much. Go away before it will be too late. We do not want Yankee or Jewish offices." The same afternoon the AJCommittee office was called, telling Kovadloff and his family to leave the country. A similar call was made to the Kovadloff home later in the day.

Kovadloff then left for Brazil June 22 where, according to Maass, he thought he would stay temporarily. But as soon as he left his wife and children began receiving threats. On June 28 Mrs. Kovadloff and the two children left for the airport in a U.S. Embassy car accompanied by two American diplomatic officials. The family's belongings were thoroughly searched at the airport and a plainclothes official crushed the lens of the glasses belonging to Kovadloff's son. The plane was delayed for a half hour due to the search.

Maass said that the AJCommittee has operated in Argentina as a service organization to the Argentine Jewish community and to improve relations between Argentina and the United States. He said it has never taken a political stand in the country. The South American office was located in Buenos Aires because about half of the continent's Jews are in Argentina.

WOMAN DIES OF WOUNDS SUSTAINED IN PETACH TIKVAH MARKET BOMBING

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA)--The terrorist bombing of the Petach Tikva market place yesterday has claimed one fatality. Mrs. Tzila Galili, 55, one of 23 persons injured, died of her wounds and was buried in Petach Tikva today. Another victim, Geulah Sabah, 34, was on the critical list today after major surgery. El Fatah has claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Mrs. Galili came to Israel from the Soviet Union four years ago. A widow at the time, she married Moshe Galili of Petach Tikva who was manager of the former Jewish Agency transit camp at Schoenau, Austria where they met. She was a musical librarian. Her son, Zinovi Stern, is a musician with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

DAYAN SUPPORTS CARTER'S APPROACH FOR COMPREHENSIVE MIDEAST SETTLEMENT
By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan expressed strong support yesterday for President Carter's desire to aim for a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement and said he has recommended to Premier Menachem Begin that he discuss such a settlement with Carter when they meet in Washington July 19-20 rather "than waste time on interim settlements." Dayan said that despite differences of opinion between Israel and the U.S. "Carter's stance is the right one" with respect to an overall settlement.

Dayan is reported to have made those remarks at a meeting with Sen. Robert Dole (R.Kan.) who

is presently visiting Israel. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis who will fly to Washington next week to report on Israel's peace concepts prior to Begin's arrival.

Dayan also expressed agreement with Carter's assessment that now is the most opportune time for reaching a settlement. He said he reached that conclusion on the basis of his 30 years experience in the area. He said further that he could detect increased Arab preparedness for peace, a view also held by Carter, although Arab terms and pronouncements disturbed the prospects for peace. Dayan warned that Israel and the Arabs are still separated by a serious gap but he hoped it would be narrowed by the Carter-Begin talks.

Dole said here yesterday that there was no erosion of U.S. policy with respect to Israel despite differences of opinion between them. "One can speak of a certain uncomfortable feeling, some tension. But such tension or even disagreement must not be construed as a crisis in the relations between the U.S. and Israel," he said on his arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. He added, "If there has been any erosion I have not been able to detect it."

Dole, who was President Ford's Vice Presidential running mate in last year's elections, will address the 80th national convention of the Zionist Organization of America in Jerusalem tonight. Immediately after his arrival he began a full day of meetings with Israeli leaders, including Begin, Dayan and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman. He also called on President Ephraim Katzir.

DMC VOTES TO REOPEN TALKS WITH LIKUD

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA)--The Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) voted 14-6 with three abstentions last night to reopen coalition talks with Likud. The decision by the party's Executive and Knesset faction was taken after DMC leader Yigael Yadin reported on the results of the informal meetings he has had over the past two weeks with Likud and National Religious Party (NRP) leaders.

Yadin made it clear that the decision to resume negotiations did not mean that the DMC was joining the Likud-led coalition government. He said that clarifications were still needed on key issues such as territorial compromise, new settlements in the administered territories and the DMC's insistence on electoral reforms.

Yadin was reportedly given certain promises on those matters. Members of the DMC's "Lashinov" faction headed by Prof. Amnon Rubinstein voted against resuming talks with Likud. But a majority agreed with former Laborite Meir Amit who said that it was in the national interest to reopen negotiations on the eve of Premier Menachem Begin's visit to Washington.

Yadin was reportedly promised that the DMC would be able to raise objections to any new settlements with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee; that it would have freedom of expression on foreign policy matters and that agreement would be sought on electoral reforms. When the DMC-Likud talks broke off last month, the DMC stated they would be resumed only if conditions were altered. The DMC's poor showing in the Histadrut elections of June 21 which deprived it of a pivotal role in the trade union federation was seen by some observers as the condition that made it more amenable to talks with Likud.

COUNTERING ANTI-SEMITIC PUBLICATIONS

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA)--The World Jewish

Congress Executive, meeting here, has focused attention on ways to counter the wave of anti-Semitic publications appearing in many parts of the world that claim the Holocaust was fictitious and an invention of Jewish propaganda. Delegates attending the meeting stressed that special efforts will have to be made to expose such falsifications of history.

During the two days of deliberations thorough analyses were made of the situation of Soviet Jewry and reports were heard on the condition of Jewish communities in Latin America in light of social and political changes there. The agenda of the WJC General Council meeting to be held in Washington at the end of October was also discussed. Philip Klutznick, chairman of the WJC's Board of Governors, visited Premier Menachem Begin to invite him to attend the General Council meeting.

SITUATION OF JEWS IN BULGARIA

By Maurice Fine

VIENNA, July 7 (JTA)--The president of the Jewish Council of Bulgaria, Salvador Israel, reported here yesterday that the Jewish community in his country has been decimated by intermarriage and assimilation and religious life is negligible. But the community nevertheless is interested in establishing and strengthening contacts with Jewish organizations abroad and was interested in cooperation with the World Jewish Congress.

Israel, who is visiting Vienna, said there were 5100 Jews in Bulgaria organized into an active community but there was no rabbi and only two synagogues, one in Sofia, the capital, and the other in Plovdiv. He said that an average of 50 persons attend religious services on weekends. Circumcisions are performed by Jewish physicians instead of a mohel who is a religious functionary.

According to Israel, there have been no Jewish religious weddings in Bulgaria in recent years. He said that at least 50 percent of the young Jews marry non-Jewish spouses and most Jewish youth are completely assimilated and are members of the Communist Party. He said the Jewish community enjoys good relations with Bulgarian authorities and he described relations with the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria as very good. He noted that despite the anti-Israel policy of the Communist bloc countries, Bulgarian Jews have never been pressured to sign anti-Israel or anti-Zionist statements.

This year, Israel reported, the Jewish community received enough grain to bake 1.1 tons of Pass-over matzos. It publishes a monthly magazine, stages cultural and religious meetings at the Jewish National Club and has an annual budget of 10,500 Leva, about \$2500, which is fully covered by the Bulgarian government. Israel said the problem of contacts with Jewish communities and organizations abroad "cannot be solved by Bulgaria alone. It all depends on the relations of the World Jewish Congress with Moscow."

LEVICH SAYS HIS STRUGGLE TO EMIGRATE IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

LONDON, July 7 (JTA)--Prof. Benjamin Levich said today that he has been condemned to the life of a "pariah" in the Soviet Union and that his struggle to emigrate had become a matter of "death or life." Levich spoke by telephone with scientists and journalists at a press conference called here to explain next week's international conference at Oxford University in honor of the Soviet Jewish activist's 60th birthday. Levich and his wife, Tanya, put the call through from a public

telephone booth in Moscow to the London International Press Center where the press conference was held.

Levich said he had applied to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and to the President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, of which he is a corresponding member, for permission to attend the Oxford conference on physical chemistry and hydrodynamics, his special field. But there has been no reply and Levich said he was "very sad at being prevented from being with you." He expressed hope that "common sense and decency will prevail and that I will be treated as a scientist and a human being."

Levich said that events like next week's conference would be his salvation in the long run. In the Soviet Union, he was "in limbo," cut off from normal scientific life. Mrs. Levich said she feared "renewed danger" for her husband under the new Soviet constitution because anyone could be prosecuted for being involved in activities deemed harmful to the "prestige" of the Soviet state. Levich will not stop fighting for his rights both as a scientist and an ordinary person, despite this danger, his wife asserted. "His conscience and his moral principles will not allow him to stop," she said.

LIPSHUTZ: CARTER'S MEETING WITH JEWISH LEADERS WAS TO EXPLAIN U.S. POSITION, NOT TO ALLAY ANXIETIES

By David Ettinger

WASHINGTON, July 7 (JTA)--White House Counsel Robert Lipshutz said today that President Carter's meeting yesterday with more than 40 American Jewish leaders "was not a question of allaying anxieties" in the American Jewish community. "It was a question of making certain that everybody who was there fully understood what the policy of the Administration is, what the hopes of the Administration are and on the other hand, what are the concerns and interests of the American Jewish community," Lipshutz said at the Overseas Writers Club in response to questions.

He declined to go into detail about the meeting. But he said it was a "very constructive" one "in which, I believe, a lot of people both in the Administration and in the group of Jewish leaders who were there got a much fuller understanding of what Administration policies are and what the problems are and what the anxieties are."

Lipshutz would not comment when he was asked if he felt the Administration had indulged in too much discussion of details of a possible Middle East settlement and thereby prompted Israeli concern over the possibility of an imposed settlement. He said, however, "We think what is being done is going to be for the benefit of all parties concerned."

Lipshutz said he was "not aware" of any Presidential action on human rights in the Arab world and said there was "no direct connection as such" between the Administration's human rights policy and the President's recent statements on a Palestinian homeland. Asked about the Administration's position on the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, Lipshutz said he did not know of any recent statements on the matter but that "obviously it will be enforced because it is on the books."

Meeting Planned Some Time Ago

The meeting yesterday between Carter and the Jewish leaders was planned in advance of Carter's announcement last Thursday that he was placing a moratorium on statements on the Middle East before Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's visit here July 19-20, a White House spokesman said today.

He noted that Carter's remarks to the more than 40 Jewish leaders were "totally within the framework" of that moratorium.

The spokesman explained that the moratorium applies only to comments "on specific" aspects of the Mideast situation, none of which were reportedly touched on during the meeting. The spokesman also said he found nothing inconsistent between what the President said yesterday and his previously announced policy.

CAREY SIGNS BILL TO BAN NON-KOSHER MEZUZAH FRAUD

ALBANY, N. Y., July 7 (JTA)--A bill which aims to halt the deceptive sale of non-kosher mezuzahs or teffillin to unwary Jewish consumers was signed into law yesterday by Governor Hugh Carey. The new law, drafted at the initiative of the Commission on Legislation and Civic Action of Agudath Israel of America, requires that mezuzahs or teffillin which do not conform with Orthodox Jewish religious law must be clearly labelled "non-kosher."

Manufacturers or importers of mezuzahs or teffillin, beginning three months from now, will have to affix upon the packaging of these two religious articles the name and address of the "manufacturer, fabricator or importer." Violators of this law, including merchants who sell these articles, will be subjected to the provisions of the consumer fraud practices section of the General Business Law of New York State. This authorizes the Attorney General to obtain an injunction against the firm conducting such unlawful activities and requires restitution, including all court costs, with the right to sue for civil penalties for each violation.

Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president of Agudath Israel of America, described this new bill "a major forward step in the protection of the religious Jewish consumer who for years has been victimized by unscrupulous merchants of religious articles." He declared that Agudath Israel undertook to correct this deceptive practice by legislation, after it became clear that a large-scale sale of non-kosher mezuzahs and teffillin was taking place in Jewish communities throughout the country.

To Seek Legislation In Other States

According to Jewish law, a mezuzah as well as the parchment of teffillin must be handwritten by a scribe on genuine parchment according to precise specifications. Agudath Israel, Sherer said, had obtained affidavits from purchasers of mezuzahs which, upon inspection, were printed by letterpress on ordinary paper. Sherer stated that the organization's Commission on Legislation and Civic Action will carefully monitor stores throughout New York State, once the new law goes into effect, to make certain that it is fully observed. The organization will also seek, through its local chapters, to have similar legislation passed in other states.

Sherer said Agudath Israel enlisted the aid of the prominent Washington attorney, Nathan Lewin, in drafting the bill, which was introduced in the Assembly by Leonard Silverman, co-sponsored by Assemblymen Howard Lasher and Sheldon Silver, and in the Senate by Albert Lewis, Thomas Bartosiewicz, and Linda Winikow.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)--Shlomo Argov has presented his credentials to Queen Juliana as the new Israeli Ambassador to The Netherlands. Argov, 49, was previously Israel's Ambassador in Mexico.

MACCABIAH GAMES PARTICIPANTS SET TO BEGIN EVENTS JULY 12

By Haskell Cohen

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA)—A United States Maccabiah Games contingent numbering 339 members arrived here today, headed by Nat Holman, president of the United States Committee Sports for Israel, sponsor of the American Maccabiah team which will participate in the 10th set of Games slated to begin July 12.

The group consists of 300 athletes plus coaches and officials from all over the United States. This is by far the largest contingent ever to represent this country in the competition. Four years ago the U.S. team comprised 201 athletes as compared to the 300 currently preparing for the competition which starts shortly.

Some 2500 participants representing 30-odd nations are gathered here putting in their finishing touches on their preparations for the contests. Australia, apparently, has the second largest delegation with more than 250 athletes and supporters in their contingent. They have brought over a group consisting of 110 men and 80 women athletes, plus their coaches and committeemen. Holman indicated that the flag bearer in the opening day parade July 12 will be Wendy Weinberg, the Olympic bronze medalist in the Games held last year in Canada when she came in third in the 800-meter free style swimming event.

The largest component in the American contingent is represented in track and field with 33 participants, three coaches and committeemen. The swimming team, which is headed by Ms. Weinberg, is the second largest sports group in the party and includes Barbie Weinstein, the defending Maccabiah gold medalist and AAU champion in the 10-meter platform diving event.

One of the unique representatives on the American team is Alan Silverstein, assistant manager of the basketball team, who came to Israel with a Sefer Torah that he is presenting to a synagogue in Bat Yam. Silverstein is a member of the East Flatbush Synagogue in Brooklyn, N.Y., which is closing and was delegated to carry the Torah to the rabbi in Bat Yam who formerly served as spiritual leader of the East Flatbush congregation.

MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CLASS ACTION SUIT AGAINST FIRM CHARGES AN ONGOING POLICY OF ANTI-SEMITISM

PHILADELPHIA, July 7 (JTA)—A multi-million dollar class action suit charging an ongoing policy of anti-Semitism, has been filed in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, against Kawneer Co., Inc., Bloomberg, Pa. it was reported today by I.J. Blynn in the Jewish Exponent. Robert I. Mendelson, a former executive at Kawneer, charges "participation in an illegal boycott and conspiracy against Jews which was instigated by Arab and oil-producing countries," according to a brief filed by Mendelson's lawyers.

Mendelson contends that his refusal in September, 1973, to sign a contract for building supplies totaling \$137,000 between Kawneer and Comstock International, Inc., led to his being hounded out of the company in August, 1975, and blacklisted so that he has been unable to find work for the last two years.

Mendelson's suit alleges that Bond Evans, company president, repeatedly asked him to quit, warning him that promotions and transfers would not be allotted to a Jew.

Comstock was to sell the goods to the builders of the International Hotel in the Arab emirate of

Dubai. The final paragraph of the contract read, "This is to certify that we are not on the boycott list as published by the Arab states' Israel boycott office, nor do the goods include any material manufactured or made in Israel."

Judge Daniel H. Huyett III will hear the preliminary arguments July 29. Should he allow the case to be tried as a class action suit, it will be the first time that Jews, specifically Jews who have applied for employment at Kawneer, have been recognized as a class in a legal action, according to Gary Green, attorney of record for Mendelson.

'WE NEVER LOST IT'

BUFFALO, July 7 (JTA)—The national Christian evangelical bumper sticker campaign with the slogan "I have found it!" has been countered with the Jewish response of "We never lost it! for 3289 years" bumper sticker. The Jewish stickers are being distributed here, free, by the Chabad House on Main Street as part of the national Lubavitch campaign, it was reported in this week's Buffalo Jewish Review.

The Jewish stickers are black and yellow, the same colors as the evangelical ones, and the words "We never lost it," are printed inside a Torah scroll. The phrase, "for 3289 years," below the scroll, indicates how long ago the Jews received the Torah on Mt. Sinai. David Lazerson, assistant student program director of Chabad House, said these stickers are intended as a thought-provoker for Jews, not an attack on Christians, according to the Review.

EBAN CLEARED OF CURRENCY CHARGES

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)—Attorney General Aharon Barak announced yesterday that former Foreign Minister Abba Eban has been cleared of charges that he had violated Israel's foreign currency regulations by keeping bank accounts in the United States and Britain. Barak said that as a result of a thorough investigation of the matter no legal proceedings would be taken against Eban.

When the matter surfaced several months ago, Eban readily acknowledged that he maintained foreign bank accounts to cover expenses in connection with books he had written for overseas publishers. He said he had received a permit from the Treasury in 1967 to hold currency abroad. But no copy of that document was ever found although Treasury officials recalled that it had been issued.

Barak said that the case hinged on whether or not the permit put any limit on Eban's foreign bank accounts. He said the investigation indicated that Eban genuinely believed that the permit allowed him to keep unlimited funds abroad and therefore there was no cause to institute criminal proceedings.

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL ASKED TO REJECT CARTER'S MIDEAST STANCE

NEW YORK, July 7 (JTA)—City Council President Paul O'Dwyer has asked the City Council to join with him in petitioning President Carter to "withdraw from previously rejected policies of our State Department which would require Israel to withdraw from territory gained following attacks upon it." O'Dwyer warned that the Administration's position on the occupied territory "will only stiffen the resistance of the Arabs and encourage them to pursue their determination to annihilate Israel and its people."