

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## LEVESQUE URGES JEWS OF QUEBEC TO INTEGRATE WITH THE FRENCH MAJORITY

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Rene Levesque, leader of the separatist Parti Quebecois, urged the Jews of the Province of Quebec to reconcile themselves to and integrate with the permanent French cultural and linguistic majority in Quebec. He also gave his "solemn assurances" that his government will not tolerate any form of "racism or discrimination."

Levesque addressed 1500 Jews at the Chevra Kadisha B'nai Jacob Synagogue here last night. He appeared on his own initiative as part of his ongoing campaign to make the policies of the Parti Quebecois better understood by the Jewish community. But he received only polite applause from his audience during his speech and in a question period which covered both domestic matters and his attitude toward Israel.

Levesque was visibly infuriated by a group of Jewish youths who heckled him as he entered the synagogue and waved banners equating the Parti Quebecois with the Nazis. The youths were not identified and it is not known which, if any, organization they are affiliated with.

The Prime Minister referred to the incident during his opening remarks. "Everything I can take but that one I will not take," he said. He referred to a banner that read, "Parti Quebecois -- National Socialism." He told the audience, "I was overseas during the war and among the first group that went into the Dachau concentration camp and I know what happened in Europe." There is no comparison, he declared, between "the mad empire of Nazi Germany and the bootstrap nationalist operation that we have to go through like you did to get your homeland."

### Will Fight Racism And Discrimination

Levesque said, "As long as we last as a government, I can give you my solemn assurances that any form of racism or discrimination based on religion, culture or origin is out." Later in his remarks, he urged Quebec Jews to forget "the 15 years ago nostalgia," a reference to the time before French nationalist sentiments emerged as a major political force in the province. "Whatever government will come to power in Quebec, Jews will have to integrate the French majority reality that exists," he said.

A member of the audience reminded the Prime Minister of a newspaper column he wrote at the time of the Munich Olympics massacre in 1972 and asked bluntly, "Do you believe that Israel deserves to live as a sovereign Jewish State?" Levesque noted that he had described the murder of the 11 Israeli Olympic athletes as "barbaric" and had written "that kind of atrocity was inexcusable." But, he said, "The background had to be understood."

Levesque said that while he understands the Jewish community's feelings for Israel, "this sometimes makes some Jewish people unable to accept normal criticism of Israel. In fact, there is no better proof of the permanence and the state of Israel than to be exposed to some criti-

cism." He added that he was only repeating what he told Israeli Labor Party leader Shimon Peres when they met here recently.

"To me and to our government it is obvious, and something to be defended, that Israel is a permanent thing that will remain," he said. However, he warned, "if a way is not found to dovetail eventually the two complimentary realities of the State of Israel and some Palestinian future, there will be no solution in the Middle East."

Levesque noted that locally, his government is engaged in two projects -- to build an old-aged home adjoining the Jewish General Hospital and to add two floors to the Maimonides Hospital for the Aged.

## COMMISSION RECOMMENDS ORDINATION OF WOMEN IN CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Minority View Opposes This Move

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- The recommendation that "qualified women be ordained as rabbis in the Conservative Movement" was submitted tonight to the 79th annual convention of The Rabbinical Assembly, the international organization of Conservative rabbis. The recommendation was contained in the Final Report of the Commission for the Study of the Ordination of Women as Rabbis, composed of 14 members representing the range of background and opinion of the Conservative Movement in Judaism.

Dr. Gerson D. Cohen, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, reported on the conclusions of the Commission, which he had convened in 1977 at the request of the Rabbinical Assembly, and which he has led as chairman during the intervening two years.

### Majority Recommendations

According to the 29-page report, which includes both a majority and minority opinion, the majority recommendations, supported by 11 of the 14 Commission members are:

"That the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America revise its admission procedures to allow for applications from female candidates and the processing thereof for the purpose of admission to the ordination program on a basis equal to that maintained heretofore for males.

"That this revision of policy be accomplished as quickly as possible, preferably so as to allow applications from women for the academic year beginning in September 1979.

"That the Jewish Theological Seminary of America take steps to set up appropriate apparatuses for the recruitment, orientation, and eventually, career placement of female rabbinical students.

"That the major arms of the Conservative Movement immediately begin discussion of procedures to be followed to educate the community concerning issues raised in this report so as to insure as smooth and as harmonious an adjustment to the new policy as possible."

"In making these recommendations, the report stated, "The Commission is making no recommendation in regard to traditional practices relating to testimony, and no implications concerning such practices should be drawn on the basis of this report."

### Minority Opinion

The minority opinion stated that "Although the signatories to this section are in sympathy with many of the arguments and sentiments expressed by our colleagues on the Commission, and embodied in the majority opinion given above, we remain opposed to the ordination of women as rabbis in the Conservative Movement." The "motivations for arriving at this recommendation" were, in part:

"Our main thrust has to do with certain halachic problems which cannot in our opinion be separated from the question of ordination but flow from it almost inexorably. Not all congregations accept the view that women may be counted in a minyan, receive aliyot, or lead the service in liturgical prayer as a surrogate for others. Many more congregations and many Jews outside our Movement may be affected by practices in connection with testimony relating to marriage and divorce, where the laws are restrictive in the case of women. You cannot, within the present climate of the Conservative Movement, ordain women and expect that they will not at some point infringe on these halachic restrictions in the performance of their rabbinical duties.

"We fear the possible disruption of the unity of the Movement. One of the consequences of a decision to ordain women might very well be the violations of halachic principles adhered to by others in the Movement, which in turn would result in the untenable position of individual rabbis being unable in good conscience to recognize the validity of marriages, divorces, and conversions supervised by one of their colleagues....

"Finally, we are concerned that at a time when American Jewish youth seems to be turning more toward traditional values, and to an authentic halachic lifestyle, this would seriously compromise the traditional image of the Conservative Movement, and The Jewish Theological Seminary of America as an authentic halachic institution. We feel strongly that such matters of symbolism must be taken as seriously as possible, for a wrong decision on an issue of this magnitude will, in our opinion, alienate many more halachically committed people than it will attract."

For these reasons, the minority report concluded, "we recommend to the leaders of the Conservative Movement that appropriate roles be created for Jewish women short of ordination so that their commitment and talents may be a source of blessing and not of unnecessary controversy."

### Vote Due May 30

The Commission report makes no recommendations concerning other traditional sex-role distinctions in Jewish ritual. For example, women, including women rabbis, will, in the eyes of many Conservative Jews, remain ineligible to serve as witnesses in judicial proceedings.

The recommendations now will be submitted to the faculty of the Seminary, the institution which trains rabbis for Conservative congregations, and would, according to the report, be called upon to admit women to its Rabbinical School. The faculty of the Seminary is considering the report and plans to vote on the recommendations of the Commission on May 30.

Speaking of the significance of the Commission's recommendations, Cohen alluded to Con-

servative Judaism's historical commitment to equal education for women. The recommendations, he said, give formal recognition to the fact that "Conservative Judaism has always offered both men and women the same intensive education in the classical texts of the tradition." They further reflect, he continued, "our movement's endeavor to respond creatively to the challenges of modernity by allowing and encouraging the development of Jewish institutions within the parameters of Jewish law."

### Emphasis Of Both Opinions

The Commission report reviewed the halachic, ethical, pragmatic, and symbolic issues involved in its decision. The majority view emphasized that Judaism differs from many religions in the role assigned to the religious leader. The rabbi is in no sense an intermediary between man and God, but rather, in the words of the report, has "a wide variety of functions.... Among these are teaching, preaching, counselling, officiating at religious ceremonies, representing the Jewish community, etc."

Thus, while the majority opinion counsels an innovation in Jewish practice, its recommendations were made in strict accordance with the Commission's "commitment to the notion that legitimacy within Conservative Judaism must be measured first and foremost by an halachic standard." It concludes that "signing a ketubah (marriage contract) or get (writ of divorce) as a witness are not among these essential functions (of the rabbi). There is no direct halachic objection to the acts of training and ordaining a woman to be a rabbi, preacher, and teacher in Israel."

Considerations of Jewish law were supplemented by testimony from a variety of social scientists and other experts, and by a sampling of public opinion, gathered at open hearings held in Vancouver, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Chicago, Washington, New York and Toronto. According to the report, "It was felt to be a fundamental principle of Jewish practice that any decision concerning Jewish usage, even an halachically based decision, must take account of what will be reasonably acceptable to the community."

Also decisive was the ethical argument derived from Conservative Judaism's proud history of equal education for girls and boys. The report states that "the Commission felt that it was morally wrong to maintain an educational structure that treats males and females equally up to the final stage (i.e. Rabbinical School); but distinguishes between them at that stage without a firm and clearly identifiable halachic reason for doing so."

### POPE RECEIVES JEWISH DELEGATION

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- A delegation of Mexican-Jewish leaders was received by Pope John Paul II at an ecumenical reception during the Latin American Bishops' Conference in Puebla. The Pontiff expressed satisfaction over the "Hebrew-Christian dialogues."

The Jewish delegation, which was one of a number of non-Catholic denominations to visit the Pope, presented him with a silver gift inscribed with the Hebrew date, Tevet 29, 5739. The group was headed by Enrique Elias and Sergio Modestier, president and secretary general, respectively, of the Central Jewish Committee of Mexico; and Rabbis Abraham Pally, Samuel Lefrer and Aron Kopikos. Others at the reception included Jose Benbassat, president of B'nai B'rith in Mexico.

A documentary television program on the Pope's journey to Mexico was screened on national

television. It was written by Valentina Alazraki, daughter of a well-known Sephardic family, and directed by Jacobo Zabludowsky, who is also Jewish.

#### DEMANDS MOUNTED AGAINST THE EXPIRATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- A five-member delegation of Yavneh, the National Religious Jewish Student Association, met today with the German Acting Consul General in New York, Kurt Arthur Schwartz, and handed him a message addressed to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, urging him to issue an open statement opposing the expiration of the statute of limitations for Nazi war crimes. The statute is to expire Dec. 31.

"We had a cordial conversation with the Acting Consul," said David Phillips, chairman of the Yavneh National Executive Committee, who headed the delegation at the German Consulate. Schwartz told the delegation that he will forward the message to Schmidt, but, Phillips said, "he pointed out that action regarding the abolishment of the statute of limitations, is up to the Bundestag."

During their 20-minute conversation, Schwartz mentioned the NBC-TV series "Holocaust," which was broadcast last week to German viewers and reportedly had a very strong impact on them. According to Phillips, Schwartz said that the "Holocaust" broadcast will probably make a positive contribution to the efforts to extend the effective date of the statute of limitations for Nazi crimes.

While the Yavneh delegation met with Schwartz, other members of the group distributed leaflets on the issue and gathered signatures of passersby on a petition against the expiration of the statute of limitations.

The meeting here was part of an international outcry protesting the time limit imposed on prosecuting war criminals and is part of a national effort coordinated by the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies in Los Angeles, Calif.

#### Meetings In Other Cities

In Chicago, a delegation of 10 civic and communal leaders met with the West German Consul General, Egon Rostor. The delegation was led by David Smerling, president of the Jewish United Fund and Jewish Federations of Metropolitan Chicago, and Maynard I. Wishner, honorary chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of the JUF. "Our basic message was that there can be no time limit placed on the prosecution of crimes of murder and torture," Smerling and Wishner said.

They cited a recent poll showing that 47 percent of West Germans agree with their position. "The systematic mass murder of six million Jewish men, women and children and of five million Christians is a crime so heinous that the passing of centuries cannot erase this impact," the leaders said. "Retribution for these crimes is a right owed to the families and descendants of all Holocaust victims."

In Los Angeles, a delegation of concerned Jewish and non-Jewish leaders met with Dr. Herwig Effenberg, Consul General of West Germany and formally requested that the Bonn government begin its legislative process to either abolish or extend the statute of limitations. While the 20-member delegation conferred with the Consul General a silent vigil took place out-

side the office of the meeting.

Eleven Holocaust survivors and 11 children of Holocaust survivors stood together, representing the 11 million victims who were murdered by the Nazis. Following the meeting, a "Rally for Justice" was held at the Wiesenthal Center. California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. addressed the rally.

Similar events were held today in other major cities in the United States, Canada, Europe and Israel. (Further stories will be in Thursday's Bulletin.)

#### DAYAN WARNS TIME IS WORKING AGAINST ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TREATY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said here today that "time is working against the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement." He mentioned the upheaval in Iran as having a negative effect on the peace process and observed that while "there still is a fair chance for an eventual agreement, it is now up to the Americans to work but the next phase — where and how we shall meet again."

Dayan, the first Israeli Foreign Minister to visit France in an official capacity since Premier Menachem Begin's government took office in 1977, addressed a press luncheon on the second day of his official two-day visit. He said that events in Iran are "influencing such moderate governments as Jordan's, Saudi Arabia's and Egypt's to remain within the Islamic mainstream."

He contended that "these governments are now reluctant to take initiatives or adopt decisions liable to be criticized by their own students or by religious circles." He observed that these governments "have now found out that contrary to what they had imagined before, they cannot rely on the United States to support them in internal matters."

Dayan said Israel is also "seriously worried" about the future of Israel's 80,000 Jews who may have to face "both hostile policies and hostile mobs." He said that the stoppage of Iranian oil shipments was the least of Israel's worries because it expects Egypt to agree to sell oil from the Sinai fields.

The Israeli diplomat met yesterday with Premier Raymond Barre and Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet. He was feted by Poncet at a gala banquet in his honor last night and met for 90 minutes with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing this afternoon to discuss the Israeli-Egyptian peace talks and other Mideast issues. After his meeting, Dayan said "It was of great interest to hear and to understand the French position," adding, "It was very instructive and helpful."

Addressing the banquet at the Quai D'Orsay last night, Dayan said "We are in disagreement but we want you at least to listen to us and hear our views. We want you to keep your doors open for us... to keep open both your doors and your hearts." Minister of Health Simone Veil, Deputy Foreign Minister Olivier Stirn and Deputy Labor Minister Lionel Stoleru were among the 60 guests at the gala affair. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was the only news wire service invited to attend the banquet.

Dayan met last night with Alain Pohet, president of the French Senate and is scheduled to hold meetings with opposition leader Francois Mitterrand and former Gaullist Premier Jacques Chirac tomorrow after the official portion of his visit is over. Pohet is an old friend of Israel and although his influence in French politics is minimal, he is considered the best advocate of Israel's cause in France. Dayan visited the memorial to the unknown Jewish martyr this morning.

# **SPECIAL TO THE JTA** **ISRAELI OFFICIAL MEETS WITH** **NEW YORK STATE GOVERNMENT LEADERS** By Rochelle Saidel Walk

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Calling his first official visit to Albany to meet with New York State government leaders "productive" and "enjoyable," Joseph Kedar, Consul General of Israel in New York, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the leaders' questions focused on stability in the Middle East, particularly in Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"Israel is ready and willing to accept any Jew from Iran who wishes to come," Kedar told the JTA, "and we have taken all necessary measures regarding lodging, absorption and import taxes, in order to help them. As Golda (Meir) said, now that Israel exists, there is no need for any Jew to feel that he has no place to go. Every Jew has Israel as his land." Kedar referred specifically to a new import law that allows Iranian Jews to import all of their goods, especially carpets, tax-free until they are resold.

He also said that 1100 apartments have been made available. "Unfortunately," he added, "many Iranian Jews have a 'can't happen here' attitude similar to the German Jews of the 1930s, and they don't want to leave Iran." Regarding the oil situation, Kedar said that Israel gets only 10 percent of its oil from Iran and Israel is prepared to "cope."

Accompanied by Albert J. Abrams, executive director of the National Association of Jewish State Legislators, Kedar briefed Assembly leaders of both parties at a luncheon hosted by Speaker Stanley Fink. He also briefed the Senate Democratic Caucus. Kedar then met with Gov. Hugh Carey at the Executive Mansion, and Abrams said of this meeting that "Carey demonstrated an intimate knowledge of Israel and a sympathetic approach to Israel's problems."

## **Resolution On Statute Of Limitations**

Kedar was introduced from the floor of the Senate by Majority Leader Warren Anderson and from the podium of the Assembly by Fink. The Consul General said that he was present in the Senate Chamber when a resolution was approved protesting the expiration of the West German statute of limitations on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals.

"Faced with the enormity of the Holocaust, the majesty of the law must be inflexible and uncompromising," Kedar said. "The statute of limitations cannot apply for these crimes, and the law cannot allow itself any loopholes. If there is to be leniency, it should come from the judges, not the law." A similar resolution was also approved by the Assembly.

In addition to his meetings with government officials, Kedar, former curator of the Museum of the Diaspora in Israel, had the opportunity to tour the New York State Museum. He marveled at the "incredible wealth of natural resources in New York State, so different from Israel's."

## **RABBI REPORTS EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT WITH JEWISH COMMUNITY IN IRAN**

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- An American-trained rabbi in Teheran told the 79th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly here over the telephone that "everything is all right in our Jewish community, baruch hashem (praise God). Nothing has happened to any

Jews."

Rabbi David Shofet, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, "as are most of the 500 delegates attending the convention, was replying to a call placed to him by Rabbi Saul Teplitz, president and Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly. The conversation was broadcast to the delegates at dinner last night.

Shofet, a native of Iran, declared that the "situation in Iran is not clear," but said that "most of the community believes things are all right." The Jews in Teheran, he said, "consider themselves part of the people. They have been living here for 27 centuries, and have managed to live with these people, and we hope that we will manage to live in peace, in shalom, with everybody."

"Are the synagogues functioning?" Teplitz asked. "They are functioning," Shofet replied. "In my shul every Sabbath evening we have more than a thousand people come to pray and are willing to hear information about the situation. But as I told you, the situation is not clear, not to the country, not to anybody."

Teplitz and Kelman assured their Iranian colleague that "we, the Rabbinical Assembly, want you to understand that we stand of your side to give every strength and support that we can."

Considerable worry has been expressed by delegates here over the situation in Iran in light of the attitude of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's attitude toward all non-Muslims, Jews, Christians and Bahai. He has stated that Iran would henceforth be on the side of the Palestinians in their struggle against Israel. Iran, the major supplier of oil to Israel, has already embargoed shipments to the Jewish State.

## **THIRD VICTIM OF NETANYA OUTRAGE**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- The death toll in Sunday's bomb blast in Netanya rose to three last night when 19-year-old Yehzekel Moshe succumbed to his injuries. There are still 13 victims of the outrage in hospitals today.

President Yitzhak Navon and Premier Menachem Begin sent flower wreaths to the funeral of Mrs. Tova Riegler, one of the two persons killed by the explosion Sunday.

There is a poignant footnote to her death in that her son, Dr. Avraham Riegler confirmed the death of Shimon Barbi, the other fatality on Sunday, at Hillel Yaffe Hospital in Hadera. When he finished at his own hospital, he went to Netanya's Loniado Hospital, to offer his help. There he was asked to help identify a dead woman who turned out to be his mother.

## **TERRORIST HOUSES BLOWN UP**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- The army has blown up the houses of four of the terrorists who were part of the Abu-Dis gang arrested last week and charged with 11 acts of terrorism, including the bombing of the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem last June in which two died, and the planting of a bomb in a fuel terminal causing the death of a police sapper. One house was in Abu-Dis and the others were in the Nobilus area.

Meanwhile, Riyad Abu Awad, a 27-year-old graduate of the Beir Zeit College on the West Bank, was served with an expulsion order from the military governor of the West Bank last night. He was arrested 10 days ago as a suspect in inciting Arab students at Hebrew University to send a cable of support for the Palestine Liberation Organization and a Palestinian state to the meeting of the Palestine National Council in Damascus.