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REPORT HARSH NEW MEASURES AGAINST SYRIAN JEWS, INCLUDING IMPRISONMENT

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Reports of new harsh measures against Syrian Jews have reached the United States. According to Rabbi Stephen S. Goldrich, of Euclid, Ohio, more than 100 Syrian Jews were imprisoned early this month, all of whom were tortured. They were released Jan. 15. Three required hospitalization.

Goldrich, who is chairman of the Committee on Jews in Arab Lands of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the rabbinic branch of American Reform Judaism, said he received his information from Abe Dwek, head of the Syrian Jewish community in New York.

It was further reported that during the past month or two, a 7 p.m. curfew has been imposed on Jews in Syrian cities. The restrictions on travel by Jews within Syria, lifted some time ago, have been reimposed. Syrian Jews are increasingly under surveillance and it is reported that Jews are now forbidden to sell real property, Goldrich said.

REAL AUTHOR OF ANTI-SEMITIC BOOK IDENTIFIED AS SAUDI ARABIAN AGENT By Rochelle Sidel Walk

DALLAS, Texas, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- A Saudi Arabian agent, William Grimstad, is the real author of "The Six Million Reconsidered," an "aberration" of the Holocaust and a work of "most sophisticated anti-Semitism," David Lehrer, Western states counsel and fact-finding director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said here at a forum entitled "Extremism in the World Today: Is Nazism on the Rise?" The forum was held last week at the Jewish Community Center of Dallas and co-sponsored by the center and the ADL.

Lehrer said that the Grimstad book, which is sold by the National States Rights Party headquartered in Marietta, Ga., was originally published in late 1977. The nominal author is the Committee for Truth in History and the copyright is held by Media Research Associates, both of which are "phony," he said.

Although the real author had never been disclosed, Lehrer explained, the ADL discovered in October, 1978 that the book had been written by Grimstad. The ADL further discovered that in 1977 Grimstad had registered with the U.S. State Department as an agent of Saudi Arabia, he said.

According to Lehrer, ADL believes that the Saudis paid \$20,000 to Grimstad for his account that the Holocaust never occurred. In addition to being a paid agent of Saudi Arabia, Grimstad is the former editor of "White Power," a newspaper published by an extreme rightwing Nazi group, Lehrer said.

Danger Of Extremist Groups

Lehrer also discussed Nazism throughout the world and pointed out the swastika has a visceral effect on Jewish groups, regardless of the real threat implied. Although other rightwing groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan and the Liberty Lobby bear no swastika, they are

equally as dangerous, he said. He emphasized that the ability of Nazi and other extreme rightwing groups to get media attention far out of proportion to their very small number is a serious problem that requires vigilance.

Dr. David Sidorsky, a professor of philosophy at Columbia University, stated that he doesn't see Nazism as a real threat to the Jews in the United States today. The three major threats to world Jewry, according to Sidorsky, come from the left and are the current situation in Iran, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Soviet Union's policies of not giving Jews equal rights nor allowing them to emigrate.

Ronald S. Friedelman of Dallas, chairman of the Dallas Regional Board of ADL, was chairman of the forum.

TENG, CARTER FOCUS ON MIDDLE EAST By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Presidential press secretary Jody Powell said that President Carter and Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-Ping spent more time on the Middle East than on any other regional topic at their White House conference yesterday.

Responding to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at a news briefing, Powell said that "basically" the President reported to Teng on the "situation as he saw it" in the Middle East and in "general terms" on the recent mission there of special ambassador Alfred Atherton.

Powell indicated that the two leaders discussed what they know of the Middle East problem, their understanding of the leaders, the available options and the activities taking place there. Powell declined to say if the President perceived a wider or different role for China in the Middle East.

Powell also said that "all speculation about another summit conference on the Middle East is decidedly premature." He noted that Carter has stated that he would "not hesitate" to call another meeting between himself, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel under appropriate circumstances. But "those circumstances don't exist at present," Powell said.

He asserted today that Carter would not participate in another summit conference until he is convinced that both Egypt and Israel have shown greater flexibility. "The requisite pre-conditions, flexibility by both sides, do not exist at this point," he said in reviewing the failure of the latest effort by the U.S. to end the stalemate in the peace talks. Powell noted that another summit would only raise false hopes and waste the time of Carter, Begin and Sadat unless flexibility was shown.

At the State Department, chief spokesman Hodding Carter cautioned reporters yesterday that "there are other possibilities" than a presidential summit or a ministerial summit on the Middle East. "I don't want to suggest these are the only two ways we can go," he said. "There are more than just two boxes possible for the future."

DAYAN ENDING VISIT TO FRANCE, WIDE DIFFERENCES REMAIN By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan of Israel is returning home tomorrow after a three-day visit to France during which he met

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Prime Minister Raymond Barre, and Foreign Minister Jean François-Poncet. It was the first official visit in France by a member of Menachem Begin's Cabinet and has permitted the two countries to exchange views on the Middle East and the current peace process.

France's and Israel's positions have become clearer to each other but remain as widely divergent as ever before on practically all main issues. Even on a relatively minor issue, but highly symbolic, that of Begin's visit to France, no solution is in sight and the visit is no nearer than it was before Dayan's arrival.

Giscard, during his 90-minute meeting yesterday with Dayan, raised the issue of Begin's visit, saying he hoped the Israeli leader will avail himself of this opportunity. But the problems linked to the visit have not even been broached. Giscard and Dayan also exchanged views on a solution to the Middle East conflict, with the French President stressing the need for a global settlement and warning Israel that, in his eyes, a separate Egyptian-Israeli peace would be neither lasting nor just.

Areas Of Disagreement

French opposition to the peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt is well known. According to reliable diplomatic sources, Giscard twice in recent months advised President Anwar Sadat of Egypt not to sign the Camp David accords or the tentative agreements reached on the ministerial level during the Blaker House talks in Washington in November, at least not in their original form. These sources said Giscard's advice may have contributed to Sadat's decision to make new demands on Israel, leading to the present stalemate.

In his contacts with other Arab leaders, such as King Hussein of Jordan, the French President reportedly went out of his way to criticize the Camp David agreements and the current peace process. He is said to have congratulated Hussein for adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude and assured him that "there is always time for you to join (the talks) later." Jordanian diplomats have said that France's attitude during Hussein's recent trip to Western Europe was "the friendliest and most understanding."

The French attitude stems from Giscard's belief that only a "global peace" can bring about a lasting settlement. The French totally disagree with Israel's assertion that an Egyptian-Israeli settlement can pave the way for a larger, more comprehensive agreement. According to the French, a separate agreement between Israel and Egypt would set back the prospects for a general peace in the Middle East and further complicate the problem.

On the Palestinian issue, the French government backs fully the principle of Palestinian participation in any peace process. It does not believe in the West Bank autonomy plan contained in the Camp David frameworks. On the contrary, it views that plan as a means to avoid dealing with what France considers "the basic issue." This position was made clear by the French government to all the Arab governments, to its West European partners and to President Carter during the recent summit meeting in Guadeloupe.

Last month, France was the only member of the European Economic Community (EEC) that did not vote against a vehemently anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian resolution presented in the United Nations by Libya and Iraq. Despite the

plea from the other eight EEC partners to vote with them against the resolution, France decided to abstain. The intention apparently was to show the Arab states that "France remains 'neutral'" in their conflict with Israel and is not influenced by the Camp David agreements.

In spite of the divergence of official views between the two countries, over 1500 French political personalities, ministers, senators, deputies and high officials attended a reception given by Dayan at the Israel Embassy last night.

7 ARRESTED DURING RALLY AGAINST NAZI WAR CRIMINALS IN THE U.S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 (JTA) — A demonstration in front of the White House to focus attention on Nazi war criminals residing in this country ended 20 minutes after it began when park police arrested seven of the 20 demonstrators who had handcuffed themselves to a White House fence. Among those arrested was Dr. Charles H. Kremer, the 81-year-old dentist from New York City who for the past 38 years has been seeking to bring to justice the former Romanian Iron Guard leader, Bishop Valerian Trifu who is living in Grass Lake, Mich. Kremer is president of the Committee to Bring Nazi War Criminals to Justice in the U.S.

At the demonstration Jan. 21, an incident that went unreported in most major print and television media, the protestors carried placards reading, "No Amnesty in Romania for Iron Guardist Trifu," "INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) End Mishandling of Nazi War Criminals," and "Deport the Butcher of Bucharest, Trifu." Shifra Hoffman, executive director of the Jewish Identity Center in New York City, led the group in a chant, "We do not forgive. And we do not forget."

According to a spokesman for the demonstrators, Kremer has during the years located a number of witnesses who have attested that Trifu was indeed the leader of an Iron Guardist uprising in Romania in January, 1941 that culminated in the murder of some 6500 people, including some 200 Jews. Trifu, now Archbishop of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate in America, was indicted May 16, 1975 for misrepresenting the facts about his past when he entered the U.S. in 1950. Kremer, and others who have been seeking to bring to justice war criminals living in the U.S., has charged that INS' Special Litigation Unit has dragged its feet in bringing these criminals to justice.

In addition to focusing on the war criminals in the U.S., the demonstration also sought to highlight opposition to the West German statute of limitations for prosecuting Nazi war criminals which is slated to take effect at the end of the year. The seven who were arrested were booked for disorderly conduct, fingerprinted, photographed and fined \$10 each, according to a spokesman for the group. He said Jan. 21 was chosen for the demonstration because it marked the 38th anniversary of the massacre in Bucharest.

ISRAEL'S EVACUATION OF FORCES FROM SINAI WILL COST IL 90 BILLION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31 (JTA) — The evacuation of Israeli forces from Sinai and their redeployment in the Negev will cost IL 90 billion, according to Defense Ministry estimates, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori told the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday. More than half the cost, some IL 50 billion, will represent the United States' contribution to the redeployment budget, he said.

The Israeli evacuation of Sinai will take

place only if a peace treaty is signed with Egypt. Some initial preparatory work has begun. The project will include the construction of road networks in the Negev, the laying of water pipelines, electric cables and communications systems and the construction of new airfields to replace the air bases in Sinai that Israel will relinquish. The entire operation is expected to take three years. Zipori told the committee that a special authority may be established to oversee the transfer.

NAVON WELCOMES PROJECT RENEWAL COOPERATION BETWEEN ISRAEL, DIASPORA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- President Yitzhak Navon welcomed last Sunday's Cabinet decision approving a plan for cooperation between the Israeli government and diaspora Jewish communities in Project Renewal.

Speaking to the World Zionist Organization Executive here, he said the cooperation could contribute to world Jewish unity and was an important factor in ensuring the success of the project. The meeting Monday was one of the regular sessions of the entire WZO Executive with members from Israel and abroad participating.

Navon congratulated the government for endorsing the cooperation plan worked out by Jerold Hoffberger, chairman of the Jewish Agency's International Project Renewal Committee, and Yigael Yadin, Deputy Prime Minister. Navon spoke of Project Renewal as a "bold and broad venture." He urged that the problem of housing for young couples be considered as part of the overall social project, since it was no less crucial and potentially explosive than that of the slum-dwellers whose living conditions Project Renewal will seek to alleviate.

Dulzin Reverses Project Move

WZO chairman Leon Dulzin, at the same session, repeated his call on the government to "freeze all building save that for young couples, new immigrants and slum clearance." Only millionaires and millionaires' children can afford to buy a home, Dulzin lamented. This situation was hitting hard at aliya, he said, and causing "yerida" (emigration) among young couples.

Dulzin referred to the Cabinet's Project Renewal decision at another session of the WZO Executive. He said it was "a good decision." But the Cabinet meeting itself was terrible. He said that what had happened at the Cabinet -- mainly the fact that four ministers opposed the decision, four others took no part in the vote, while only six supported the decision -- was "very regrettable. We must raise our voice against this non-Zionist meeting of the Cabinet," Dulzin said.

He praised Premier Menachem Begin for carrying through the cooperation resolution and ensuring that it was passed by the majority.

CONSERVATIVE RABBIS TAKE NO ACTION ON ORDINATION OF WOMEN AS RABBIS

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Delegates attending the 79th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international organization of Conservative rabbis, today passed on to the Jewish Theological Seminary of America the Final Report of the Commission for the Study of the Ordination of Women as Rabbis "without recommendation." The action was taken by a vote of 127-110.

This, however, did not reflect the division within the Rabbinical Assembly over the issue of ordination of women, since many of those who voted against wanted a stronger resolution which would have called on the Seminary to consider favorably the Commission's recommendation. The rabbis, in acting as they did to send the report on to the Seminary, acted in accordance with the arrangements under which Dr. Gerson D. Cohen, Seminary Chancellor, convened the special Commission in 1977 at the request of the Rabbinical Assembly and which he has led as chairman during the intervening two years.

Fears expressed during the debate that ordaining women would cause irreparable harm to the Conservative Movement and this brought on counter-statements that it would strengthen the Movement. The debate took place following the submission of the report last night by the special Commission to the convention. Following that, Rabbi Saul Teplitz, RA president, hailed it as "affirmative" and "rooted in halacha with reverence for Jewish tradition."

The resolution, as adopted, declared that the RA "will take no action on the question of the ordination of women or on the Commission's recommendation prior to the study of the report by the full membership and the study, analysis and decision of the Seminary faculty on the recommendation." The faculty plans to vote on the Commission's recommendations May 30.

The resolution also commended Cohen and the members of the Commission for the report, praising the "thoroughness with which all aspects of the issue were studied, making it a classic contribution to the literature of the status of women in the Jewish tradition."

Reactions To The Report

(Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum of Kew Gardens Hills, N.Y., who has led a fight for years against greater ritual authority for women in Conservative Judaism, declared, in a statement issued in New York, that the recommendation of the Commission, "once adopted by the faculty" of the Seminary, "will utterly destroy Solomon Schechter's principle of 'catholic Israel' and his program for a United Synagogue of America," the organization of Conservative congregations.

(Kirshblum, who organized and is chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of Tradition within the Rabbinical Assembly, added that Seminary approval of ordination of women "will inevitably divide the Conservative Movement into two distinct camps -- one for conservative Reform Jews and the other for true Conservative Jews."

(Simon Schwartz, president of the United Synagogue of America, in a statement also issued in New York, said he was pleased with the "affirmative report" of the Commission. He termed the recommendation for ordination of women as "quite properly in the direction" that the Conservative Movement has been taking toward "full and equal participation of women in Jewish life."

(While declaring that the congregational movement looked forward to implementation of the Commission report, Schwartz stressed that "in the normative procedures of the Conservative Movement, each synagogue ultimately makes its own decision as to the rabbi it elects."

(Kirshblum said he would convene the steering committee of his dissident faction on Feb. 21, immediately after his return from a 10-day United Jewish Appeal mission to Israel, to map concrete plans for future action.)

CARTER URGED TO PERSUADE WEST GERMANY TO ABOLISH STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

By Rochelle Saidel Wolk

ALBANY, N.Y., Jan. 31 (JTA) -- A joint Senate-Assembly resolution exhorting President Carter to persuade West Germany to abolish the statute of limitations for Nazi war criminals, and messages from Gov. Hugh L. Carey, Senate Minority Leader Manfredi Ohrenstein and Nathan M. Goldberg, Jewish War Veterans national commander, were highlights of a rally here yesterday, part of an international campaign to alert world opinion to the issue. An estimated 500 people participated in the rally.

Passed by the New York Legislature on Monday and read at the noon rally yesterday by Albany Assemblyman Richard J. Conners (D.), the resolution not only urges the President to exert his powers of office, but also calls directly on the government of West Germany to "abolish the statute of limitations for crimes of murder committed by war criminals."

Stanley Fink, Speaker of the Assembly, and legislators from throughout the state were present at the rally which was sponsored by the Capital District Ad Hoc Committee on Justice for Nazi War Criminals. Carey, who postponed his annual budget message to the legislature from noon until 12:30 p.m., so that the legislators could attend the rally, sent a message which called the Holocaust "one of the most dastardly acts in the annals of human history."

No Time Limit On Justice

"I can testify personally to the fact," the governor's message, read by Menachem Shoyavich, special assistant to the governor, said, "because I fought in Europe during World War II. I was in command of the unit that liberated the Nordhausen concentration camp, a place of horror which I will never forget. Every peace-loving individual has the moral obligation to bring to justice those individuals who share in the responsibility for the genocide which occurred in our generation."

"Unless the West German government acts to change the present law, no Nazi war criminal can be prosecuted after Dec. 31, 1979," Carey said. "Moral obligations cannot be limited by time."

Ohrenstein told the rally that he and his family were refugees from Nazi Germany, leaving the place of his birth, Mannheim, two months before Kristallnacht in 1938. "We know what happened to my friends and those of my family who stayed behind," he said. "The need to remove the statute of limitations is necessary not because of vindictiveness but because of reverence for the memory of the millions of innocent victims of the Holocaust." It was on his initiative that the State Senate resolution was introduced and approved.

Goldberg reminded the rally participants that "in the United States, Latin America, even in Germany itself, unprosecuted Nazi perpetrators of these heinous crimes remain hidden, in obscurity, waiting for their reprieve from facing the bar of justice, waiting patiently for the statute to end, so they can once again assume their roles of fostering the Nazi ideology."

WEST GERMANY URGED TO REPEAL OR AMEND THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

LONDON, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Four members

of Parliament, spearheaded by Winston Churchill, a grandson of Britain's wartime Prime Minister, called on West Germany to repeal or amend the statute of limitations for Nazi war crimes, which is due to take effect Jan. 31, 1980.

Churchill, a Conservative, and three other MPs had a one-hour talk yesterday with West German Ambassador Hans Ruethe, who said he would convey their views "fully and urgently" to the Bonn Government.

The MPs, who plan to seek private meetings with West German parliamentarians, told the Ambassador that the statute of limitations could harm relations with West Germany. It would, they said, mean that Nazi murderers could emerge from hiding, write their memoirs and take the lead in extremist political movements.

Other members of the delegation, who are to form a permanent all-party faction, were Greville Jenner and Col. Richard Crawshaw, Labor, and Douglas Henderson, a Scottish nationalist. (By Maurice Samuelson)

FORM COALITION TO FIGHT HATE GROUPS

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Acting upon the growing awareness of the rise of hate groups in the United States, such as the National Socialist White People's Party and the Ku Klux Klan, several Jewish and Black organizations have initiated the formation of a coalition to serve to unite minority groups on crucial issues of mutual concern, a spokesman for the coalition reported.

Several meetings were held to air the viewpoints of these minority groups and lay the groundwork for future action, the spokesman said. The participating organizations were the Peekskill-Middletown (NY) branches of the NAACP, Westchester Coalition of Minority Organizations, Committee to Bring Nazi War Criminals to Justice in the United States, Jewish Identity Center, International Committee Against Nazism, and the World Federation of African Peoples.

Representatives of these organizations met several days ago with Brady Tyson, foreign affairs officer for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, to urge the prompt ratification of the Genocide Convention and to bring to the attention of Ambassador Andrew Young the importance of not allowing the West German statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes to expire, the spokesman said.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Ilya Goldin, a leading refugee from Minsk, has received an exit visa for Israel and expects to leave by Feb. 19, it was reported by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. Goldin, a 29-year-old engineer, had been denied an exit visa since he first applied for one in 1972.

GENEVA (JTA) -- The NBC-TV series, "Holocaust," will be screened on the Swiss television in February. During the screening Swiss television will have two panels to discuss the film and the actual Holocaust. The list of participants has not yet been selected.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's advisor on Arab affairs, Dr. Moshe Sharon, submitted his resignation to Begin Tuesday. He told reporters he would return at once to his teaching post at the Hebrew University. Sharon said he was resigning because he believed the post was "obsolete and redundant." The entire "Arab affairs advisor's department" at the Premier's office should be scrapped, he said. Instead, he had recommended a new structure in which a Cabinet Minister would be responsible for policy coordination in the Arab sector.