

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 165 West 46th Street, New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Friday, February 16, 1979

No. 34

THREE FORMER NAZIS JAILED

PARIS, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Three former Nazis accused of having participated in the murder of some 5000 Russian Jews, were handed stiff prison sentences by an East German court. Two of them, Arno Schumann and Kurt Meltzer, were sentenced to life imprisonment and the third, Rudolf Mikishy, to 14 years hard labor. The three were arrested last November and were sentenced after a two-week trial which took place a few months ago in the city of Halle.

The trial was made known by East German sources in Western Europe in an attempt to show that East Germany is active in the search and punishment of former Nazis. The three had been members of a special German commando unit and had participated in killings in Belorussia and the Ukraine during the German occupation of those areas.

DAYAN: EVENTS IN IRAN INCREASE IMPORTANCE OF SHARM-EL-SHEIKH

By Gil Sedán

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- The latest events in Iran stress the strategic importance of Sharm el-Sheikh, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said during a private debate in his office yesterday. Another lesson learned from the Iranian revolution was the limited intervention ability of the U.S. in cases of internal changes in other countries, he said.

The implications of the events in Iran on Israel were also discussed in the Knesset yesterday. A so-called "senior security official" told a group of MKs that if the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's regime in Iran stabilized, Israel might face Iranian soldiers on its eastern front within two or three years. Israel claims that Khomeini's followers were trained in PLO camps and that the PLO supplied them with arms and ammunition.

The MKs were told that the revolution in Iran has not yet ended. The instability continued and it was hard to tell who would be the winner in the final count. The events in Iran have already had severe repercussions on Turkey. But it was doubtful that if similar events took place in Turkey, the West would do anything to change it, the MKs were told.

However, according to the Israeli intelligence report, there is little likelihood that similar events might take place in Saudi Arabia which did not face a "Moslem revolution." The only possible revolution in Saudi Arabia was a military coup d'etat against the Moslem monarchy which is, in fact, aware of that possibility.

REPORT ISRAEL IN CONTACT WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRY FOR TRADE RELATIONS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Israel has recently contacted a certain East European country for possible trade relations, Yediot Achronot reported today. The paper did not specify the name of that country, but added that the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations with that country was also under consideration.

The paper noted in this context that several East European countries have recently made demonstrative efforts to promote visits by Jewish

tourists. Some of these countries, Yediot said, among them Poland and Hungary, have recently stopped their anti-Israel radio broadcasts.

The paper said, without quoting a source for this assessment, that it was no mere coincidence that the Polish authorities allowed a Jewish delegation to take part in the conference of the World Federation of Polish Jews, which met in Tel Aviv last week.

MAJORITY OF YOUNG GERMANS FAVOR SECOND AIRING OF 'HOLOCAUST' SERIES

BONN, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- An overwhelming majority of young Germans not only approved of the showing of the NBC-TV "Holocaust" but are in favor of a second airing of the series. A public opinion poll published yesterday by the West German magazine, "Quick," shows that 58 percent of all West Germans questioned want to see the series again with only 25 percent against a second airing. These percentages changed dramatically when the age of those polled was taken into consideration. Within the 18 to 39 age bracket, 64 percent favored a second airing.

The film seems to have influenced West German public opinion. While the Socialist-controlled government still refuses to take an official stand on the statute of limitations issue, saying that all members of Parliament should be free to cast their votes for or against according to their "own consciences," the Christian Democratic Union opposition group is in disarray. While it had previously voted in favor of the statute of limitations which if adopted would go into effect Jan. 1, 1980, several of its own members are now asking the party to reconsider its decision.

Several newspapers reported that the resolution introduced last week in the U.S. House of Representatives by over 100 members calling on the West German government to modify the statute of limitations has upset large segments of West German public opinion. The government spokesman in Bonn said yesterday that the vote "does not mean a foreign involvement in internal German affairs." But many German circles take a different view.

In the meantime, Denmark has decided to buy the "Holocaust" film and air it. The local television authority first refused "Holocaust" on both "historic and artistic" grounds but has now given in to a mass of popular appeals. The Swedish television will also air the program but Norway yesterday announced that it has no intention of doing so.

WIDE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ISRAEL, BROWN OVER MIDEAST SITUATION

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Wide differences have emerged between Israel and the U.S. during Defense Secretary Harold Brown's three-day visit over their concepts of the Middle East situation in light of the Iranian revolution, the overall American strategy in the region and the apparent unwillingness of the Americans to fill more than part of Israel's latest weapons requests.

After extensive talks between Brown and Israeli leaders, observers here expressed perplexity over the failure of the U.S. to perceive the latest developments with the same urgency as the Israelis do and to alter its strategy accordingly. The Israelis, moreover, are deeply distressed that Washington's policy still relies on an Arab alliance to preserve

stability in the region rather than on Israel or the creation of an Israeli-Egyptian axis.

They believe that the U.S. views Israel as the chief obstacle to improved relations with the Arab states and therefore seeks to extract more concessions from Israel to advance a peace treaty with Egypt on the latter's terms. Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan reportedly made it clear to Brown that they do not approve of this approach and that Israel has already reached the danger point beyond which it will make no concessions.

Issue Of The Revolution In Iran

The Iranian crisis is viewed quite differently by Israel and the U.S. Israel sees the take-over in Teheran by the followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as having completely changed the strategic map and military balance in the Middle East.

They have expressed concern that Khomeini will align Iran with the Arab rejectionist states and the Palestine Liberation Organization and may, within a year or two, confront Israel with Iranian troops on its eastern border. In broader terms, they claim that Khomeini's wave of Islamic militancy is fueled by the Communists and therefore poses a grave threat to American and other Western interests in the region.

Brown and his aides have taken a less apocalyptic view of the situation. The Defense Secretary has told reporters that the crisis in Iran was not necessarily a serious blow to the U.S., that he was convinced that Khomeini's people would draw closer to the U.S., and that the situation called for watchful waiting rather than panic and hasty reaction. Brown was not shaken in his belief by the violent events of the past two days -- the overrunning of the U.S. Embassy in Teheran by a leftist guerrilla band and the murder of the U.S. Ambassador in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Brown Raises New Alarms

The American intention is to strengthen pro-Western regimes in the region. In this connection, Brown reportedly spoke of plans to supply arms to Egypt and Saudi Arabia and thereby raised new alarms in Israel. Both Begin and Dayan expressed serious concern over plans to provide the Egyptians and Saudis with sophisticated weaponry and warned that an American-inspired arms race would undermine stability in the region.

A Defense Ministry spokesman tried to minimize the significant differences of opinion between the Israelis and the visiting Americans. In a statement last night, the Ministry said "Israel laid before Brown and his aides a comprehensive seven-year (arms) acquisition program based on the strategic reality as we see it. The Americans seem to have accepted most of the thematic arguments put forward by us without comment."

But it was learned from reliable sources today that the Americans indicated that Israel's requests, based on deliveries of \$1.5 billion worth of military items per year, would be met only in part. The Americans believe that \$1 billion a year will suffice. They were also said to have told the Israelis that they would receive more arms only if Saudi Arabia and Egypt received more.

Achieved A Modest Success

The Israelis achieved one modest success during Brown's visit. The U.S. has consistently barred formal visits by American officials to the

West Bank and other Arab territories administered by Israel on grounds that such visits might undermine American acceptance of Israeli sovereignty in the occupied lands. Despite advice to the contrary from the U.S. Embassy, Brown agreed to a flying tour of military sites on the Golan Heights and West Bank yesterday and visited Sinai as well as the Negev today.

The Israelis wanted to give the Defense Secretary and the military experts accompanying him a first-hand look at their security problems. The emphasis was on the West Bank where Jordanian artillery once menaced Israel's narrow coastal plain. The intention was to convince the Americans of Israel's need to retain military control of the territory. The inspection tour of the Sinai and Negev was connected with the new military air bases the U.S. has promised to help Israel build in the Negev to replace those it will relinquish when it withdraws from Sinai under a peace treaty with Egypt.

There was no press coverage permitted of Brown's visits to the occupied areas. The Defense Secretary did reiterate the American promise to cover the costs of the new air fields. In fact, he has stressed repeatedly during his visit America's unalterable commitment to ensure Israel's security.

But political and security sources here have expressed the opinion that Brown's visit to Israel was little more than a polite gesture rather than a serious working tour. The Defense Secretary visited Saudi Arabia and Jordan before coming to Israel and will go to Egypt tomorrow.

WALDHEIM CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE MIDEAST SETTLEMENT

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Secretary General Kurt Waldheim declared today that "the Mideast problem could be solved only on a comprehensive basis with participation of all parties concerned in the negotiating process."

Waldheim's remarks, made at a press conference here, were made against the background of the revived Israeli-Egyptian talks, scheduled to start next Wednesday at Camp David. Waldheim, warning that "we are faced with a very serious situation" in the Mideast, said that "whatever happened with the bilateral approach, a comprehensive Mideast settlement will be reached only through the participation of all the parties, including the two co-chairmen of the Geneva peace conference, the United States and the Soviet Union." Waldheim, who reiterated the time and again his view that the Mideast conflict should be resolved through a re-convened Geneva conference, in which the United Nations would also participate, said that he was approached recently "by some countries" to study the possibility of going back "to the international approach, the multilateral approach" in order to reach a Mideast settlement. He did not identify the "countries." The Secretary General also declared that "the Palestinian issue" remains "a key issue" in any future settlement in the Mideast.

In his opening remarks, Waldheim complained that members of the United Nations do not turn to the organization for help in solving their conflicts. When asked later by a reporter to comment on the fact that Israel, for instance, does not seek the help of the United Nations because it considers the General Assembly biased against it, Waldheim replied that he cannot see how the Assembly could be "impartial" toward Israel because the Assembly deals with "occupied territories. The West Bank, the Gaza, all these are occupied territories."

The issue was further pursued by another reporter who noted that the Mideast conflict is not only about occupied territories and asked Waldheim if he does not see a biased treatment of Israel by such General Assembly resolutions as the one that equated Zionism with racism. Waldheim refused comment on this question.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

NEW SLUR BY BILLY CARTER

By Yitzhak Rabin

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Billy Carter stooped to a new low last night by declaring that American Jews "can kiss my ass as far as I am concerned now."

The President's brother made the remark during a reception here for the Libyan delegation whom he has been escorting around the country. The reception was hosted by the Libyan delegation to the United Nations, with Billy standing on the reception line. He made his remark during a taped interview with correspondent Moses Schonfeld of the Mutual Broadcasting System. The taped interview was made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Carter said that he attended last night's reception at the invitation of Ahmad Shahari, head of the Libyan delegation to the U.S., who, Carter said, "is a very good friend of mine."

He pointed out that his association with the Libyans has nothing to do with business and that he does not intend to urge the Libyans to increase their oil supplies to the United States and will not try to influence their policy. "I am very comfortable with the (Libyan) delegation. They are friends of mine; they will remain friends of mine," Carter said.

When Schonfeld noted that "the Jewish community has raised its voice on this issue" (the President's brother's association with the Libyans), Carter retorted: "They can kiss my ass as far as I am concerned now."

UN GROUP CENSURES ISRAEL

GENEVA, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- The United Nations Human Rights Commission voted 19-3, with eight abstentions, to send a telegram to Israel expressing "deep concern about the systematic torture practiced by Israel against Palestinian detainees, as reflected once again in recent international reports." The telegram also expressed the Commission's "grave concern about policies of repression and collective punishment by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in Palestine and in the Arab occupied territories."

The three countries voting against the telegram were the United States, Canada and Australia. Those abstaining were Austria, Colombia, France, West Germany, Ivory Coast, Portugal, Sweden and Uruguay. Benin and Panama were absent. The Commission began its week-long meeting to discuss human rights in the occupied territories as well as the situation in South Africa, Chile, and Democratic Kampuchea which is located in the Indochina Peninsula.

The Commission's telegram, by referring to systematic torture, ignored a State Department report issued last week which said that while there have been "instances of mistreatment," torture "is prohibited by law and is virtually unheard of." The report also noted that even in cases where "excessive force" has been used by Israeli troops and border police to quell demonstrations and restore order, "these actions clearly did not reflect the policy of the government."

U.S. chief delegate Edward Mezvinsky protested against sending the telegram, which was proposed by Pakistan at the outset of the Commission's debate on the question of human rights in the occupied territories, on grounds that the Commission had not yet received a written notice of the text and that the proposal violated a rule calling for a 24-hour delay before proposals are acted upon. The Commission decided to waive this requirement by a vote of 16-9, with two abstentions. Yoel Baromi, Israel's observer at the Commission, denounced the charges in the telegram as entirely without foundation.

'SLIP OF THE TONGUE' BY PERES ON WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS CAUSES DISMAY

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- A reported "slip of the tongue" by Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres on the issue of Jewish settlements on the West Bank has dismayed many Laborites but pleased Likud which is still smarting over Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's remarks this week about the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Peres gaff occurred during a banquet in honor of visiting Defense Secretary Harold Brown tendered by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis to which leaders of both government and opposition factions were invited. In response to a question, Peres is alleged to have said that if Labor returned to power, it would remove Jewish settlements in the Judea and Samaria regions while settlements in the Jordan Valley might come under Jordanian sovereignty.

According to accounts by a person attending the gala, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin and former Commerce Minister Haim Barlev sought to rescue their colleague from embarrassment. They were quick to explain that Peres really meant to say that the settlements in the Jordan Valley would remain under Israeli sovereignty while those in the heavily Arab populated regions could come under another sovereignty provided that a peace agreement was reached between Israel and Jordan. Peres promptly agreed that that was indeed what he had meant.

Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin said afterwards that Peres had in fact suggested that some settlements would be "dismantled" and that those in the Jordan Valley would come under Jordanian rule. He confirmed that Peres amended his statement with the help of Rabin and Barlev. Brown reportedly remarked that after hearing so many differing views of the problem he understood the familiar joke that wherever two Jews get together there are three opinions.

STUDENTS FOR SOVIET JEWS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- About 300 students from a score of universities demonstrated support for Soviet Jewry at the State Department, in the halls of Congress and in front of the Soviet Embassy yesterday and Tuesday. The two-day program was the third such annual effort sponsored and coordinated by the Soviet Jewry committee of Brandeis University's Hillel Foundation. Rabbi Albert Axelrad is the director of the Foundation. The students spoke with officials of the State Department's section on Soviet affairs and joined the silent vigil opposite the Soviet Embassy. They also met with Senators from their states and with Representatives from their districts. About 125 of the students were from Brandeis. In addition, students were also present from East Coast colleges and from Los Angeles. Communities represented included New York, Philadelphia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated Feb. 19 due to Washington's Birthday, a postal holiday.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA**UNORTHODOX UNIFORM FOR ORTHODOX GI**

By Rochelle Soidel Wolk

ALBANY, N.Y., Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Tony Litwin's U.S. Army uniform isn't exactly like most other enlisted men's because he proudly wears a kippah on his head at all times. "When I first arrived at Fort Sill, Texas," he said, "my superiors asked me what I had on my head and told me to take it off, or I'd get kicked out of the army. But we finally came to a friendly agreement."

Litwin, who converted to Judaism a year ago, studied for five years and was "turned down" by several rabbis. He finally completed an Orthodox conversion in New York City, under the guidance of Rabbi Basil Herring of Kingston, New York, he explained.

Litwin, 26, a native of California, whose original surname was Laganio, took his present surname from his wife's grandmother's maiden name after he completed his conversion. A Vietnam War veteran, he reenlisted immediately after his conversion, complete with beard and payot. His current status is Spec. 4, working with computers in Fire Direction Control.

"I shaved voluntarily," he said, "but I still wear a kippah and arba kanot (fringes), and I also daven and wear tefillin. I get some 'flack' but when I explain that I'm an Orthodox Jew, officers usually seem to understand."

Tries To Instill Jewishness

Now stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Litwin said that with the exception of chaplains, he has never met another GI with a kippah. "Most Jewish soldiers I meet are young Reform Jews who don't follow rituals," he said. "I try to instill a little 'Jewishness' in them, but they don't seem to care."

According to Dennis Rapps, executive director and general counsel for the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), a group of volunteer attorneys that represent Orthodox groups, the wearing of kippot in the army is part of a larger issue that includes beards. COLPA has had several cases against the U.S. Air Force, he said.

Several years ago at Pease Air Force Base, a doctor who wore a kippah at all times was told to take it off in the mess hall. The doctor was told he could only wear the kippah when it was correct to wear his officer's hat. At these times, he was to wear the kippah under the hat. "They were going to court martial him," Rapps said, but COLPA resolved the problem before it came to court.

The kippah and beard questions both have to be discussed in the context of what constitutes a proper uniform, Rapps continued. "In one case involving the beard of a Jewish Air Force Chaplain, Rabbi Michael Geller, we won in the Federal District Court in Washington, D.C." With this case setting a precedent, COLPA is now handling a similar court proceeding concerning another bearded Air Force Chaplain, Rabbi Alan Kalinsky, of Bangor, Maine.

If Litwin doesn't continue to find officers that are willing to come to "friendly agreements" with him, COLPA may yet have another case.

MIDDLE EAST AID

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Officials of the State Department and the U.S. Agency for

International Development (AID) told a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee concerned with the Middle East that U.S. interests in that area "include the security of Israel" and "our relationship with key Arab countries."

Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders and Joseph Wheeler, AID's Assistant Administrator, testified yesterday and Tuesday at hearings on why the U.S. is expending almost \$3 billion in programs for Israel and Egypt in the fiscal year beginning next Oct. 1.

Explaining how U.S. aid assists the U.S. in pursuing its interests and overall strategy in the Middle East, Saunders said that the "more important and diverse interests of the U.S. converge on the Middle East today than almost any other part of the developing world."

He said that "these interests include the security of Israel, our relationship with key Arab countries, the supply and pricing of oil, trade, the avoidance of major power conflicts and our human commitment to help all the people of this area find better lives in dignity, justice and peace."

With the U.S. earmarking \$1.785 billion in military and economic aid to Israel, and close to \$1 billion in economic assistance to Egypt, Saunders said the Carter Administration seeks to encourage peacemaking in the Middle East. "I cannot claim a dollar-for-dollar correlation," he told the subcommittee headed by Rep. Lee Hamilton (D. Ind.). "What we're talking about is building a relationship of collaboration."

Questions Aid To Saudi Arabia

Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D. N.Y.) questioned the large amounts of military weaponry that is being transferred to a monarchy like Saudi Arabia. He said he considered it unfortunate that the U.S. should be providing such large military hardware to that country rather than into economic development efforts and encourage societal improvement.

Saunders reported that Saudi Arabia makes its own determination and indicated that its military establishment is relatively small and is just beginning to develop.

When Rosenthal observed he had objected that U.S. military sales to Saudi Arabia last year did not result in Saudi support for President Carter's Camp David peace initiatives, Saunders replied that the U.S. still hopes to persuade Saudi Arabia to support the peacemaking process which resumes next week at Camp David on the ministerial level between the U.S., Egypt and Israel.

"It's possible in the next few months to see the signing of a treaty of peace (between Egypt and Israel) leading to the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai," he said. He also said that the "pursuit of peace is central" but "what we need to do is not just pursue peace but help the governments through a difficult period of change."

BONN (JTA) -- A Jewish Theological Institute will be established at Heidelberg this year. The purpose of the Institute, which will eventually be affiliated with the university, is to train German-speaking rabbis, religion teachers and cantors. "At present, no such training center exists in any German-speaking country. Rabbis who head the houses of worship serving the Federal Republic's 35,000 Jews are being trained abroad. The Institute, which plans soon to enroll a first contingent of some 20 students, will be funded by the Federal Government, the state governments and the Central Council of Jews in Germany.