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HOUSE COMMITTEE URGES WEST GERMANY TO ABOLISH STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 3 (JTA) -- The House Foreign-Affairs Committee yesterday unanimously urged the West German government to extend or abolish the statute of limitations on the prosecution of Nazi-war criminals. The action was taken on a bipartisan resolution drafted by Reps. Elizabeth Holtzman (D. NY) and Hamilton Fish (R. NY) which had 120 co-sponsors from both parties.

Holtzman said of the House committee's action, "This is the reaffirmation of our commitment at Nuremberg that none of those who participated in the Nazi atrocities should escape being called to account for their deeds. No arbitrary time limit should prevent the trial of those who are responsible for the Holocaust."

Fish observed that what the committee approved is a "continuation of the world community's obligation recognized by the Allies after World War II to bring those who committed these heinous crimes, not only against the Jewish community in Europe but against mankind, to justice."

The West German government has twice in the past extended the statute of limitations on war crimes and has been asked to extend it again by the governments of Poland and Israel. The issue is now being debated in the Bundestag (Parliament). The House committee added its voice at a time when the U.S. government, at the instance of the House Judiciary Committee, is engaged in a more intensive hunt for Nazi war criminals living in the U.S. and is bringing them to trial for deportation proceedings.

In an unrelated development, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted without dissent yesterday to extend \$25 million to Israel and the same amount to Egypt for the construction of housing in those countries. The Senate action, based on a resolution by Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R. NY), was an amendment to an authorization bill for the coming fiscal year for the Agency for International Development (AID) which has extended its housing guarantees by \$50 million. The guarantees are without cost to U.S. taxpayers. They assure contractors of payment for construction contracted for by Israel and Egypt.

DUTCH OFFICIAL CALLS FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST UPSURGE OF NEO-NAZISM

AMSTERDAM, May 3 (JTA) -- The Netherlands Foreign Minister Christophe van der Klaauw said today that he will place the issue of neo-Nazism on the agenda at next week's meeting of the Council of Europe of which he is chairman. He stressed the need of vigilance by all European countries because of the recent upsurge of neo-Nazi activities.

Van der Klaauw spoke in Parliament this morning in reply to questions by two Labor MPs, Harry van den Bergh and Joop Voogd. He was asked by the latter to urge the West German government to ban meetings by former members of the SS because neo-Nazism in West Germany has a ripple affect abroad. The Foreign Minister

replied that he was convinced that the Bonn government and West Germany's political parties are well aware that the democratic state based on law must be preserved and it is not necessary for him to point that out to them.

Van der Klaauw observed that neo-Nazis are active today not only in Germany but in other European countries, including Britain and Holland. He noted that several days ago Jewish sites in The Hague were daubed with swastikas. Every European country, he said, must remain vigilant and aware of their common responsibility to protect democracy in Europe and strengthen it, especially among young people.

VATICAN TO REVIEW CAPUCCI CASE

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, May 3 (JTA) -- Sources here revealed that the arrival in Rome Monday of Maximus Quinto Hakim, Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church and of Antioch, is the prelude to an official Vatican review of the case of Msgr. Hilarion Capucci, the "PLO gun-running priest" and ex-Patriarchal Vicar of the Eastern Orthodox Church in Jerusalem.

In a press interview, Hakim announced he planned to talk over problems related to the Middle East with the Pope within the next few days. When asked whether Capucci's position would be discussed, the Patriarch replied he first wished to find out "how things stand exactly."

After Hilarion Capucci's bravado statements dating back to his appearance in Rome over a month ago after his sudden flight to Damascus from South America to attend the PLO summit meeting, Capucci has been waiting around silently in Rome at undisclosed whereabouts.

Observers note that for diplomatic reasons Pope John Paul II preferred to deal with the Capucci case through the Eastern Orthodox Patriarch and not directly, since Capucci is a Catholic Melchite, not a Roman Catholic priest. Capucci has declared that he wants to end his "visitor" status in South America and return to the Middle East. However, informed circles say it is most unlikely the Vatican will grant this.

A Good-Will Gesture

While serving a 12-year sentence in Jerusalem for gun-running, Capucci was released by Israel's former President, Ephraim Katzir last year on Pope Paul VI's personal intervention. Conditions agreed to by the Vatican, included the promise that Capucci would never return to the Middle East and would refrain from participating in Middle East politics. Both these conditions were violated when Capucci flew to Damascus and spoke out in behalf of the PLO last month.

The Vatican ordered two inquiries to establish the circumstances under which Capucci left South America and what his future intentions were. With the recently improved relations between the Vatican and Israel as well as between the Vatican and the Moslem world, John Paul II has repeatedly shown his good will towards helping the fragile Mideast peace.

AMERICAN 'HOLOCAUST' FILM DRAWS ANTI-SEMITIC COMMENTS IN HOLLAND

AMSTERDAM, May 3 (JTA) -- The second and

third parts of the NBC-TV film "Holocaust," screened on Dutch television over the weekend, drew even more negative responses than the first part, broadcast last week, and blatantly anti-Semitic comments from some of the 1000 viewers who telephoned the Tros broadcasting organization which is televising the film. This led a panel of experts who took some of the calls to conclude that anti-Semitism exists in Holland, even among elementary school children.

Many callers repeated the complaint expressed after the initial episode that too much attention was given the persecution of Jews and none to the Gypsies, homosexuals and other minorities who also perished in Nazi death camps. Others suggested that the series would cause great suffering among the children of Dutch Nazis. Some viewers said the Americans had caused as much suffering as the Nazis when they dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima.

Much criticism was directed against the Jewish victims for allowing themselves to be led passively like sheep to the slaughterhouse and some callers suggested that if the Jews had fought back they would have gained the respect of the Nazis. A native of Surinam, formerly Dutch Guiana, who is now a citizen of Holland, delivered an anti-Semitic tirade. He denounced Jews as having always been the worst exploiters and slave traders in the world and claimed that in World War II they had only received their just desserts.

The panel of experts included psychologists to deal with calls from persons who were emotionally upset by the broadcast. Contrary to expectations, there were very few such callers. One viewer wanted to know why Jews who suffered from anti-Semitism in Holland did not settle in Israel.

The second and third episodes of the four-part series were screened Saturday night and Sunday night. The film was followed by a documentary that contained interviews with several Dutch Jewish resistance fighters, with author Elie Wiesel and with Simon Wiesenthal, head of the war crimes documentation center in Vienna. Meanwhile the Tros studios are under heavy guard. People can enter only after showing an official pass.

UN-URGED TO COMMEMORATE THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

NEW YORK, May 3 (JTA) -- A delegation of women's groups associated with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations met yesterday with high officials of the United Nations and urged them to follow the lead of the Carter Administration in commemorating the victims of the Holocaust. In meetings with Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs, Brian Urquhart, and Teo. C. Van Boven, director of the Division of Human Rights at UN headquarters in Geneva, the Jewish women leaders deplored the "silence" of the United Nations during the world-wide ceremonies last week marking the Holocaust.

Mrs. Bernice Tannenbaum, president of Hadassah and leader of the delegation, also charged that by countenancing PLO terrorism against innocent civilians, including children, the UN was itself violating the spirit of the current UN sponsored International Year of the Child.

Urquhart replied that the office of UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim had issued a statement within one hour of the latest PLO terrorist attack against Nahariya deploring the violence.

He conceded that it had received little or no publicity. Van Boven said that any proposal for a UN event remembering the Holocaust victims would have to be made by a UN member-state and approved by the General Assembly. No government has ever proposed commemorating the Holocaust victims, he said.

In her statement, Mrs. Tannenbaum said it would be "particularly appropriate for the United Nations, which was established by the countries that survived and then destroyed Nazism, to take special note of the Nazi slaughter of the Jews by an annual Day of Remembrance for its victims."

MAJOR U.S.-JEWISH GROUPS LAUNCH PUBLIC OPINION INFORMATION CAMPAIGN DEALING WITH JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, May 3 (JTA) -- American Jewry's three major community relations agencies -- the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith -- announced today that they have launched a wide-ranging joint information effort aimed at demonstrating to American public opinion that the city of Jerusalem, in any overall Middle East settlement, must remain unified and the capital of Israel.

As part of this effort, a number of events have been planned for Jerusalem itself during coming months, among them a conference of mayors and other urban officials on the problems of urban centers in pluralist societies, and visits to Israel by state legislators and other opinion leaders.

Basic documents and other materials are being prepared for distribution to such outlets as university libraries, Congressional offices, and the offices of the United Nations missions, to explain the political geography and history of Jerusalem, to outline the official positions of states involved with the Middle East conflict and of religious bodies, and to summarize Israel's positions and responses to suggested proposals.

In the audio-visual area, among the projects planned by the agencies are television news spots, Spanish-language radio broadcasts bringing the Jerusalem message to Hispanic-Americans and broadcasts geared to the programming of the Christian Broadcasting Network. The three agencies, which have been conferring on these subjects since before the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, will continue to work together toward their successful completion.

SENATE UNIT CUTS MIDEAST AID

WASHINGTON, May 3 (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is speeding to conclude the \$4.2 billion Foreign Security Assistance Bill for the Middle East, lopped off, at least for this year, a \$38 million water project for Jordan, reducing aid to that country to \$60 million. At the same time, it cut the allocation to Syria by \$15 million, reducing it from \$60-\$45 million. Those totals have been approved by the House.

The Senate committee also cut \$6.1 million from the U.S. support mission in Sinai on the assumption that the mission will serve for only six months, not a full year beginning next Oct. 1. The shorter time is based on the premise that Israel and Egypt will maintain the pace of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai under the terms of their peace treaty.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The West Bank settlement of Neve Tzuf called a general strike Thursday to protest what it terms "inadequate security arrangements."

RIBICOFF INTENDS TO RETIRE FROM SENATE AT END OF HIS TERM IN 1980

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 3 (JTA) -- Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff (D. Conn.) announced today that he intends to retire from the Senate when his term expires at the end of next year and declared that he wishes to return to private life at his home in Hartford, Conn.

Ribicoff, who is 69, made his announcement prior to his original intentions, he said, because friends were talking of organizing a campaign for his fourth term in the Senate and he did not want them to waste their time and effort.

He and his wife, the former Lois Mathes, said they decided in 1974, following his re-election to the Senate that year, that he would not be a candidate for public office again. He said that he was not interested in an ambassadorial appointment or any other governmental post. He indicated he is averse to serving abroad by noting he wished to live the remainder of his life in the United States. He said he expects to stay busy in retirement but he did not elaborate on that.

Ribicoff's retirement, while expected in political circles here for many months, was unexpected because of its timing. It immediately raised speculation that his seat in the 1980 election -- a Presidential election year -- would be contested by Democratic Congressmen Toby Moffett and Christopher Dodd, both third term members of the House of Representatives.

Moffett, who was a staff assistant to Vice President Walter Mondale when he was a Minnesota Senator, has emerged in the House as a chief advocate of pro-Arab perceptions in the Middle East political process. Dodd, on the other hand, has visited Israel, the Soviet Union and West Germany to obtain factual evidence at first hand in support of Israel's security, Soviet Jewry's plight and extending West Germany's statute of limitations on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals.

Strong Supporter Of Israel

Ribicoff, an outstanding liberal, has been a leader in the Democratic Party for more than 40 years on the state and national levels. He began his career as a member of the Connecticut General Assembly in 1938. Later, after two terms in the House of Representatives, he returned to his native state to become its Governor for two terms. President Kennedy named him Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in 1961. He left that post the following year to run successfully for the U. S. Senate where he is now serving his third term.

Ribicoff is a member of Temple Beth Israel in Hartford and of the Washington Hebrew Congregation here. A strong supporter of Israel, he nevertheless was a firm backer of President Carter's Middle East policies, especially the package sale of advanced jet fighter planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia which angered many friends of Israel.

BEGIN PRESENTS AUTONOMY PLAN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 3 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin submitted today a blueprint for the proposed Palestinian autonomy plan to the 11-man Ministerial Committee on Autonomy. Sources said the Premier's plan was very similar to his original autonomy proposals drafted in December, 1977 and presented then to President Carter and

President Anwar Sadat. That 26-point plan provided for an administrative council to be elected by the residents of the areas.

The sources noted recent public statements by Begin in which he asserted that autonomy would not mean legislative powers, that security would remain under Israeli control, that Jewish settlement rights would be retained throughout "Eretz Israel," that "no border will again transverse Eretz Israel," and that the plan would provide self-rule for the Arabs and security for the Jews.

Begin is understood to have studied other proposals drafted by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Transport Minister Haim Landau before formulating his own ideas. The Premier expects the ministerial committee and then the full Cabinet to debate his proposals and introduce whatever changes are thought necessary, whereupon it will be published.

News reports of the plan emanating from Israel have already elicited sharply negative reactions from Egypt. A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Cairo said today that the Israeli position was a "pre-condition" which could jeopardize the negotiations.

On the West Bank, meanwhile, tension continued to be high following a shooting incident yesterday in which a student at the Arab Bir Zeit college was shot in the chest. A right-wing intellectual, Prof. Ezra Zohar of Tel Hashomer Hospital, who was marching through the area at the time with other Gush Emunim activists, is being questioned by the police in connection with this incident.

Security personnel conducted a search at Bir Zeit College today and the institute's director was asked later to meet with Military Government officials. In Bethlehem, the local university was ordered closed for four days after police broke up a rowdy demonstration by students in which stones flew and tires were set alight. There were no injuries.

Similar incidents were reported elsewhere on the West Bank today. Observers linked the unrest to the preparations for the autonomy talks with Egypt and also to Egypt's increasingly uncomfortable situation within the Arab world.

AVRAHAM BROIDES DEAD AT 72

TEL AVIV, May 3 (JTA) -- Avraham Broides, the noted poet and writer, died here today at the age of 72. Born in Vilna, Lithuania, he came to Palestine in 1923 where he worked as a construction laborer. From 1929 to 1965 he was general secretary of the Hebrew Writers Association. He was also active in the Histadrut, youth and hechalutz movements, and was a member of numerous organizations, including the Israel Association of Composers and Authors, PEN Club, B'nai B'rith and the Soldiers Welfare Organization.

Broides was the author of many collected works of poetry, including "Ba-telem" (1931), "Eshnav" (1934), "Emunim" (1938), "La'ad" (1943), "Shirim Le'vatey Ha'sefer" (1948), and "El Hashahar Haganoz" (1961). He was also the recipient of numerous awards, including the Brenner Prize, Asher Barash Prize, Belles Lettres prizes, and the Histadrut Prize. Funeral services will be held here tomorrow.

PARIS (JTA) -- Israeli Knesset member Samuel Flato-Sharon went on trial in absentia Thursday in a French court on charges of fraud and tax evasion.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES GALILEE RESIDENTS CITE NEGLECT

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, May 3 (JTA) -- Settlers in nearly 100 settlements and a dozen urban centers in the Galilee region are becoming increasingly alarmed by what they term "growing neglect" and serious "governmental inaction" concerning future development of the area. This was relayed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency during a two-day tour of the Galilee last week by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives.

While some 600 families are currently waiting to establish themselves in planned settlements in Galilee and hundreds more in the region's towns, the snail's pace of development has made that option remote. The region is sorely lacking in permanent housing units, communications and service facilities and roads. Thousands of residents are increasingly frustrated in their struggle to maintain a high quality of life in the face of "governmental indifference."

"It is time the government did for us what we did for them by coming here years ago," one town council head complained. "By avoiding these very essential problems, it is making us unable to attract new settlers to the region." He added that the Galilee's potential for settlement should be one of the nation's most vital concerns. He said the hilly, wild beauty of the region should be emphasized to potential settlers both in Israel and abroad.

The problem is compounded by the growing Arab population in the area. While the ratio of Jews to Arabs currently stands at 52:48 percent, one Housing Ministry official recently estimated that the government must build 7000 flats and settle 27,000 people a year in order to maintain that slim majority. The population rate increase among the Arabs more than doubles that of the Jews (3.0-1.7 percent). One regional leader remarked "Time is working against us. We will soon be facing the greatest demographic problem in the State's history."

In some cases this ratio has heightened tension between Jews and Arabs. In one settlement, power lines have been cut and the settlement's only access road has been blocked. These signs of growing Arab claims to the land can only be halted by rapidly increasing Jewish settlement in the region, the settlers contend.

Many Plans For Expansion

Plans for expanded Jewish settlement exist in abundance. Thirty outposts manned by the Nahal Army Reservists are to be established by the end of this summer to protect State land from illegal settlement by local Arabs. In addition, another 26 new settlements are planned for the Segev, Tefen and Tsalmom districts.

The settlers contend, however, that funds are not forthcoming for the improvement of existing settlements. They fear that the pressure of time will force them into accepting less than originally planned. Earlier last month, Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon urged settlers of the Segev region to abandon their temporary living quarters and move immediately into trailers on their permanent settlement sites where permanent housing units are still lacking. Permanent housing, he said, could take up to 3-4 years to build and would cost some IL 250 million for each 100-family settlement.

Residents of the region feel the issue is largely a political one. They say that "each government always had other targets it wanted to develop." While this government has proved more forthcoming than its predecessors on the issue of settlement, they are nevertheless wary of the new national emphasis on the Negev which they fear will further displace them on the list of national priorities.

Efforts have been made to allay these fears.

Three months ago, the Galilee Development Authority, a locally-based government body which coordinates projects in building, housing and immigrant absorption, convinced the government to form an eight-man ministerial committee on Galilee, the first in the nation's history. It is too early to tell, however, how effective the committee, headed by Interior Minister Yosef Burg, will be.

Dulzin: Galilee Has Been Long Neglected

Dulzin's trip to the region last week was largely an attempt to learn at first hand about the region's problems. He said later that his increased awareness has given him a better foundation with which to press for action. "It is no secret that the Galilee has long been neglected," Dulzin told the JTA. "The settlers there definitely deserve encouragement, attention and assistance."

Noting that the Jewish Agency's role in Galilee centered on settlement, absorption, education and quality of life, Dulzin said that if the proper channels are activated, "there is a concrete possibility that we could increase the population in the Galilee by 5000 families in one year." He pledged to do all he could both here and abroad to improve the situation of the Galilee settlers.

Following his visit to the region, he decided to appoint an ad hoc committee on Galilee to draft a series of development plans and a coordinator responsible for keeping the Jewish Agency up to date on day-to-day developments in the region. The Galilee will receive further national and international attention this summer, when both the Histadrut and the WZO Executive convene there.

If the region is to flourish, assistance will have to be both comprehensive and systematic. As Baruch Wanger, chairman of the Galilee Settlements Council, observed: "The government must give us back our crown, which has been lost in recent years. The Jewish Agency must complete what is lacking -- to transmit our message to the Jews of the world and work for the development and enhancement of our region. A lack of activity now will generate stagnation at a time which may be our last chance to go forward."

WALK-A-THON SET FOR MAY 6

NEW YORK, May 3 (JTA) -- Over 150 communities throughout the U.S. and parts of Canada have announced that they will participate in the third annual United Jewish Appeal Walk-A-Thon. Most will "Walk as One on the Road to Renewal" Sunday; many will incorporate the event with all-day Israel Independence Day celebrations. As in previous years, many participants will choose to ride bikes, swim or skate to achieve maximum returns per mile from sponsors, for the benefit of UJA-Federation fund-raising campaigns. Hundreds of joggers will also be moving along Walk-A-Thon routes, among them Leonard H. Sheman, chairman of the 1979 UJA Walk-A-Thon and a UJA national vice chairman. Last year's UJA Walk-A-Thon attracted over two million participants ranging in age from six weeks to 103 years old.