

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## STRAUSS NON-COMMITTAL IN DISPUTE OVER AGENDA FOR AUTONOMY TALKS

By Gil Sedran

JERUSALEM, July 4 (JTA) -- Robert Strauss, President Carter's special envoy to the Middle East, flew to Egypt late yesterday after a helicopter tour of the West Bank and a press conference at which he was firmly non-committal in the dispute between Israel and Egypt over the agenda for the autonomy talks. Israel has rejected Egypt's demand for a "declaration of principles" on autonomy and insists that the negotiators get down to practical matters such as the powers of the autonomous administrative council, its structure and the ways and means to conduct elections to the council.

"I heard a presentation by the Israelis how they think it most appropriate to proceed with the negotiations," Strauss said at his press conference. "We will hear an equally persuasive and equally articulate presentation by our Egyptian friends in Cairo within the next few days. And then we will begin to assess the situation. I don't think I should react to any specific position at this stage."

In an interview published in Yediot Achronot, Strauss denied local press reports that he supported the Israeli view on the agenda and said he would make up his mind only after his talks with Egyptian officials. A high-ranking source in the American delegation accompanying Strauss said that when the envoy said he "understood" the Israeli position he did not mean he supported it.

"Strauss responded briefly and with candor to the questions of reporters at his press conference. Asked whether he has had any contact with Palestinians, he replied, "yes." He did not elaborate. On the issue of Israeli settlements, Strauss said "The position of our government is very well known and I happen to personally fully agree with the position of our government. . . . So far as I am personally concerned, I find it (settlements) is a negative overhanging the peace process."

### U.S. Will Be Full Partner In Talks

Strauss emphasized, however, that he did not come to the Middle East with solutions to all problems. "I am not a fool to believe that we can solve problems of 3000 years and a conflict of 30 years in a few meetings," he said. He reiterated that the main purpose of his current visit is to "listen, learn and feel the problems." He described his role in the forthcoming sessions of the autonomy negotiations as that of a "responsible partner."

He said that President Carter felt a personal and political commitment toward President Anwar Sadat and Premier Menachem Begin in the peace talks. "I feel free to say that we shall be full partners to the negotiations," he said with reference to Israeli statements during the past month that tended to minimize the degree of American participation for fear that the U.S. might support Egypt on all issues.

Before his press conference, Strauss met with senior Israeli ministers headed by Begin and before that with Begin and Interior Minister Yosef Burg, chairman of the Israeli negotiating team. Burg stressed the importance of the Camp David agreements and said Israel intended to fully imple-

ment them. He said Israel was willing to enter the autonomy talks even though Jordan and the residents of the territories would not participate as stipulated by the Camp David accords. Strauss was accompanied at his meetings by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

### Helicopter Swing Over West Bank

Before leaving for Egypt, Strauss and his party were taken by Israel army helicopter over the West Bank. They were accompanied by Burg and by Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, chairman of the ministerial settlement committee. Two stops were made at key strategic spots -- Maale Efraim, and Kfar Kassem, an Arab village on the Israeli side of the West Bank demarcation line.

There, overlooking the Jordan Valley, Sharon expounded on the defense value of the Israeli settlements in the valley below. He said there were presently 26 settlements on the West Bank but there would have to be 50 before the settlement effort could be said to be firmly established. It was also pointed out to Strauss that at the point where they stood, Israel was narrower than the length of Broadway in New York, about 14 miles.

At the end of his trip, Strauss would say nothing more than that he had found it "interesting." Earlier, at his press conference, he seemed to be anxious over the possible repercussions of his West Bank tour in Arab quarters. "Regrettably it won't meet with the support of everyone in the region," he said. But he observed that it was "important" for him to see the "real estate" as he embarked on his mission.

## JEWISH LEADERS HAIL BUNDESTAG STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS DECISION

By Judith Rosen

NEW YORK, July 4 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders in the United States and abroad are hailing yesterday's vote by the West German Bundestag (Parliament) to eliminate the statute of limitations on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals. The measure to do away with the statute, which passed its first reading last March, was adopted on its second reading yesterday by a vote of 253-228 and on the third reading by a slightly larger margin of 255-222.

Had it not been abolished, the statute would have gone into effect Jan. 1, 1980 rendering Nazi war criminals not yet subjected to the legal process forever immune from prosecution. The measure has yet to be approved by the Bundesrat (upper house) which is more conservative in its makeup than the Bundestag.

The voting followed 10 hours of intense debate and many weeks of preliminary discussion that was closely watched all over the globe and aroused passions in West Germany. Jews especially had been urging the West German Parliament to prevent the statute from taking effect and to continue the prosecution of war criminals with no time limit.

### Positions Of Bundestag Deputies

Bundestag deputies were permitted to vote their conscience on this delicate issue rather than along party lines. The governing Social Democrats (SPD) and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt wanted the statute lifted; the Christian Democrats (CDU) wanted it maintained. Justice Minister Hans-Jochen Vogel, urging that the statute be eliminated, told the

deputies that the Federal Republic had to make its position clear in view of the millions of Nazi victims. "Every murderer detected after December 31 who could no longer be prosecuted would be a severe blow to peace based on justice and to Germany's image," he said.

Most CDU deputies argued for the statute. Alois Mertes, who opened the debate, called on the House to "preserve the law as it is." He said this "should not be mistaken as meaning to forgive and forget" but to preserve the law in a law-abiding country. Mertes also called on Israel "to stop exerting pressure" on the West German legislature, warning that it "could damage German-Israeli relations."

Several dozen demonstrators, dressed in concentration camp uniforms, sat in the public gallery. At one point they jeered speakers who called for preservation of the law on grounds that 35 years after the war, evidence has disappeared and witnesses, if living, can no longer accurately recall the facts.

Chancellor Schmidt said on a radio interview after the vote that he was "highly pleased" with the outcome. He said "It was necessary for justice and good order and it was also necessary for Germany's own reputation and image throughout the world."

#### Justice And Morality Expressed

In a cable to the Chancellor yesterday, the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University of Los Angeles lauded the Bundestag's decision "on behalf of justice and morality." The cable said: "By abolishing the statute the Bundestag has re-emphasized the German people's special relationship to the Holocaust and responsibility to bring Nazi murderers to justice wherever and whenever they are found." The telegram was signed by Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Wiesenthal Center; Rabbi Abraham Cooper, coordinator of the International Effort to Abolish the Statute of Limitations; and Efraim Zuroff, director of the Wiesenthal Center.

Richard Maass, president of the American Jewish Committee, also stressed the themes of moral and ethical responsibility in the Bundestag's move. "This action indicates recognition by the Bundestag of the moral and ethical imperatives for such legislation, transcending the purely legal considerations," Maass said.

"The American Jewish Committee has long supported the abolition of the statute of limitations for murder. On two occasions, we have strongly expressed this view in meetings with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, with members of his party, and the opposition parties, and with members of the legal committee of the Bundestag. We believe that this historic action by the Bundestag will make it possible to accelerate cooperative efforts in areas of mutual concern."

#### War Criminals Still At Large

Justin Finger, national civil rights director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said that the Bonn decision was partly due to world public opinion. "It is now the turn of the West German authorities to actively seek out and bring to the court of law those surviving Nazi war criminals," Finger declared.

Finger estimated that thousands of war criminals are still at large with several hundred living in the United States. Finger added that ADL has established a special task force to accelerate the probe of Nazi war criminals. "We offer our full cooperation with United States and West German

officials to help bring unpunished war criminals to trial."

Albert Vorspan, vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, added the Reform synagogue organization's congratulations to the German leadership for "exercising moral responsibility in the face of acute pressure to bury the past." A spokesman for the American Jewish Congress welcomed the decision of the West German Parliament as a "fitting recognition" that no Nazi war criminal may escape accountability for his actions.

#### Warning For The Future

In Geneva, Philip Klutznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, in a telegram today to Dr. Richard Shuecklen, President of the Bundestag, welcomed the decision "for its moral and political significance, as recognizing the principle that crimes of such enormity can never be subject to statutory limitations and as a warning for the future." Copies of the telegram were sent to the leaders of the four parliamentary parties in the Bundestag with expressions of appreciation to those of their members who voted in favor of the decision.

The decision of the West German Parliament was also hailed by leaders of the Jewish community in Montreal, Canada. Jack Cummings, vice president of the Allied Jewish Community Services and an officer of the Canadian Jewish Congress, said he was pleased by the decision because "by the horrid nature of the crimes, there should never be amnesty for those who committed them."

Dr. Harry Stein, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Emanu-El, said the Bundestag's action "will provide encouragement for people everywhere to see that the cause of justice has been upheld, especially at a time when so much injustice is going on in the world." Rabbi Wilfred Shuchat of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim termed the decision "a tremendous moral achievement for the German people that speaks highly for them."

#### BUNDESTAG VOTE WILL HELP MOVES AGAINST WANTED WAR CRIMINALS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 4 (JTA). -- The Bundestag's vote yesterday to abolish the statute of limitations may enable the West German authorities to open criminal proceedings against known Nazi war criminals who up to now have evaded prosecution. Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld said here today. According to Klarsfeld, an attorney, most of these wanted Nazi war criminals are in West Germany but others are hiding out in Latin American or in Arab countries.

Heading the list of wanted men abroad is Dr. Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz physician responsible for mass murders and inhumane experiments on some 200,000 children and a like number of other inmates. Mengele is believed to be in Paraguay. Other wanted men are former SS Col. Walter Rauff, last seen in Santiago, Chile, who was in charge of the mobile gas chambers in Nazi-occupied areas of the Soviet Union; and Alois Bruner, Adolf Eichmann's deputy for Austria, Greece and France.

Three war criminals definitely known to be in West Germany are Kurt Lischka, who was Gestapo chief in France from 1940-43 and was responsible for the deportation of French Jews; Herbert Hagen, who was a special advisor to the SS in France; and Ernst Heinrichson, who was deputy head of the Gestapo's Jewish section in France. According to Klarsfeld, several hundred war criminals are believed to be alive and to have escaped detection until now. More than 6,000 war criminals have already been tried and sentenced by West German courts.

## ISRAEL HALTED ARMS TO SOMOZA REGIME AFTER TALKS WITH THE U.S.

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 4 (JTA) -- Israel halted the shipment of two patrol boats to the Somoza government of Nicaragua following discussions with the United States, according to the State Department. In an intensive discussion of the halt in Israel's shipment of war supplies to Nicaragua, the Department said Monday that Israel ended "arms contracts" with that country in 1978 and that in the case of the patrol boats the "response" of Israeli authorities "was swift and helpful." The U.S. had asked that no arms be transmitted

to either the Somoza forces or the Sandinist rebels.

Responding to questions from reporters, State Department spokesman Tom Reston said that "the Israeli arms shipment to Nicaragua came up" Monday because of "reports that a Liberian freighter, 'Lagos Star,' was carrying two Israel-made Devorah class 105-foot patrol boats to Nicaragua. The government of Israel ordered the patrol boats not to proceed to Nicaragua and return the patrol boats to Israel."

Reston said "the government of Israel has assured the United States that it ended arms contracts with Nicaragua in mid-1978." He added: "In this particular case, the patrol boats were contracted for some three years ago, well before the recent decision of many nations to halt arms flows to either side in the Nicaraguan dispute."

He explained that "when senior Israeli government officials became aware of this particular shipment they ordered it turned back." Reston was unable to provide elements about the case and said he did not know where the Liberian ship is at present. Asked if Israel was unaware of the shipment to Nicaragua until the U.S. informed the Israelis about it, Reston replied that he did not know how the Israelis were informed. He also could not say when the incident of the patrol boats took place or the technicalities "legally" involved in Israel's cancellation of contracts with Nicaragua.

"We did not pressure Israel on this matter," Reston said. "We made our position plain and that is all I have to say about it." He noted at another point that U.S. policy is not to supply arms to either side. He said that there have been "other allegations of Israeli supplies and we discussed them with Israel."

## ARABS AND U.S. BANKS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 4 (JTA) -- Pointing to the billions of dollars accrued by "Arab sheiks," Sen. John Heinz (R. Pa.) said he would introduce federal legislation to put a six-month moratorium on foreign takeovers of American banks. In addition, under his proposal, a Federal Reserve study would look into such takeovers and specific legislative remedies to deal with them.

"It appears that the rise in foreign takeovers has coincided with the rise in petrodollars," Heinz said. "It is these petrodollars that are clearly behind the buying of American banking. Since the Arab oil embargo, close to \$200 billion has flowed into the tills of Arab sheiks. I fear that we will have a flood of takeovers, fed by the swelling tide of petrodollars that will threaten to engulf and overwhelm us."

Noting "banks play a pivotal role in our economic system," Heinz said that since 1972 foreign bank assets in the U.S. have more than quadrupled from \$18 billion to \$74 billion. "If all for-

eign takeovers of U.S. banks proposed within the last year are approved, an additional \$21 billion can be added, bringing the total amount to nearly \$100 billion, about 10 percent of total bank assets in the U.S."

The American banking system "is on the auction block and with it our ability to control our financial future," Heinz warned. "America should not want OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) dictating whether her private companies can expand here or abroad. We must have a banking system as independent of foreign influence as it is currently independent of influence from the Congress and of the President."

## COURT RULES AGAINST HAARETZ

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 4 (JTA) -- A Tel Aviv district court ruled against the newspaper Haaretz today in an IL 10 million damage suit brought by millionaire contractor Bezalel Mizrahi who claimed the paper libeled him when it included his name on a published list of alleged organized crime overlords in Israel. Judge Shulamit Wallenstein ruled in favor of Mizrahi on four of the five counts in his complaint but dismissed a fifth related to allegations of income tax evasion. Attorneys for Haaretz said they would appeal the verdict to the Supreme Court.

Wallenstein will decide at a later date the amount of damages Haaretz will be required to pay Mizrahi. Should he recover the full amount, the IL 10 million (about \$700,000) would be worth almost a third less because of the encroachments of inflation since he filed suit more than a year ago.

The trial lasted over a year during which testimony was heard from 177 witnesses. The judge's ruling covered more than 100 pages but only a 20-page summary was read in court today. The court found that a list of 11 alleged leaders of organized crime that Haaretz published was not an official police list as the paper had stated but, according to the police, "only a list of persons under investigation for possible crime connections."

The list was published in connection with the newspaper's crusade against organized crime. A series of Haaretz articles in 1977 led to a reshuffling in senior police ranks and the appointment of a special investigating committee which found that there was, in fact, an organized crime empire in Israel with agents abroad.

Wallenstein said in her ruling that she fully supported those findings and that there were connections between Mizrahi and persons believed to be associated with organized crime. But Haaretz failed to produce proof that Mizrahi was connected with any criminal activities, she said.

## PLO SEEKS OBSERVER STATUS

WASHINGTON, July 4 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is seeking an observer status in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to reports. In a letter to the IMF, the PLO applied last week for the status of "observer" at the September meeting of the boards of the organizations scheduled to take place in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. According to IMF officials, the letter was signed by Walid Kamhaweh, chairman of the Palestine National Fund, and sent from the PLO headquarters in Damascus, Syria. The PLO has an observer status at the United Nations. IMF officials in Washington said that the PLO request is being given "normal consideration."

## **SPECIAL TO THE JTA JEWISH GROUPS URGE CARTER TO REDUCE U.S. DEPENDENCY ON OIL SOURCES FROM PERSIAN GULF**

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, July 3 (JTA) -- Twelve major American Jewish organizations have joined in urging President Carter to increase efforts to reduce American dependency "on unstable Persian Gulf oil sources." They called for greater conservation of oil and accelerating the use of alternate sources of energy in the United States and for increased oil explorations in the Western Hemisphere.

Their recommendations were made in a letter, signed by the heads of the 12 organizations, which is scheduled to be delivered to the White House tomorrow. The joint letter was drafted after a meeting May 1 of the leaders of the organizations called by the American Jewish Committee, at which the organizations agreed to make energy a top priority on their agendas.

The signatories are: Richard Maass, president, AJCommittee; Howard Squadron, president, American Jewish Congress; Nathan Perlmutter, national director, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Jack Spitzer, president, B'nai B'rith; Bernice Tannenbaum, president, Hadassah; Nathan Goldberg, national commander, Jewish War Veterans; Shirley Leviton, president, National Council of Jewish Women; Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Simon Schwartz, president, United Synagogue of America; Ruth Eisenberg, national president, Women's American ORT; Ivan Novick, president, Zionist Organization of America; Jacob Sheinkman, president, Jewish Labor Committee. All the groups, except ZOA, are members of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council which endorses the recommendations.

### **Vulnerability To OPEC**

The three-page letter stresses that "the unconscionable OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) price rise on June 28 underscores our belief that U.S. vulnerability to the OPEC cartel is a threat not only to national security, but to the maintenance of an independent U.S. foreign policy, and to world political and economic stability."

The Jewish organizations note that voluntary efforts urged by the Carter Administration are not enough. "We hope, therefore, that the Administration and the Congress will enact equitable mandatory measures which will substantially reduce the excessive consumption of energy in our nation," the letter said.

While praising the Administration's steps to "fund research and development on alternative non-fossil energy sources," the Jewish groups called for an effort with the "same priority given to the Manhattan Project (which developed the atomic bomb) and landing a man on the moon."

The letter recommended the relaxing of environmental rules to allow increased use of coal incentives for using natural gas and speeding up the release of federal lands for the development of all energy resources.

### **Measures to Combat OPEC**

Stressing that "the heart of U.S. energy policy is our policy concerning domestic and imported oil," the letter said that any "windfall" tax on company profits should be accompanied by provisions ensuring that the companies invest their

"increased profits" in developing energy supplies. "If there is to be deregulation of domestic oil prices, we believe it should be accompanied by more stringent government regulations of mechanisms for importing oil, and by stronger measures to combat OPEC's price-setting power in international markets," the letter declared.

"One important step would be to eliminate abuses of foreign tax credits for oil produced abroad by American companies, especially in OPEC countries." The Jewish organizations said they supported "a quota on imports of foreign oil and the use of a sealed-bid mechanism to allocate the oil within the quota." They said these measures should not apply to the Western Hemisphere where they recommended instead "an Energy Free Trade Zone."

They also urged the U.S. to diversify its sources of imported oil and especially encourage exploration and development in the Western Hemisphere. "In this connection, we hope the forthcoming negotiations with Mexico will bring a mutually advantageous agreement on its sale of oil and gas to the U.S.," the letter said.

"We also support proposals calling for the U.S. to guarantee to purchase a portion of its oil needs from non-OPEC countries that require financial backing, as well as Western Hemisphere producers," the letter continued.

"We urge greater U.S. support for the World Bank and other international financing of oil exploration in the LDCs (less-developed countries) and the creation of an energy development facility within the Export-Import Bank of the United States, federal underwriting of risk insurance for exploration in less stable parts of the world, and U.S. aid for heavy oil exploration and processing outside the U.S., particularly the Western Hemisphere."

### **Most Effective Response**

The Jewish organizations stressed that "the single most effective response to OPEC ... would be cooperative efforts by all oil consuming nations ... We are therefore encouraged by the steps taken at the Tokyo Summit (last week). We hope that the decisions reached there will lead to more comprehensive agreements to curtail world oil demand, to stabilize the market, and to increase international technological cooperation for the development of synthetic and alternative fuels. Certainly, the U.S. can and should, under your (Carter) leadership, continue to play a major role in encouraging such action."

### **KLANSMEN ATTACK ZIONISTS**

DENVER, July 4 (JTA) -- Ku Klux Klansmen picketed a meeting here of the Colorado Zionist Federation (CZF) last Sunday. Twelve Klansmen showed up at the group's election dinner at which Rep. Pat Schroeder (D. Col.) was scheduled to be the keynote speaker. Schroeder, noted for her pro-Israel stance, was supposed to speak on "the Zionist challenge for the 80s," but responded to the Klansmen's picketing of the meeting, instead.

Georgi Jacobs, the executive director of the CZF, said that the Klansmen disrupted the Federation's dinner meeting by distributing anti-Jewish literature to spectators gathered to view the men in their full Klan regalia. The Klansmen also carried signs such as "Zionism equals Communism," and "Dump Israel, Pump Gas," Jacobs reported. The Denver Jewish community, numbering about 25,000, has been plagued with anti-Jewish attacks during the last month. Ms. Jacobs noted stickers have been plastered on Jewish businesses, saying "Don't buy here." The Klan said it will continue to picket any Jewish conference that features noted public speakers.