

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. XLVII - 62nd Year

Thursday, November 1, 1979

No. 208

LEFT-WING PARTIES TO DEMAND MEXICO HALT OIL SALES TO ISRAEL

By Chaim Lazdeiski

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- A group of left-wing parties will introduce a bill in the Chamber of Deputies to suspend Mexican oil sales to Israel, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) has announced. It said it would act in concert with other leftist, progressive and "revolutionary circles" to compel Israel to evacuate "occupied Arab territories" and comply with other United Nations resolutions relating to the Palestinian people. Mexico has become a major supplier of oil to Israel since Iranian oil shipments were cut off by the Islamic regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The announcement followed the release here of a joint statement by President Jose Lopez Portillo and visiting President Henryk Jablonski of Poland dealing with international affairs which stated, among other things, the need for a general peace settlement in the Middle East that would include "recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Meanwhile, it was learned that the SWP and other left-wing Mexican groups will be represented at a special conference of solidarity with the Arab peoples and the Palestinians to be held in Lisbon Nov. 2-6.

JUDGE ORDERS U.S. CASE AGAINST TRIFA TO PROCEED; NO TRIAL DATE SET

DETROIT, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Federal Appeals Court Judge Cornelia Kennedy has dismissed several defense motions and ordered the U.S. government's citizenship case against Romanian Orthodox Archbishop Valerian Trifa of Grass Lake, Michigan to trial. Trifa is accused of fomenting pogroms in Bucharest, Rumania in 1941. The U.S. charges that he concealed his ties to the fascist Rumanian Iron Guard when he entered the U.S. and when he applied for U.S. citizenship in the 1950s.

Kennedy, who had been handling the four-and-a-half-year-old case as a Federal District Court judge in Detroit, threw out defense motions to dismiss the case which were based on the claim that the U.S. had the evidence more than 20 years ago which was now being used against Trifa.

The judge ruled that there were statements, to the contrary in the government's files and explanations by Trifa which the government claims are false. She also rejected a defense challenge of the U.S. Displaced Persons Act which bars advocates of persecution from entering the U.S.

No trial date has been set, but U.S. Attorneys have asked for at least 60 days' notice to arrange for witnesses to come from Israel and other countries. Kennedy must also decide whether to handle the case herself or turn it over to another judge. She was sworn in as an Appeals Court judge for the U.S. Sixth Circuit based in Cincinnati in early October.

GLOOMY REPORT ABOUT CONDITION OF ANCIENT SYNAGOGUES IN EGYPT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Nissim Gaon, president of the World Sephardi Federation, ar-

rived here from a visit to Egypt with a gloomy report on the condition of ancient synagogues there and the religious and cultural treasures that belonged to the once flourishing Egyptian Jewish community. Gaon headed a delegation of the Sephardi Federation invited by Egyptian Foreign Minister Butros Ghali to survey the situation of Egyptian Jews, their houses of worship and artifacts.

"To our regret, these were not preserved properly and only part of them still exist," he told reporters at a press conference. "Many precious objects were taken from the synagogues and distributed all over the world." Gaon said the delegation found the Adali St. Synagogue in Cairo, one of the oldest and once one of the richest, in a badly deteriorated state. "The structure is in danger of collapsing and its basement was flooded," he said. That synagogue once had one of the most valuable collections of "gold ornaments."

The even more ancient Ben Ezra Synagogue, which the Egyptians claim was built on the site where the infant Moses was rescued from the Nile, is in worse condition, Gaon said. He said a thorough study will be made but in his opinion there is no way to save the building.

The Ben Ezra Synagogue once contained a priceless collection of original manuscripts, books and scrolls, but regrettably, they are no longer there, the Sephardi leader said. He said the Egyptians post guards around the synagogues but much more is needed. He said an agreement was reached with Ghali and with the Minister of Information, Mansour Hassan, to conduct an extensive search and registration of books, manuscripts and religious objects belonging to the Jewish community.

A committee of Egyptian scholars and administrators will work in cooperation with the World Jewish Congress, the Sephardi Federation and the Lehman Institute of the U.S. to determine what must be done to preserve these valuables.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL BUREAU EMPOWERS KREISKY, BRANDT TO CONTINUE MAINTAINING CONTACTS WITH THE PLO

By Edwin Eytan

LISBON, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- The Bureau of the Socialist International today empowered its president, former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, and its vice president, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, to continue maintaining "contacts" with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Bureau, on which 20 Socialist Parties are represented, did not consider, however, granting the PLO any official status as an observer or in any other capacity. Israeli Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres said after the two-day session that he was "satisfied" with the results.

The Bureau took these decisions after a two-hour debate during which no formal resolutions were presented and no votes were taken. Brandt told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that practically all the delegations supported "the principle" of his and Kreisky's meeting with Arafat last July in Vienna.

The only delegations which objected, Brandt and Kreisky said, were the Israelis and that of Ireland. The Dutch and several others objected to the way in which the meeting was arranged and its form. Israeli sources said the Bureau has promised that

any future contacts with the PLO will take place only after Israel has been given due notice in advance.

Both Brandt and Kreisky told the JTA that the PLO has not applied for observer status nor are there any plans for further contacts with Arafat or any of its other representatives. Socialist sources said that the PLO "has not applied because they know that their application would not stand a chance to be granted."

Brandt told the conference that both he and Kreisky "are convinced that the Palestinians now want self-determination without the elimination or destruction of the State of Israel." Brandt said that in his view "the two sides (Israel and the PLO) will have to take each other into consideration" if a comprehensive peace agreement is to be reached. He added that "the peace process is impossible without PLO participation."

Kreisky, who arrived earlier this morning from the U.S., where he met President Carter and addressed the UN General Assembly, took a far more moderate line than at the previous Socialist meeting held last July in Stockholm. Kreisky spoke for less than two minutes pleading with the delegates to support "a just and lasting solution" in the Middle East. He also said that such a solution must be reached with full Palestinian participation in the negotiations.

PLO Must Be Judged By Its Public Statements

Peres said, "My differences with Brandt and Kreisky are mainly on a question of grammar. They speak, hopefully, about the future. We speak about the present." He said "what really matters is not the assurances given (by Arafat) in a private conversation (with Brandt and Kreisky) but the public statements, the Palestinian covenant and the continuation of acts of terror."

Egypt attended a Socialist conference for the first time in an observer capacity. The Egyptian ruling party, the National Democratic Union, has formally applied for admission to the Socialist International. The party's secretary general, Kamal Hassan, a former top aide to President Anwar Sadat, came out in favor of Socialist contacts with the PLO.

He also stressed, however, that the Camp David agreements "were the first documents in which Israel recognized the rights of the Palestinians." He said that the Socialists could best act for peace "by supporting the agreements." Hassan conferred at some length last night with Peres and met with him again today before the two men left Lisbon -- Hassan for Cairo and Peres for a brief visit to London.

Conference sources said that the Lisbon meeting represented an Israeli success insofar as the Bureau is not even vaguely planning to consider a PLO inclusion. On the other hand, however, it has authorized Brandt and Kreisky to maintain contacts with the PLO and keep themselves "informed."

1ST JEWISH-CATHOLIC CONFAB IN GERMANY

REGENSBURG, West Germany, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- The International Liaison Committee between the Roman Catholic Church and Judaism held its eighth annual meeting in this Bavarian city last week, the first ever held in Germany. Chancellor Helmut Schmidt took note of that historic fact in a message of greetings telegraphed to Auxiliary Bishop Karl Flugel in which he stated:

"What Jews had to suffer in the painful

years of the National Socialist dictatorship is a burden which also concerns your deliberations in Regensburg. It is for this reason that I wish to express to you my gratitude that your encounter is taking place in the Federal Republic of Germany."

The message added: "As you are meeting for the first time in a German city we are reminded not only how serious are the consequences of estrangement and lack of understanding between religious communities, but also how important it is to seek a dialogue against the background of a burdensome common experience."

The Liaison Committee, which comprises representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), met here from Oct. 22-25 with working sessions at Heupfort House, the headquarters of the Diocese of Regensburg. Committee members visited the former concentration camp of Flossenburg where prayers were said for the Jewish and Christian victims who died there. During the service, Flugel laid a wreath in their memory.

Wide Range Of Topics Discussed

Topics discussed at the sessions included "Religious Freedom," "Education for Dialogue in a Pluralistic Society," and current trends in anti-Semitism. Papers presented by Catholic scholars on the issue of Catholic-Jewish dialogue dealt with the need to develop new teaching methods and curricula at all levels of education.

The co-chairmen of the meeting were Prof. Shemaryahu Talmon of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Msgr. Charles Moeller, vice president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. Participants included representatives from the World Jewish Congress, Synagogue Council of America, American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Israeli Jewish Council for Interreligious Development, and Catholics from the United States, Israel, Italy and Germany.

Joan Rosengold, president of the Jewish community of Regensburg, lead the Jewish community in giving a reception to the conference participants at the Jewish community center.

NEW OUTLOOK SYMPOSIUM ENDS WITH A CONTROVERSIAL SUMMATION

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- The three-day symposium sponsored by the Israeli monthly New Outlook ended last night with a controversial "summation" by the magazine's editors and a statement by a West Bank Arab activist demanding negotiations at a Geneva conference.

At a press conference at the conclusion of the symposium, editor-in-chief Simha Flapan read a statement that said: "All participants were unanimous in their view that peace can be obtained only on the basis of the right of self-determination of both peoples within the framework of co-existence and that the policy of annexation and the establishment of Jewish settlements on the West Bank must be stopped."

Flapan said he derived "the policy of annexation" from former Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's statement last Friday that the Israeli government was taking that approach. Questioning this, reporters noted to Flapan that Dayan had actually said only that he "thinks" the government's policy is in that direction and that the State Department said yesterday that it is not "aware" of any such Israeli policy.

Briefing the press last Thursday on the purposes of the symposium, Flapan had stressed that

no resolutions would be made on behalf of the symposium, and that there would be no voting. He repeated in his statement yesterday that "New Outlook insists on having no resolutions because of the diversity of views of its participants."

Under questioning, Flapan said his "summit" was "unanimously" accepted on the basis of "applause" he received and the absence of dissent. He gave no indication of how many of the participants applauded nor did he identify them. When word of his "summit" went beyond the press conference room, a score of participants still on the premises entered and indicated protest against the summit. Observers indicated that the summit appeared to be in violation of New Outlook's ground rules for the symposium because it was tantamount to a resolution.

In the final words of the press conference, Raymonda Tawil, a West Bank Arab poet and feminist, declared, in English, that "The Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole representative" of the Palestinian Arabs, that she is for an "independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," and that the "Palestinians are freedom fighters, not terrorists," and that "they will fight autonomy and the Camp David accords until peace is achieved" and "all the forces are in Geneva with the Soviet Union and all parties, including the PLO."

Tawil's statement seemed to surprise the three New Outlook editors but they did not comment on it. Her final statement seemed to nullify her previous views. She had, earlier at the symposium, submitted a program for "constructive Israeli action" which, she said, "would help in breaking the long-standing hostility between Israelis and Palestinians and begin to establish the needed trust for mutual recognition."

In his statement, Flapan echoed the calls by many participants for American Jews to take sides in the debate on Israeli policies. Referring to the discussion in the symposium between "delegates of Israel's peace community and American Jewish leaders," Flapan said, "there were moments of tension in the debate" but he hoped "they were a catharsis that would strengthen cooperation between both." He announced that the next New Outlook international symposium would be co-sponsored by an Arab magazine which he did not identify.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA 7 SYRIAN JEWS RELEASED FROM JAIL

NEW YORK, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Seven Jews in prison in Syria have been released, Abe Dwek, president of the Committee for the Rescue of Syrian Jews, reported today. He said at least one Jew is still in prison.

Dwek said four of those released are the brothers Albert and Maurice Nusseiri; their cousin, Eli Nusseiri, and Nissim Zayyat. He said the four men and their families had escaped to Lebanon when they were abducted by Syrian agents and returned to Damascus. The men were jailed and tortured, Dwek said.

He noted that Albert Nusseiri was one of the Syrian Jews interviewed by Mike Wallace on CBS-TV's "60 Minutes" three years ago. He said that Nusseiri said at that time that conditions were good for Jews in Syria and subsequently was arrested for trying to leave the country.

The three other Jews released are teenage brothers, Aaron, Moses and Joseph Guinili. Dwek said they had been arrested three times, twice in the last three months, and tortured.

Dwek said the one Jew still known to be in

a Syrian jail is David Kabariti who was arrested after trying to get a visa to the U.S. He charged that an official at the U.S. Consulate in Damascus turned over Kabariti's false passport to Syrian authorities. Kabariti's parents and sister are in the U.S. His sister, Sheila, was among the Syrian women allowed to come to the U.S. in July, 1977 because Jewish husbands were not available in Syria.

Dwek said his Committee has sent a cable to David Aaron, President Carter's Deputy Assistant for National Security Affairs, urging him to ask Carter to advise Syrian President Hafez Assad that the U.S. is prepared to receive Syria's 5000 Jews "as permanent immigrants in this country." Dwek noted that on the "60 Minutes" program Assad told Wallace that he would allow Syrian Jews to leave if they would emigrate to the U.S. and not go to Israel.

SISCO CALLS FOR STRONG U.S. LEADERSHIP IN THE MIDDLE EAST

BOSTON, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- In a major address to 1500 delegates attending the 25th biennial national convention of Women's American ORT, Joseph Sisco, president of American University and former U.S. Under Secretary for Political Affairs, called for "strong American leadership" in the Middle East and the world.

He said that Israel's security was linked to the United States despite the strains between the two nations, and the U.S. "was in need of a strong presidency, without which a strong foreign policy could not be made. He said that America should "protect its vital interests" around the world and reduce its "outside dependence" on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Sisco called the Israel-Egypt peace negotiations the "most important step forward" in the Middle East in 30 years and said that the Camp David agreements have greatly reduced the possibility of war in the area. He stated that the U.S. must "let the parties involved in Middle East peace process 'work things out for themselves.'"

He proposed that once autonomy was instituted on the West Bank and in Gaza, the parties concerned would be able to test the efficacy of the arrangements over a period of some five years. Calling himself the "first non-pro-Arabist in the State Department," Sisco declared that he was "as committed to Israel as anyone in the audience."

Beverly Minkoff, of Rockville Centre, N.Y., was elected national president of Women's American ORT. She previously held the post of chairman of the national executive committee to which she had been elected in 1975 and reelected in 1977.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Secretary of State Cyrus Vance Wednesday rejected the proposal by King Hussein of Jordan to discard the Camp David formula for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli situation and stressed that the Egyptian-Israeli talks for autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza will be continued. Hussein made this proposal in an interview earlier this week in Amman with Western journalists. Vance said the U.S. is "deeply committed" to the autonomy talks and "I consider it of extreme importance" to pursue the talks "to a successful conclusion."

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) -- Cuba called for Security Council sanctions to end all nuclear collaboration with South Africa "by certain Western countries and Israel." The call was included in a statement issued here Wednesday by Cuba as chairman of the 95-member non-aligned group, expressing grave concern about "reports about a possible detonation of a nuclear artifact by the racist South Africa regime."

BACKGROUND REPORT THE JEWS OF WESTERN EUROPE

NEWARK, N. J., Oct. 31 (JTA) -- The Jews of Western Europe share a common historical memory, of which the Holocaust is the dominant event and face many of the same problems of contemporary life. But they are separated by national borders and a diversity of languages, customs and ideologies and even cultural attitudes which stem from their many different places of origin.

They are, for the most part, an unknown quantity to American Jews whose own communities, though widely separated by geography, enjoy a homogeneity of attitudes and ideas.

Those observations were contained in a detailed survey of Western European Jewry by David Zeff, published recently in the Jewish News of New Jersey. Zeff, a consultant to the Jewish Community Federation of Metropolitan New Jersey, served as a consultant on community organization to the European Council of Jewish Communities in Paris from 1976-78 for the purpose of upgrading its effectiveness in serving the efforts of the Jewish communities to reconstruct themselves.

He was assigned to the Council by the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) which had created it and which subsequently turned it over to the European Jews themselves "in line with the JDC's commitment to the strengthening of the infrastructure of Jewish communities outside the United States," Zeff stated.

Unique Aspects Of Jewish Life

"To describe the Jews of Europe is a highly complex and elusive task," he wrote. "One cannot speak about European Jewry as a distinctive entity; the best we can do is take note of the unique aspects of Jewish life in a variety of countries. Although geographically distances are not great, the distinctions in terms of language, tradition, history, value system are all so great that one cannot easily lump them together. Several countries -- Great Britain, Sweden, Switzerland -- were left relatively untouched by World War II. But in virtually all of the other nations, the Jews suffered not only terrible losses in lives but also the destruction of their organized Jewish communities"

There is "a sense of sadness," he said, "in finding out how little interest American Jews have in the contemporary Western European Jewish condition" which leads to a number of misconceptions on their part. One of these is that "assimilation is rampant."

A Number Of Misconceptions

According to Zeff, "In some smaller Jewish communities, particularly where the general society is especially open, such as in the Scandinavian countries, the rate of mixed marriages is dangerously high. However, for 90 percent of Western European Jews, those in France and Great Britain, the rate is lower than our own. According to a recent study in France, there is now, for the first time, a decrease in the rate of intermarriage. As for Great Britain, the rate of assimilation has never been as high as it is in the United States"

Another misconception, Zeff wrote, is that "European Jews are affluent. The fact is that there are some wealthy Jews in Europe but most Jews live with quite modest incomes, in addition to which there are many who are outright poor."

The most notable fact about European Jewry

today is that it is a community of survivors, Zeff noted. Its composition therefore is different from what it was before World War II. He cited as an example, the Jewish community in Milan that, before the war, was almost entirely Italian-Jewish.

Today, only 10 percent are of Italian-Jewish ancestry, another 10 percent are from Iran, 35 percent are from Eastern Europe and the balance, some 45 percent, are from a variety of North African countries. "France's Jewish community, which has increased in size since the war, derives its present strength largely from Jews who have immigrated from North Africa."

Fears And Doubts

Considering the background of the Holocaust, Zeff wrote, "it is not surprising ... that beneath the surface tranquility there are fears and doubts even in the apparent openness and security of Western European society. This sense of anxiety is reflected in the manner in which Jews relate to the general community."

"Although they are relatively well adjusted economically and certainly educationally, they do not have the freedom from self-consciousness which permits American Jews to petition their government freely and persistently. In Western Europe there are no large, well-attended demonstrations in behalf of Soviet Jewry or to mark the anniversaries of the birth of Israel"

On the other hand, Zeff noted, "European Jewry's deeply emotional and visceral relationship" to the Jewish State is "as if unconsciously there is a fear that one day they might once again be forced to flee, and this time only Israel would be ready to welcome them."

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Mrs. Danuta Trybus and Dr. Maria Spiewak of Poland were presented here with the "Righteous Gentile" medal on behalf of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem by Paul Kedat, Israel's Consul General in New York. The two had saved the lives of Dr. Sabina Zimering and her family during World War II. Zimering is the only surviving member of her family and is now living in Chicago. The presentation of the award took place at the Israel Consulate Tuesday.

BRUSSELS (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat is expected to visit Belgium next month, according to a Kuwaiti newspaper report. The Belgian Foreign Ministry, which last week met with Faruk Kadumi, the PLO's political director, has refused to deny or confirm the report.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Tel Aviv Municipal Council has granted a plot of land to a Reform congregation for the purpose of erecting the first structure in Israeli history which will be built specifically as a Reform synagogue. It was announced here by the World Union for Progressive Judaism. The 19-5 Council vote climaxed a 12-year battle waged by Kedem Congregation and its rabbi, Moshe Zemer, to find adequate quarters. Kedem is one of 13 Reform congregations in Israel, all of which are members of the World Union, the international arm of the Reform movement. The World Union has initiated a special Synagogue-Community Center Building Program through which Reform Jews around the world will help Kedem's members build their synagogue in Tel Aviv.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- One hundred and twenty solons presented a measure to the House urging the Soviet Union to release Ida Nudel and allow her to emigrate to Israel.