

# JTA daily news bulletin

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**CIVILETTI PLEDGES JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WILL ACT ON WAR CRIMINALS IN THE U.S.**  
Says USSR, Yugoslavia To Aid U.S. With Data  
By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, reporting full support from the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia in helping to bring to justice alleged Nazi war criminals residing in the United States, pledged "unequivocally" that the Department of Justice will pursue those cases "with all the commitment and vigor that it is able."

Addressing a Bar's Birth luncheon here yesterday, Civiletti said the task of ferreting out the Nazis "poses a question of justice for Americans" because it "involves men and women, who, because of the quirks of world politics" are now living "comfortable lives" in the U.S. "despite their past."

He said that in spite of obstacles "there have been encouraging signs of progress" in the gathering of evidence against these people. With respect to foreign cooperation, Civiletti said that "Yugoslavia has been extremely supportive" and that "Poland and Rumania have been particularly helpful of late." The U.S., he said, has always received "great assistance from the government of Israel" and from various Jewish social service organizations, particularly Bar's Birth.

Civiletti noted that a month ago he met with Lev Smirnov, chairman of the Soviet Union's Supreme Court, who "made a firm and explicit commitment on behalf of his government to do whatever the U.S. felt was necessary to locate, investigate and deport proven participants in Nazi atrocities." Civiletti emphasized that "Never before have we received such a clear and general expression of support from the country in which so much of the evidence can be found."

## Basis For Pursuit Is Justice

After his formal address at the luncheon, the Attorney General was asked why the U.S., 35 years after World War II, is still seeking out Nazis and spending time and money to hunt them down and "what is to be gained by this?" Civiletti replied with one word, "Justice." He said, "I would be quite alarmed if our citizens no longer felt revulsion at the atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis less than 40 years ago." He noted that he was speaking only two days before the 41st anniversary of the "infamous 'Kristallnacht' during which there was wanton destruction of Jewish homes, businesses, synagogues and lives throughout Germany. That was only a prelude to the inconceivable horrors which followed," he said.

He deplored the fact that "refugees from unprecendented horrors" must share "their hard-won American citizenship with these imposters, Nazi war criminals who gained U.S. citizenship by concealing and lying about their past. 'Our children and grandchildren must not be allowed to conclude from their history books some day that the guilty were not pursued because of the passage of time,'" he said.

## A Number Of Cases Pending

Civiletti cited "as a measure of our intense determination" the action of the Justice

Department in seeking, in Los Angeles, to deport Andrija Artukovic who served as Interior Minister of the Nazi puppet state of Croatia during World War II. He also noted three other cases "soon" to go on trial, all involving alleged war criminals who concealed their crimes when they entered the U.S. years ago.

One defendant is Bishop Valerian Trifa who is "accused of concealing his activities as a student leader of the fascist, Nazi-supported Iron Guard of Rumania." The others are Ivan Demjanjuk who will be tried in Cleveland, and Serhij Kowalczyk, who faces trial in Philadelphia. Kowalczyk, a member of the Ukrainian militia, commanded a squad that murdered 5000 Jews in Lybomir, Poland. Demjanjuk "allegedly ran the diesel engine in Treblinka which gassed hundreds of thousands of Jews," Civiletti said.

**ISSUE OF ORDINATION FOR WOMEN TO HIGHLIGHT UNITED SYNAGOGUE PARLEY**  
Report On This Issue To Be Debated  
By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Delegates to the biennial convention of the United Synagogue of America next week will hear and discuss among other topics, two reports on the status of Conservative Judaism, one of them dealing with the views of the Conservative laity on the much-debated issue of ordination for women. Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman, executive vice-president of the association of Conservative congregations, said today.

He said each of the expected 2000 delegates will receive a copy of a "Preliminary Report: A Survey of the Conservative Movement and the Issue of Women's Ordination," prepared by Dr. Charles Liebman, a sociologist who is an expert on Jewish issues, and Dr. Saul Shapiro, an IBM executive active in the Conservative lay movement. The convention will be held at the Concord Hotel in Kiamasha Lake, N.Y. Nov. 11-15.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has obtained a copy of the Liebman-Shapiro report, in which the two experts predicted that Conservative Judaism would experience a decline in membership during the next one or two decades, and that the best basis for coping with that problem was a "minority" of Conservative Jews "most committed" to Conservative Judaism. Their data also showed that the more committed a Conservative Jew was to tradition, the more opposed was that Jew to ordination of women.

Kreitman also told the JTA that the delegates also will hear a preliminary report on a survey of ritual practices by Conservative Jews, prepared by Sherman Pomerantz, described by Kreitman as a data expert and as president of the United Synagogue Midwest region and chairman of its policy and scope committee.

Kreitman said Shapiro and Pomerantz will present reports of their studies to the delegates on Tuesday and that both Dr. Gerson Cohen, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS), the Conservative school, and he plan to discuss both reports during the Tuesday session.

## Survey Designed To Probe Feelings

According to the introduction to the Liebman-Shapiro report, plans for it were approved by the Chancellor and funding for it by the JTS Executive Board last February. The report said that at the time

the survey was approved, "it was anticipated" that the Seminary faculty would be called upon to decide the issue of women's ordination in May of this year (1979) and the survey was "designed, pre-tested, printed and mailed in a month" to 17,527 households selected at random from membership lists of Conservative congregations.

Some 4000 "usable returns" were received; the Liebman-Shapiro report declared, adding the survey was designed to "probe the feelings" of a sample of lay people on the issue of ordination of women and to obtain more information on the ritual behavior of Conservative families. They said they found that slightly less than a majority -- 48.9 percent -- indicated that ordination of women would make no difference to them. The report commented that "the most striking conclusion is that 53 percent of the men and 45 percent of the women do not feel very strongly about the issue."

The report linked the relationship between lay attitudes toward ordination of women with the degree of traditional behavior among respondents. The report said that "in summary, those opposed to ordination are more observant Jews than those who favor ordination; are more committed to Conservative Judaism, and their children are more likely to be synagogue members in particular." The authors wrote that "to jump ahead of ourselves, we are going to argue that Conservative Judaism must build itself around its traditionalist laity."

#### Some Of The Recommendations

In their recommendations, Liebman and Shapiro declared that "given the present age and generational composition" of Conservative Jews, the movement "will experience some decline in members in the next 10 to 20 years." According to them, they added, "our recommendation takes the form of seeking an answer to the question -- where does the base for building a Conservative movement exist?"

They replied with the assertion that "the small minority of observant Jews who are also the most committed to Conservative Judaism provide the only real base for the future of Conservative Judaism" and that "this is the group that must be cultivated and encouraged to assume leadership positions."

They added they believed that Conservative Judaism "must veer to the 'religious right' to preserve this 'hard core' and to attract the marginally Orthodox Jews who may be upset by Orthodoxy's own move to the right, especially by its negative attitude toward the role of women in Jewish life."

#### Reject Move To The Left

The two experts rejected the view, believed substantial in the movement's rabbinical component, that Conservative Judaism "must move to the left to retain the loyalty of the majority of its adherents who do not observe kashrut, who incline toward Reform, and whose children are not joining Conservative synagogues." However, they asserted, "since the number of Reform Jews is growing and the number of Orthodox Jews contracting, Reform, not Orthodoxy, represents a greater potential membership pool" for the Conservative movement.

Nevertheless, they said they had not found any evidence that "if Conservative Judaism became more permissive with respect to Jewish law, it would generate greater commitment to Judaism

in general or Conservative Judaism, in particular, although it might be true in some cases."

The reference in the report to the need for haste in preparing it and the speedy response of Liebman and Shapiro in making the survey stemmed from adoption of a resolution by the delegates to the 1977 convention of the Rabbinical Assembly (RA), the association of Conservative rabbis, asking action for admission of women to the JTS rabbinical school.

The delegates withdrew that recommendation when Cohen promised to name a commission, composed of 14 members, representing all views in the Conservative movement, with himself as chairman, to study the proposal and make recommendations. Cohen promised the 1977 convention that he would commit himself to bring the commission findings to the JTS Senate, the academic policy-making body of the JTS, for action.

#### Background Of The Report

The commission, in its final report last January, submitted a recommendation to the 79th RA convention in Los Angeles, declaring it found no halachic reason barring women from the rabbinate and recommending admission of women candidates to the JTS rabbinical school. A vote was scheduled for last May 30 by the Faculty Senate on the commission's report.

But early in May, Cohen said he had acceded to requests by faculty members to defer until early 1980 action on the commission's recommendations. He said the May 30 vote had been postponed to permit more time for faculty debate. In an April 27 letter announcing the postponement, Cohen said he also wanted to make it clear "we expect to take a definite stand on the issue for the academic year 1980-81."

The Liebman-Shapiro report accordingly was hurriedly prepared for the JTS faculty in anticipation of the subsequently cancelled May 30 vote. Later it was decided to make the Liebman-Shapiro report public at the United Synagogue convention. The JTS Senate will start a meeting at the end of next month to consider the Liebman-Shapiro report and the recommendations of the special commission on ordination of women.

Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum of Kew Gardens Hills, expressed to the JTA his doubt that the full Liebman-Shapiro report and its recommendations would be presented unchanged to either the United Synagogue convention or to the JTS Senate. Kirshblum, a strong foe of such liberalizations as aliya for women in worship services and ordination for women, organized in 1975 a Committee for the Preservation of Tradition within the Rabbinical Assembly.

However, Kreitman affirmed unequivocally to the JTA that the full report, including the recommendation, would be made available to all convention delegates and presented in full to them by Shapiro.

#### EROSION IN ATTITUDE TOWARD JEWS

CHICAGO, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- After 30 years of relative security and sympathy resulting from the memories of the Holocaust, an erosion has taken place in the attitude toward Jews, even among circles that traditionally supported Jewish concerns and aspirations. This was one of the conclusions reached in analyzing the present worldwide Jewish condition at a two-day meeting here of the World Jewish Congress Executive.

The meeting, which concluded yesterday and which was chaired by Philip Klutznick, president

of the WJC Congress, focused on determining priorities for the 1980s and the policies, programs and structural changes that follow from them for the WJC Congress.

According to the analysis, the erosion has resulted in a reawakening of anti-Semitism both in its traditional manifestations and in new forms and entirely from new quarters. The most obvious expression of this anti-Semitism, it was noted, is the tendency to deny the fact and the extent of the Holocaust.

The Executive, in considering the Jewish situation in many areas, particularly Europe, Latin America and Moslem countries, expressed great concern over the growing sense of insecurity among Jewish communities which has resulted in migration movements on a scale not seen since the immediate post-World War II years.

The WJC Congress officials expressed satisfaction with the continued substantial increase in the number of exit visas granted by the Soviet Union. They expressed hope that this would continue and would include people who for many years have been denied exit visas, and that an increasing number of Soviet emigrants would settle in Israel.

The Executive urged the Soviet Union to grant Jews adequate facilities for religious and cultural self-expression, permit Soviet Jews to have contact with their fellow Jews throughout the world and to protect them against anti-Semitic propaganda within the USSR.

Among those attending the meeting was an official delegation of Moroccan Jewish leaders which presented a request for the affiliation of the Moroccan Jewish community with the WJC Congress. The delegation said the application had been authorized by the plenary assembly of the Jewish Representative Council which represents all the communities and institutions of the 20,000 Jews in Morocco.

The Executive unanimously approved the application for affiliation and expressed satisfaction at this development. It also expressed appreciation for the protection given by King Hassan II and his late father, King Mohammed V, to the religious, cultural and political rights of Moroccan Jews and the recent support by King Hassan of the desire of Moroccan Jews to become an integral part of the world Jewish community.

The Executive decided that the plenary assembly of the WJC Congress will be held at the end of November, 1980.

#### BEGIN REFUSES TO MEET WITH ELON MOREH SETTLERS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin is refusing to meet the Elon Moreh settlers, it was learned today. Instead, Begin suggested that they talk to Defense Minister Ezer Weizman as was originally arranged. The settlers previously turned down a meeting with Weizman, who was to propose alternate sites for the Gush Emunim settlement that the Supreme Court ordered removed from seized Arab lands.

They demanded to speak to Begin instead, but by this evening it seemed that they were about to change their minds. The Gush Emunim was reportedly working on a new proposal to solve the crisis, based on a narrow interpretation of the Supreme Court ruling. It would evacuate only those plots of land specifically mentioned in the injunction order, leaving in place the greater part of the settlement which, according to the

Gush, is not located in the areas ordered to be evacuated.

According to the Voice of Israel Radio, the new plan had four clauses. The evacuation of all the plots specifically mentioned in the court order, leaving the settlement on plots not included in the court order; the enactment of legislation which would allow seizure of land for the purpose of Jewish settlement, not necessarily for security purposes; issuance of new seizure orders for Elon Moreh lands not specifically ordered to be evacuated by the high court.

This is the plan the settlers are expected to present to Weizman and which he is expected to reject. Weizman is determined to carry out the court order, even at the cost of an all-out confrontation with Gush Emunim and Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, their most outspoken supporter.

Weizman won support for his stand today from the Liberal Party Executive. The Executive encouraged the government in its decision to evacuate the Elon Moreh settlers. The party called on the settlers to honor the court order and evacuate the place of their own free will. Executive members sharply criticized Sharon and some called for his resignation.

#### FUNCTIONS OF EHRLICH SPELLED OUT

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The functions and responsibilities of second Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich were spelled out in a letter to him from Premier Menachem Begin which was made public immediately after the former Finance Minister assumed his new office yesterday. He will follow up on all Cabinet decisions; will maintain liaison with Jewish communities in the diaspora; and will implement government policy toward Israeli Arabs.

Observers believe, however, that Ehrlich's real function will be to hold together the various feuding elements in Begin's coalition. Shimon Peres, leader of the opposition Labor Party, referred disparagingly to Ehrlich during the Knesset debate on the Cabinet's reorganization as "the coalition plumber." But Ehrlich ignored such barbs.

Talking to reporters last night he seemed to be relieved by his release from stewardship of Israel's troubled economy which had brought him under fire from opposition and coalition circles alike, including his own Liberal Party. He noted that he will become chairman of various ministerial committees, including one for relations with the European Common Market countries and another dealing with Galilee where the bulk of Israel's Arab population resides. He said that these areas of responsibility were "just a start" and that the Cabinet reshuffle that installed Yigal Hurwitz as the new Finance Minister was just the first step of a more wide-ranging government reorganization.

#### COURT HALTS UNSEATING OF SHAKA

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court issued a temporary injunction today barring the Defense Ministry from unseating Major Yassam Shaka of Nablus. Although no action to remove him from office was taken, the injunction was granted at the request of Shaka's wife who feared that such a move was pending.

Shaka elicited an angry public reaction to a statement he made allegedly justifying the terrorist band from Lebanon that carried out the massacre on Israel's coastal highway in March, 1978. The matter was referred to the Defense Ministry amid demands that he be expelled. The court order called on Defense Minister Ezer Weizman to show cause why Shaka should be removed. The Military Government is still considering what action, if any, to take.

# ISRAELI FIELD SCHOOL IN SINAI TO BECOME PART OF AN EGYPTIAN SCHOOL

By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The Israeli field school near the Santa Katerina Monastery in Sinai will become a branch of an Egyptian university after that area is transferred to Egyptian sovereignty on Nov. 15. But Israeli students will be allowed to attend, mingling with Egyptian students and the school will retain its Hebrew name and identity, it was reported today.

The school is called Tsukei David (Rocks of David) in memory of the late son of Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir. The arrangements worked out by the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee supervising the various stages of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai are highly satisfactory to government officials in Jerusalem. The officials said Egypt was scrupulously observing the letter of its peace treaty with Israel and fulfilling all of its obligations under the pact. Full normalization of relations with Israel will begin on Jan. 26, 1980, after the nine-month interim withdrawal from Sinai is completed.

So far, the Egyptians have granted more than 1000 entry visas to Israelis wishing to visit Cairo. A total of 1800 applications were made to date. Officials here say the applications take about a month to be processed.

Meanwhile, final preparations are being made for Israel's pull-out from the Santa Katerina region and from A Tour and the nearby Almat fields on the Gulf of Suez. The latter will be returned to the Egyptians on Nov. 26. In the Santa Katerina area, at the foot of Mt. Sinai, Israeli officials have finished collecting Israeli identity cards from some 15,000 Bedouins and are distributing essential commodities to sustain them during the transition period until new supply routes are opened by the Egyptians.

The last Israeli civilian has left A Tour. He is Kobi Ashkenazi who ran the canteen and tourist shop there since 1970. Only 26 Israeli oil-field employees remain at Almat.

## INTERNS FOR PEACE GROUPS GETS \$25,000 GRANT FROM FORD FOUNDATION

NEW YORK, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The Ford Foundation has awarded a two-year, \$25,000 evaluative research grant to Interns for Peace, a non-political organization training Jewish and Arab group workers in Israel who develop joint projects between the two communities, it was announced here by Rabbi Bruce Cohen, the Interns for Peace program director who conceived the idea for the interns in March, 1976. Cohen also announced that plans are now under way to create special programs for similar cooperative ventures between Arabs and Jews in Egypt.

The target of the grant is to evaluate changes in attitude among members of the Jewish and Arab communities in Israel as a result of the work done by the interns who spend a portion of each week in an Arab community, assisting local workers on a project and additional time doing similar work in neighboring Jewish towns.

By developing parallel programs in Arab and Jewish communities, interns, under the guidance of an Arab-Jewish field supervisory team, bring the groups together in joint activities, Cohen said. "Working towards commonly perceived goals will enable Jews and Arabs to cultivate personal relationships which create the necessary conditions for future fruitful cooperation," he said.

There are now 10 interns in the program, eight North Americans, one Israeli Jew and one Israeli Arab. Cohen said that recently the Israeli steering committee of Interns for Peace urged an immediate increase of 10 additional scholarships to be offered to qualified Israelis. To assure the program's continuity, a second group of 20 interns is to begin their training program in the fall of 1980.

This month the initial group of interns concluded the first year of a two-and-a-half-year internship program in three Israeli villages: Tamra (population 15,000 in western Galilee), Ar'ara and Kfar Kara (population 6000 each near Hadera), Cohen reported. The Arab municipal councils in each village are funding the apartment rentals for the interns and have been involved in the program's development since its inception.

## A Number Of Joint Projects

Among the joint projects either under way or in the planning stages are: pre-natal educational training programs for Arab and Jewish women; summer camps, scouting and physical education programs for Arab and Jewish youth; a traveling bi-cultural folk dance theater group; a cooperative of Arab and Jewish farmers for purchasing and sharing expensive agricultural equipment; and developing industrial zones in Jewish and Arab communities in the Galilee area to make villages economically more self-sufficient.

Discussing the Ford Foundation grant, Cohen said the study of changing attitudes will be conducted by use of in-depth interviews, questionnaires and continuous observations of the groups' interactions. Research team members include an Arab, an Oriental Jew and an Ashkenazi Jew, all of whom are Israeli citizens and members of the Haifa University faculty.

## NBC TO REPORT ON USSR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING OLYMPIC COVERAGE

NEWARK, N. J., Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Political developments in the Soviet Union will be reported by NBC-TV News during its coverage of the Olympic Games in Moscow this summer, it was announced this week by Jacqueline Levine, past president of the Metropolitan New Jersey Conference on Soviet Jewry. Jane Pfeiffer, board chairman of NBC gave this assurance to Sam Kusumoto, president of the New Jersey-based Minolta Corporation, after he wrote to Ms. Pfeiffer, expressing his company's concern that the games might "foster a wholesale violation of the rights of minorities."

Kusumoto informed Ms. Pfeiffer that he had been apprised of this potential problem at a meeting with Ms. Levine and Meyer Fine, executive director of the Soviet Jewry Conference. Kusumoto, whose camera firm will be sponsoring NBC's national broadcast of the Olympic Games, had informed Ms. Pfeiffer that he shared the Conference's concern that the true spirit of the Olympics might be violated and "should this begin to develop, we would be unhappy to lend our support to the games via sponsorship." He had asked NBC-TV to "take whatever steps are possible to avoid such violations of human rights."

Ms. Pfeiffer told Kusumoto that "NBC will concentrate on the Games themselves and on giving American athletes the recognition they deserve," adding that NBC News "has reported regularly on humane issues and political protests in the Soviet Union and NBC's attention and concern in this area will not diminish."

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated Nov. 12 due to Veteran's Day, a postal holiday.