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BACKGROUND REPORT IRANIAN COMMUNITY IN FRANCE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The large Iranian community in France, unofficially estimated at about 30,000 people, has kept out of sight and out of the public glare since the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini took power in Iran last January. There are no official statistics on how many in this community are Iranian Jewish refugees.

The Jewish refugees in France rarely contact community organizations. They are not in need of welfare or any other form of assistance. Most of them are middle class, speak fluent French, have friends in the country and manage by themselves. Since most of them consider France as a stop-over while waiting for visas for the United States or Canada, they do not become active in the French Jewish community and even fail to contact Jewish schools or other communal institutions.

More than half of the resident Iranian community in France consists of students who so far have avoided either organizing or participating in demonstrations, public meetings or any political pronouncements for or against Khomeini.

This exceptional discretion is due to the French legislation on aliens which enables the government to expel foreigners at the slightest provocation. Political activities are generally regarded by the French government as sufficient reason to warrant an administrative expulsion order usually carried out within a few days. This arbitrary French attitude applies to practically all foreigners studying or living in this country and is frequently used against Arab workers or students.

Khomeini Was An Exception

Khomeini was the one exception to the rule. The Iranian religious leader was permitted to conduct his anti-Shah campaign from his residence at Neuaple-le-Chateau, outside Paris, at will. On Tuesday night, President Valery Giscard d'Estaing explained in a television interview, "Had we taken any action against him (then) our own people would have been in the situation in which the American hostages find themselves today."

During Khomeini's stay in France, hundreds of Iranian supporters called daily at his home. Most of them were Iranian workers or students from West Germany, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries. The other half of the Iranian resident community consists of middle class people many of whom are opposed openly or more discreetly to the new Teheran regime.

UN MARKS PALESTINIAN PEOPLE SOLIDARITY DAY WITH WARNINGS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was celebrated here today with statements and speeches, special meetings, a screening of a pro-PLO documentary and a demonstration in front of the United Nations by more than 100 people waving Palestinian flags and chanting anti-Israel slogans.

Today marked the 32nd anniversary (Nov. 29, 1947) of the recommendation of the General Assembly to partition Palestine, paving the way for the establishment of the State of Israel.

Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, in a statement before a special meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, said the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was not only a measure of the international community's deep concern on the matter, but recognized that a just solution of the Palestinian problem was of "overriding importance." Waldheim warned that the situation in the Mideast affected not only the stability in that area but carried a potential threat to peace and security in the entire world.

The President of the General Assembly, Salim Salim of Tanzania, also issued a statement warning that unless the Palestine question is resolved there will be no peace in the Mideast.

Two Resolutions Pending

The General Assembly is expected to endorse this evening two resolutions affirming the rights of the Palestinians to a homeland and to return to their homes. A vote on two other resolutions along the same line is scheduled for tomorrow. While the resolutions before the Assembly reiterate the same points and requests as that of last year's resolutions, one of the current four resolutions requests Waldheim "to direct the United Nations Postal Administration to issue a series of United Nations commemorative postage stamps to publicize as widely as possible the grave situation of the Palestinian people.

The resolution also requests UN member states to issue special stamps on Palestine Day and requests Waldheim to direct the UN Department of Public Information to set up a permanent photographic display on the Palestinians at "public areas" in the UN building.

Early this afternoon about 100 Palestinians and their supporters demonstrated across the street from the UN headquarters, chanting "Down with Israel, Long Live Palestine, Long Live the PLO."

MILITARY TRIBUNAL'S VERDICT ON SHAKA AFFAIR APPEARS IMMINENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The drawn out Bassam Shaka affair neared its climax today as the military tribunal that reviewed the Nablus Mayor's deportation order pondered its verdict, due to be delivered shortly to the West Bank commander. Meanwhile, Shaka ended his 12-day hunger strike today because the sugar content in his blood dropped to a dangerously low level.

The three-man tribunal sat long past midnight as Shaka's lawyer, Felicia Langer, sparred with army attorneys over whether the popular Palestinian leader ought to be expelled for alleged pro-terrorist activities. Shaka is understood to have submitted a statement to the bench defining his position on the jailing of innocent lives in terrorist attacks.

The Nablus Mayor was originally arraigned after a talk he had with an Israel army general in which he allegedly expressed sympathy for the Haifa-Tel Aviv coastal road terrorist killings of March 1978. Shaka claims his words were distorted and misquoted. The army contends that there is

much more evidence linking Shaka with Palestine Liberation Organization activities which warrants his expulsion.

The tribunal's verdict, which may not be delivered till after the weekend, is not binding upon the authorities but carries some influence. Ultimately, the decision rests with the Cabinet which will probably refer to the case at its session this Sunday. Shaka still has recourse to the Supreme Court. Langer has given notice that she will appeal to the high court if the tribunal supports the expulsion order.

When the hearing opened in Ramle late yesterday, Shaka's wife and several West Bank mayors held a solidarity rally outside. They were not allowed to meet with the jailed mayor. The Shaka hearing coincides with the 32nd anniversary of the United Nations partition resolution, and there was a rash of unrest on the West Bank today. An especially rowdy demonstration took place in Kalkilya. It was broken up by border police.

Elon Moreh Issue Reaching A Climax

"Meanwhile, Jewish leaders of the 'Samaria Local Council' said today that they would organize a 'self-defense' organization to ensure peace and quiet in the area. They said they did not want to 'substitute for the army' but were not prepared to be stoned and otherwise impeded in their daily business by local Arabs.

The Elon Moreh issue is also due to reach a climax in the next few days. There have been reports of an evolving "deal" linking the Shaka case to Elon Moreh whereby the charges against the Nablus mayor would be dropped in return for the postponement by local Arab landowners of their intended appeal to the Supreme Court for the immediate evacuation of the remaining land held by Elon Moreh settlers. But government sources either deny all talk of a "deal," or else intimate that no bargain could be struck.

Government sources warned today that the Elon Moreh settlers must announce over the weekend that they are willing to transfer to Dhebel Kebir about six miles away in order to give the authorities time to build the alternative settlement there before the six-week deadline granted by the Cabinet 12 days ago elapses.

GERMAN POLITICIAN: FATE OF ISRAELI PALESTINIANS IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT

BONN, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Helmut Schaefer, the foreign policy spokesman of the Free Democratic Party's parliamentary faction, said today that it should be made clear to the Arabs that the fate of the Palestinians is as important to Germans as the fate of Israel. In a statement on his return from a visit to several Arab countries, Schaefer strongly supported an official dialogue between the Federal Republic and the Palestinians.

The Free Democrats are part of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's coalition government. Its chairman is Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher who is also Vice Chancellor. Schaefer was critical of Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories. With respect to Israel's relations with the Palestinians, he said "There are injustices which we cannot accept any more."

A delegation of the three parliamentary groups in the Bundestag plans to visit Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters in Beirut next month for talks with PLO chief Yasir Arafat

and other PLO leaders. The parties are the Christian Democrats, the Social Democrats and the Free Democrats.

COMMITTEE APPROVES FILLING 35 VACANCIES FOR PROJECT RENEWAL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The Knesset Finance Committee today approved filling 35 vacancies in the administration of Project Renewal, despite an initial objection by Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz. The action was requested by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin and Labor Minister Yisrael Katz in appearances before the committee several days ago.

At that time, Hurwitz said the matter needed further review because it conflicts with the government's new freeze of the public services. But Hurwitz waived his objections today. The only MK who opposed the decision was Menahem Savidor of Likud who said this was just the first deviation from the Cabinet's freeze policy.

AVITAL SHCHARANSKY APPEALS FOR ONGOING SUPPORT TO FREE HER HUSBAND

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Avital Shcharansky, wife of imprisoned Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky, returned to Washington today appealing for continued support to help obtain her husband's release so that he can join her in Israel.

Looking worn from her ceaseless efforts for her husband's freedom, Mrs. Shcharansky met with reporters at a breakfast at the National Press Club this morning, appeared on television and later was a guest at a reception at the Capitol, hosted by Rep. Robert Drinan (D. Mass.), who she described as a "dear friend of our family."

The reporters received copies of her personal account of her life, entitled "Next Year in Jerusalem" which were Anatoly's last words when his trial ended in Moscow in 1977. The book, written with Ilana Ben-Joseph and translated from Russian by Stefani Hoffman, is the story of two young people who married for love and were separated because they are Jewish. Mrs. Shcharansky emigrated to Israel in July 1973, the day after her wedding in Moscow. She has not been permitted to visit her husband since then.

Mrs. Shcharansky explained the background of what she called the double standard the Soviets employ regarding dissidents. As an example, she said the Soviet government produced "the very aggressive" television film against Israel and Zionism that emphasized to the Soviet peoples "we have here in the Soviet Union soldiers of Zionism," meaning, she said, "persons like Anatoly, the Slepaks and Ida Nudel."

Mrs. Shcharansky observed that "On the one hand, the Soviet government makes an anti-Semitic atmosphere in the street and on the other hand it won't let them (the dissidents) out." She said that with the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow only eight months away, Jews in the Soviet Union are saying, "we're afraid" that the round-ups and removals from Moscow and other cities that preceded the visit of President Nixon in 1972 will be repeated to avoid possible contacts with foreigners.

Mrs. Shcharansky urged that letters from individuals and statements by officials be sent to the Soviet authorities to explain to the Russians in a "big public campaign" that in her special case "Anatoly is sick" and that other Jews want to emigrate, too. "In my husband's case and in general we must not only speak but do," she said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES JEWISH LANDMARKS IN CHINA GONE, BUT SCHOLARSHIP, MUSIC FLOURISH

By Joseph Polakoff

(Editor's note: Joseph Polakoff recently visited the People's Republic of China and wrote this report upon his return to the U. S.)

Nov. 29 (JTA) — In 1946, the year after the end of World War II, perhaps as many as 40,000 Jews lived in China. Mainly engaged in commerce and industry, and a considerable number in cultural pursuits, particularly music — more than half were in Shanghai and the remainder mostly in Tsientsin and Harbin, the latter a major point of entry for Jews who fled from Hitlerism via the trans-Siberian railway into China.

Today, Jewish landmarks are almost completely non-existent. Among the estimated 900 million Chinese, perhaps a dozen identifiable Jews remain. Of these, the American Joint Distribution Committee assists five elderly Jews in Shanghai and a woman in Canton. Other Jews include several in the Chinese government service in Peking and some with Chinese spouses who reportedly are not recognized as Jews.

In the Chinese government is Israel "Eppi" Epstein, a native of China who emigrated to Canada and returned to China. He is in the Foreign Language Press in Peking, as is Sidney Shapiro. Others are Solomon Adler, who was a U. S. Treasury representative in Chungking during World War II, and David Kruk, a teacher in the Foreign Language Institute.

Present in China are young American Jews such as Tom Gold, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a Harvard exchange scholar in Shanghai; and Margo Landman, of New York, who teaches English at the university near the industrial city of Tsientsin. Violinist Isaac Stern gave concerts in Chinese cities last summer. The historian Barbara Tuchman became a leading authority on Sino-American relations during World War II.

Numerous Jews visit the People's Republic of China as tourists and as specialists in their fields, such as social work and medicine. Of some statistical interest is that this past summer the first tour organized by a Washington travel company founded and directed by a Chinese, consisted of a group of 20 Americans in which there were 11 Jews, including this correspondent. A gastronomic element is that two of them stuck grimly to vegetables in a determined effort to be as kosher as possible. Three others avoided pork, which was a staple at every meal in some form.

Jews In China 1000 Years Ago

Jews are known to have lived in China more than 1000 years ago. Yale Oriental Professor Kenneth Scott Latourette in his book, "The Chinese — Their History and Culture," published in 1943, mentions Jews three times. "In the ninth century," wrote Latourette, "we hear of Nestorian Christians, Jews, Moslems and Persians in Canton." Reporting foreign influence of that period, Latourette noted that "Jews there were in China of the Tang dynasty but probably few in number and all merchants. The Jewish community in Honan which disappeared only in our own day was of much later origin."

Foreign merchants, Latourette wrote, were encouraged to come to China. They seem mostly to have been Moslem Arabs. Many of them married Chinese women. A colony of Jews which has

been finally absorbed into the surrounding population only in our own day built a synagogue at K'ai-feng. Honan province is roughly half-way between Peking and Shanghai.

Waves Of Immigration, Emigration

After the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, some Russian Jews emigrated to China but the largest migration of Jews came with the rise of the Nazis to power in Germany. By 1939, almost half of Shanghai's Western population of about 60,000 was Jewish. Among them was the former Secretary of the Treasury W. Michael Blumenthal, whose parents brought him as a youngster from Berlin to escape the Nazis.

By 1949, nearly all the Jews had departed, many leaving behind businesses and industries with legal claims that are not yet settled. China had become embroiled in a bitter civil struggle and those of Western influence or origin were in jeopardy. But anti-Semitism as such apparently never existed in China and the casual tourist today detects none.

R. D. Abraham, Chief Rabbi of China, was quoted by the Jewish Student Press Service last May as saying in 1956 that "the government and people of China have for centuries been sympathetic and tolerant towards our people. Never has there been anti-Jewish sentiment in China."

Virtually No Trace Of Jewish Existence

Today, the visitor to China finds virtually no trace of Jewish existence. In Shanghai, Arthur Rosen, a retired Foreign Service Officer who is now president of the National Committee on U. S.-China Relations with offices in New York, has reported that there were three main synagogues — two Sephardic and one Ashkenazic with Russian congregants. In addition, a small Polish Jewish synagogue stood in the ghetto near Soochow Creek. Some halls, this correspondent was told on his visit, also were used for services on High Holidays and a Jewish school functioned in Seymour Road north of Nanjing (Nanking) Road, a principal artery. The Jewish Club, in the western section of Shanghai, is now a conservatory, it was said.

All that remains of these structures are traces of a Sephardic synagogue said to have been a magnificent three-story structure. It is now used for commercial storage. It is just off the Bund skirting the Huangpoo River between the "Peace" Hotel and the Friendship Store in the heart of Shanghai. These traces consist of three seven-light candelabra on one pillar and a fourth on another beneath a round roof typical of Sephardic synagogal architecture. Gold, who accompanied some visitors to this site, said he heard there are remains of the synagogue in Shanghai's Huqai Road but he has not seen them.

China's cultural revolution that came in the wake of the civil war destroyed architectural manifestations of virtually all religious shrines. Among the few that escaped is the triple-towered French Catholic cathedral, locked and unused, that looms conspicuously in the Tsientsin landscape.

Two Jewish Cemeteries Gone

Shanghai had two Jewish cemeteries, but neither now exists. Miss Talitha Gerlach, a spirited octogenarian originally from Pittsburgh who has lived and worked in China since 1926, described to this reporter what happened to them. One is now the small triangular People's Park in Nanjing Road. This cemetery had existed since about 1849 near the north border of the British international settlement. "Bodies were buried three deep there," Miss Gerlach said, "because it was a small plot and the

Jewish people had no other place of their own."

The larger cemetery, established after the large Jewish influx of the Hitler period, was "a little north" of the Blumenthal home whose address she gave instantly from memory as 59 Chusen Road in the area north and east of Spoochow Creek. This ground no longer is used as a cemetery. Many of its gravestones, she said, have been moved to "another place." The Shanghai city government, she said, has the names that were on the stones.

After liberation, Miss Gerlach recalled in speaking of the events after the present government took power, "the government cleared the cemeteries. Relatives with whom it was able to communicate were notified to instruct the committee in charge what to do with the bodies. An international cemetery was set up outside the city. The Y. M. C. A. had such a plot. If a family wants a body, it will be shipped anywhere."

Miss Gerlach said she is personally trying to trace the remains of a woman, Feige Freud, at the request of relatives. She died in July 1945. Her name was engraved on her tombstone in German and Hebrew along with the date of death.

Miss Gerlach, who has lived in Shanghai since 1930 when she came there to serve the Chinese Y. M. C. A., never left except for the period of the Sino-Japanese War. She now works for the China Welfare Institute.

Contribution By Russian Emigrants

Discussing the influence of Shanghai's Western population, she emphasized the contribution to the cultural life of the city, especially in music, by the Russian emigrants. There were no Chinese musicians in the original Shanghai municipal orchestra. "The members were all foreigners," she recalled.

Now, Chinese authorities proudly show off their music classes to tourists. Chinese youths play Western-type instruments and do exceptionally well with the violin and, as tourists quickly learn, they delight in offering American and European melodies. It is of special interest that the leading dance orchestra of the pre-war period for many years was led by violinist Henry Nathan (Nathanowitz), who came from Scranton, Pa.

Perhaps the most splendid of the many striking structures along Shanghai's Bund is the landmark Heping (Peace) Hotel that was the acme of hotel architecture when it was completed in 1927 as the "Palace Hotel" by the famous British Jewish Sassoon family. The family's Shanghai mansion is now the King Yung Hotel. The Palace Hotel, with its pointed green roof of bronze, continues to be a showplace in Shanghai.

From its dining hall windows one looks out on the hundreds of cargo ships lining the Huangpu River. Once the most palatial hotel in the East, it has a dignity resembling those in Paris, London, Vienna and a few other European capitals. It was in the "Palace," one understands, that the Nathan Orchestra performed and Chinese guests savored the smooth musical flow of the period that Chinese youngsters now perform so well.

SOVIET NOVEL DEPICTS RASPUTIN AS A LACKEY OF THE JEWS AND ZIONISM

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- A best-selling novel in the Soviet Union depicts Rasputin, the infamous "holy man" who wielded great influence in the closing days of Czarism, as a lackey of the Jews and the "dark forces" of Zionism. The

book, titled "Just Before The End," has created a stir in official Soviet literary circles and is firmly in line with the recent tenor of anti-Zionist propaganda in the Soviet Union.

An account of the book has been published here by the Institute of Jewish Affairs (IJA) which says it encapsulates some of the basest elements of anti-Semitic ideology current in the USSR. Howard Spier of the IJA says that its inflammatory effect is enhanced by its claim to be factual, complete with textual references and lengthy quotes from diaries and other historical sources. "The work contains no fictitious heroes or events," says Valentin Pikul, its 51-year-old author.

Although the period Pikul covers, the 1880s until Rasputin's assassination in 1916, has been the subject of abundant research, he feels that a more conspiratorial account is necessary and he sets out to expose the "dark forces" which gained a grip on Czarist Russia and slowly dragged it to its destruction.

Pikul depicts the "Zionists" as quick to recognize Rasputin's growing influence in court circles and decide to use him for their own nefarious ends. Small wonder, then, that when Russia faced her supreme test of will in World War I she was no match for the Germans, since her morale had been sapped by years of "alien" infiltration, Pikul contends.

Last June, the novel received a sharply negative review in Literaturnaya Rossiya, weekly organ of the Russian Writers Union, which upbraided Pikul for his "non-class approach" and said his coarse language bordered on "boulevard literature." However, the novel was strongly defended by a Radio Moscow broadcaster who rejected claims that it was anti-Semitic and said such arguments were themselves "anti-Soviet."

In the words of the IJA, however, "Just Before The End" is a purely Russian novel which could well have emerged from the pre-revolutionary anti-Semitic Black Hundreds period.

DRIVE TO CHECK SURGE IN VANDALISM, THEFTS IN CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES

NEW YORK, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- A drive to check the surge in vandalism and thefts at the city's churches and synagogues was launched at a joint meeting of police, ministers and rabbis at the headquarters of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Police Department Chief of Operations Patrick Murphy urged the 100 assembled clergymen to take advantage of special police preventive programs and consultative services.

Provided at no cost, these services include, Murphy said, comprehensive surveys of religious premises and suggested measures to prevent and minimize the damage from vandalism and thefts.

The meeting was sponsored by the ADL, the Council of Jewish Organizations in the Civil Service (CJOCS) and the Police Department's Shomrim Society. A \$1000 reward for information provided to the police leading to an arrest and conviction for vandalism or burglary of a synagogue was offered by Louis Weiser, president of the CJOCS.

Avrom Brog, chairman of ADL's New York Regional Board, pledged the ADL would continue to cooperate with police and clergy of all faiths in programs designed to provide greater security from vandals and thieves who pray upon houses of worship.

BOMBAY (JTA) -- The Council of Indian Jewry organized a four-day celebration here this week to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Albert Einstein. The celebration, which concluded Thursday, featured a seminar on his life and work, an exhibition and a science essay competition.