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HOLTZMAN DENOUNCES RESPONSE FROM WHITE HOUSE ABOUT TRIFA

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA) — A White House response to Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D.-NY) that sought to squelch her complaint about an Administration official's comments regarding alleged Nazi war criminal Valerian Trifa has drawn a second angry letter from her to President Carter that renewed her call for the official's dismissal.

Describing the response as "inappropriate, inadequate and inaccurate," Holtzman, who is chairwoman of the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law, said the fact her complaint was answered by a staff member of the National Security Council (NSC) and a co-worker of John Henze, whose dismissal she is seeking, "suggests that the White House attaches little importance to the issue I have raised."

The issue, Holtzman wrote to Carter, "is not, as the response states, that Mr. Henze never indicated any sympathy for Trifa's 'alleged past activities' but whether he, or the White House, currently is willing to overlook those activities because Trifa 'represents an important ethnic group' and might be able to deliver their votes."

In her first letter to the President Dec. 5, Holtzman reported that on May 1, Radio-Free Europe broadcast a 45-minute interview with Rumanian Orthodox Church Archbishop Trifa, a naturalized American citizen, who is alleged to have incited atrocities against the Jews in Bucharest, Rumania, during World War II. The interview made no mention, she observed, that the Department of Justice had initiated proceedings against Trifa in May 1975 to strip him of his citizenship and that trial of the case is pending in federal court in Detroit.

Top officials of the U.S. Board for International Broadcasting, which oversees Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, subsequently deplored the interview and expressed their wish it had not been aired. However, on Aug. 15, Henze at a board meeting characterized concern about the Trifa interview as "silly," Holtzman pointed out to Carter, and that "despite strenuous protests from several Board members," Henze had added "let me state the White House position on this issue: Bishop Trifa, as an American citizen, represents an important ethnic group."

White House Response

The White House response, signed by Christine Dodson, Staff Secretary at the NSC, said Henze's "personal estimate of the importance of the Trifa broadcast can be justifiably contested, by others" but that he had "explicitly shared this view" that the broadcast was an "error of judgment" and "nowhere in the discussion did he either support this broadcast or indicate, even in the slightest, any sympathy for Archbishop Trifa's alleged past activities."

Dodson concluded, "obviously, the crimes that were committed during World War Two are

recognized as heinous and have no sympathy among anyone in the civilized world."

Taking issue with the Dodson response, Holtzman told the President that it "does not indicate whether Mr. Henze's remarks represent the position of, or were sanctioned by, the White House as he so stated at the August 15 meeting." She described the response as "inaccurate because it does not in any way reflect the verbatim transcript" of the Aug. 15 meeting. Henze, she wrote the President, "steadfastly refused to retract his comments despite pleas from several participants in the meeting to do so."

MENGELE NOW REPORTED IN CHILE

By Rochelle Saidel Wolk

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA) — An Auschwitz survivor told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Dr. Josef Mengele, the notorious death camp doctor, is apparently still living in Paraguay while the government of that country takes no steps to extradite him or even acknowledges his presence. But Simon Wiesenthal, the Nazi hunter who has offered a \$50,000 reward for information leading to Mengele's capture, said in Vienna Friday that he has reliable information that the war criminal is now hiding in a colony of former Nazis in Dignidad in southern Chile.

The survivor, Alex Dekel, 48, was about to undergo experimental surgery at Mengele's infamous clinic at Auschwitz when the death camp was liberated by Allied forces at the end of World War II. Mengele, known to camp inmates as the "Angel of Death," was responsible for the murders of some half million persons at Auschwitz, including 200,000 children. Many were victims of inhuman medical experiments.

According to Wiesenthal, who heads the Nazi war crimes documentation center in Vienna, the Chilean government is well aware of Mengele's presence but so far has refused to respond to an extradition request by the West German government. He said he had learned from three independent sources that Mengele fled to Chile after the Paraguayan government revoked his citizenship last August.

Paraguay acted, apparently, after warrants for Mengele's arrest were issued by West German embassies throughout Latin America. Dekel claimed, however, that Mengele is still in Paraguay.

On a recent trip to the U.S., Wiesenthal told the JTA that Mengele still tops his "wanted" list of Nazi war criminals. He said he hoped to double the \$50,000 reward soon and will offer an additional \$10,000 to the welfare fund of the police department in whatever country Mengele is arrested. Wiesenthal said that Mengele now "knows that his friends will sell him out and he will get nervous and make mistakes. He runs from country to country near Paraguay," he said at the time.

BACKGROUND REPORT

QADDAFI'S VIEWS TOWARDS U.S. AND PLO IS SEEN AS SHEER DUP LICITY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA) — The sudden gesture of friendliness towards the United States by

Libya's leader, Muammar Qaddafi, and his attack on Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat are seen here by political analysts as sheer duplicity probably geared to a conference in Washington in February to improve his chances of buying American weapons. His continuing support both for Soviet policy in Iran and PLO ambitions are not considered altered in any significant way, except for cover-up purposes.

The New York Times reported after a recent interview with him in Libya that Qaddafi has set aside earlier threats to curtail oil exports to the U.S., saying "we wish to intensify our dialogue with the United States." He also was reported as saying that Washington had assured him that U.S. policy in the Arab-Israeli situation would shift toward "a more neutral posture" if President Carter is re-elected and in this connection he said he thought Carter will win a second term.

In the interview, Qaddafi accused Arafat of "merchandising the Palestinian cause and preparing to sell out the Palestinian people" and that he was "suspending all contributions to the PLO and giving the money to representatives of the 60,000 Palestinians who work in Libya."

The PLO in Beirut has charged Qaddafi closed down its office in Libya following the burning of the American Embassy in Tripoli, but it is believed here that concerted action such as that against the embassy without Qaddafi's explicit consent could not possibly take place in Libya.

Regarding the interview, a White House source said no dramatic changes were in prospect in U.S. policy but most independent analysts immediately agreed that Qaddafi's statements were duplicitous and some said irrational. They noted that Qaddafi had called for release of the American hostages in Teheran one day and then allowed the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli to be sacked the next day.

Likely Reason For Turnabout

A likely reason for the turnabout, as seen in one quarter here, is that two weeks ago members of the Congress were invited to attend an "Arab-American Dialogue Conference" in Washington that would "bring together some of the most knowledgeable Arabs and Americans."

The dialogue "committee" sponsored its first conference of this kind in Tripoli in October 1978 with about 100 Americans taking part. Among those reportedly attending were former Sen. J. William Fulbright; Najeeb Halaby, former Pan American World Airways president; Seth Tillman, an aide to Fulbright when he was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; former U.S. Ambassador L. Dean Brown, president of the Middle East Institute in Washington.

The PLO is seen as split between cooperation with the Soviets in Iran and ousting Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and helping Khomeini stay in power. The pro-Khomeini faction is said to be led by Fatah Kaddumi, the PLO's political chief, while Arafat is backing the Soviet strategy.

When asked for a summary of developments in Iran and its impact on the Arab-Israeli conflict, one analyst said: "the only man who knows the precise details of developments is Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov in Teheran. Vinogradov was the Soviet envoy in Cairo during Egypt's build-up for the Yom Kippur War. After that he went

to Beirut and civil war followed in Lebanon. Now he is in Iran and that country is erupting. Where ever he goes he leaves war or dismemberment of the state."

"Why try to assess Qaddafi's motives," another analyst remarked: "His day to day statements make no sense. You can't explain reasonably the kind of thing that goes on in Iran nor what Qaddafi says or does. The one thing that is constant with him and Khomeini and that kind is their burning hatred of Jews and Israel."

ZIONISM AGAIN ATTACKED AT THE UN

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- The General Assembly adopted a resolution last Friday condemning "hegemonism," including a phrase in the resolution which referred to Zionism as a form of hegemonism. The resolution defined hegemonism as seeking to "perpetuate unequal relations and privilege acquired by force."

The vote on the resolution was 111 in favor, four against and 26 abstentions. Israel, the United States, Canada and Australia voted against the resolution which declared that the General Assembly holds that "imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, including Zionism and apartheid" are different manifestations of the "policy and practice of hegemonism."

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX UP 9.7 PERCENT

By Gil Sedah

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- The consumer price index rose by 9.7 percent last month, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced over the weekend. In the past 12 months the index has risen 102 percent. The Treasury avoids predicting future rises, but according to the Histadrut it is now clear that the total rise for this year will be 115 percent. Government economists predicted a 10 percent rise this month.

Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz insisted on a television interview last Friday that in the coming months the inflationary spiral will halt because he will not print money to "satisfy the appetites" of various sectors in the economy. Hurwitz based his forecast of a smaller cost-of-living increase on the slowdown in the economy.

However, he will have to cope with the government's own price hikes. Energy Ministry sources indicated that fuel prices would be increased by 30 percent by the end of this month because of oil price hikes announced over the weekend by Mexico which is now supplying Israel with some of its oil.

USSR CLAMPS DOWN ON GRANTING EXIT VISAS TO SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- Fifty Jewish families who had received postcards from Soviet officials to appear at their local QVIR (office of visas and registration) on the day reserved only for giving out exit visas, were told that officials, on second thought, had decided not to issue them, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Their refusals were based on the fact that the degree of kinship of Israeli relatives was "not of the first degree," therefore not qualifying them for emigration. The families had already sold their belongings and made some of the arrangements for their final departure, the NCSJ said.

This new evidence of further constraints on emigration follows a harsh campaign of harassment

and arrests of Kiev Jewish citizens by the Soviet officials, the latest of which involved the arrest and two-week detention of Kiev refuseniks who openly protested their refusals to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Republic, the NCSJ reported. The refuseniks were also harassed by Soviet officials and were made objects of slanderous articles printed in various Soviet newspapers. The NCSJ said it was convinced that this new development is a foreshadowing of future obstacles to be implemented by the USSR in the way of emigration.

According to Jerry Goodman, NCSJ executive director, "This new development will not sit well with Congress, the U.S. government and the American people. It jeopardizes whatever good will the USSR might have engendered in permitting more Jews to leave this year than ever before. It also demonstrates the Soviet Union's lack of compliance to the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and suggests the need for assurances of future progress and action which are necessary, as provided for in the waiver provision of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to our trade laws."

An analysis by the NCSJ Soviet Jew Research Bureau of the sharp upturn in the number of refusals, particularly in the Ukraine, confirms suspicions that local officials have been instructed to drastically decrease the number of applications being submitted for emigration to Israel. Furthermore, the change is having a dramatic impact on Jews who will be able to leave.

Hundreds of families who previously wanted to leave have recently been deterred from applying, while scores of those refused remain silent, some out of fear of harassment to themselves or their families, the NCSJ declared.

LZA SUPPORTS WZO COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON RESETTLING SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- The National Executive Committee of the Labor Zionist Alliance (LZA) voted today to support the compromise proposal of the World Zionist Organization Executive that: while every Jew who can be, will be rescued from the Soviet Union, "financial assistance for absorption and resettlement will go to only those Soviet Jews opting to go to Israel or those Soviet Jews with immediate family already in America who opt for resettlement in the U.S."

In making the announcement, Prof. Allen Pollack, LZA president, and a member of the WZO Executive, emphasized that "every Soviet Jew who can be rescued will be; no one will be denied a letter of invitation from the State of Israel."

Both he and the NEC members noted that "no one will be forced to go anywhere." Soviet Jews can select freely their new country of residence, but "Jewish communal funds will not be available for use in their absorption outside of Israel," unless they have immediate family in America, for example. Members of the LZA-NEC who voted for the resolution passed at a meeting here are from all parts of the U.S. and Canada.

Repeatedly throughout the discussion, NEC members stressed that the efforts to free Soviet Jews must continue and that those wish-

ing to emigrate must be brought out of the USSR.

Commenting on the decision that Jewish communal funds should not be available for use in absorbing Soviet Jews outside of Israel, unless they are joining immediate family, the Labor Zionists pointed out that the Jewish community in the U.S. should not duplicate the services offered elsewhere in aiding new immigrants.

Pollack stressed that out of the approximate 140,000 Soviet Jews who had settled in Israel, only about 2,000 had left the Jewish State for other destinations. Despite problems, Soviet Jewry is one of the best-absorbed aliya groups in Israel, Pollack said.

BERTRAM KORN DEAD AT 81

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- Rabbi Bertram Korn, senior rabbi at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, died of a heart attack last Tuesday while visiting in New Orleans. The 81-year-old rabbi, who lived in Wynecote, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia, was senior rabbi of Keneseth Israel for more than 30 years. In World War II, he was the only Jewish chaplain in North China. He was promoted to Rear Admiral in July, 1975, the first Jewish chaplain to attain that rank.

A specialist on the role of American Jews in the Civil War, his 1951 book, "American Jewry and the Civil War," was praised as the definitive study. Korn was a president of the American Jewish Historical Society and of the Association of Jewish Chaplains of the Armed Forces. He was also a former national chaplain of the Jewish War Veterans of America. He was a former assistant to the president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform seminary, and associate professor of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati.

JEWISH SCHOLAR TO JOIN COLUMBIA U.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- Dr. Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, one of the world's leading historians, whose scholarly pursuits range from medieval through modern times with an emphasis on Spanish and Portuguese Jewry, will join Columbia University faculty effective July 1, 1980, and serve as director of its Center for Israel and Jewish Studies.

Dr. William McGill, president of Columbia, who made the announcement, said the appointment means that the university "will continue to maintain its reputation as one of the outstanding centers of Jewish historical studies in the world." Yerushalmi, 47, will leave Harvard University where he is Jacob Safra Professor of Jewish History and Sephardic Civilization and chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

At Columbia he will become the first Salo Wittmayer Baron Professor of Jewish History, Culture and Society. The chair was established last April to honor Baron, a professor emeritus of Jewish history, literature and institutions who taught at Columbia for 33 years before retiring in 1963.

Yerushalmi studied Jewish history under Baron, earning his master's degree in 1961 and his doctorate in 1966. Shortly afterward he was named assistant professor of Hebrew and Jewish history at Harvard, rose to full professor in 1970, became department chairman in 1978 and was appointed Safra Professor last February.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

IMMIGRANT ABSORPTION IN ISRAEL

By David Landau

Jerusalem, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- The long standing dispute between the Jewish Agency and the Absorption Ministry over which should control immigrant absorption appears to be coming to a head following a bitter exchange last week of charges and counter-charges by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World-Zionist Organization Executives, who is a member of the Liberal Party, and David Levy, the Minister of Absorption, Housing and Construction who is a member of Likud.

Levy has sharply criticized Dulzin for "making statements that are harmful to aliya." Dulzin charged that Levy was the "main obstacle" that prevented implementation of the three-year-old Horev Commission recommendations to create a single central authority for immigration and absorption.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Dulzin insisted that there was no personal rivalry between himself and Levy, though he acknowledged that his relations with the Minister were not "at their best." Referring to the recommendations by the panel headed by Amos Horev when the Labor-led government was in office, Dulzin observed that "Three years have passed and no government decision was taken and the immigrants suffer."

The Horev Commission called in effect for the abolition of both the Absorption Ministry and the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department. They would be replaced by a combined immigration and absorption agency headed by the Jewish Agency-WZO chairman.

Blames Government For Vacillating

Although he avoided criticism of Premier Menachem Begin, Dulzin blamed the government for vacillating on the matter. He said Begin had announced initially that he would appoint an Absorption Minister (Levy) only until the 29th World Zionist Congress which was held in February, 1978. But the Ministry remains. "I have had numerous meetings with Begin," Dulzin said. "He accepted our views on the matter but unfortunately, nothing has come out of it."

Asked what explanation Begin gave for delaying the Horev plan, Dulzin shrugged. "When I last saw him on this issue he asked me for more time. He keeps asking for more time. I am still waiting but I shall not change my mind on the matter," Dulzin said. He declined to say why the government was procrastinating. "This question should be directed at the government and to Minister David Levy whose opposition to the creation of the new body is the main obstacle," Dulzin said.

He defended the concept of "one address" for the immigrant -- during the immigration process and afterwards during the absorption process. "One cannot separate immigration and absorption and immigration must be in the hands of the Jewish Agency," Dulzin said. He noted that "According to the law, the Jewish Agency is responsible for both immigration and absorption and the law reflects the actual needs."

At a press conference last week, Levy accused Dulzin of "sitting on a high hill with binoculars and criticizing without doing... and talking as if the Jewish people are in his pocket and pull-

ing them out whenever he wants to attack the government of Israel." Dulzin told the JTA that despite his criticism of the government in many spheres, he strongly favored the present government and did not want to see "any other government in which Likud will not be the central body."

Referring to the idea of a national unity government, Dulzin said "I would very much like to see such a government, but unfortunately it is not feasible presently because of the (Labor) Alignment's refusal to do so." He said the Alignment should have overcome narrow political considerations not to join the government because "there are moments when national considerations are more important."

Response To Levy's Attack

Responding to Levy's attack, the Jewish Agency issued a statement claiming that many world Jewish leaders have cabled Dulzin messages supporting his position on the absorption issue and criticizing Levy. The WZO Executive is expected to discuss the matter further at its weekly session tomorrow.

The Jewish Agency's statement said Levy's accusation against "those who believe American Jewry is in their pockets" was an insult to the American Jewish community. "Such expressions and such thoughts are unacceptable by all, those who are in touch with world Jewry," the Agency said.

Dulzin himself condemned "the spread of physical and verbal violence, the latter just as serious as the first. Physical violence is punishable but verbal violence is covered by Knesset immunity," he told the Jewish Agency Executive Monday.

Levy is scheduled to visit the U.S. this week as guest of the American government to discuss foreign investments in building projects in Israel. He will enter those discussions in his capacity as Housing and Construction Minister. Meanwhile, the Presidium of the Zionist General Council announced it would ask Begin for an urgent meeting to seek a solution to the conflict between Dulzin and Levy.

Background Of Issue

The issue between them arose long before Dulzin became WZO and Jewish Agency chairman and before Levy was appointed Absorption Minister. The Jewish Agency, for years, has questioned the need for an Absorption Ministry, a Cabinet post established after the Six-Day War. The Ministry was set up because of widespread dissatisfaction with the way the Jewish Agency was handling absorption at the time and in expectation of a new wave of immigration in the wake of Israel's 1967 military victory.

Since then, the Agency's efficiency has improved somewhat and the Absorption Ministry itself has suffered from problems of bureaucracy. The Horev Commission called for an "authority for aliya and absorption" to be run by the Jewish Agency. Abolition of the Absorption Ministry was implicit in this plan.

The Levy-Dulzin quarrel stems from a divergence of views on who should be responsible for settling and integrating newcomers. Dulzin insists it is the task of world Jewry, operating through the Jewish Agency and WZO. Levy believes that the absorption of immigrants is clearly a responsibility of government.

There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated December 25 due to Christmas, a postal holiday.