

SHAMIR SAYS MAY 26 IS NOT THE FINAL DEADLINE FOR AUTONOMY TALKS, BUT MERELY A DESIRED DATE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today that he intended to take an active part in the autonomy negotiations with Egypt and the U.S. He also said that May 26 is not the final date for completion of the talks but merely a desired date.

Shamir's remarks echoed those of Premier Menachem Begin who stressed in a speech in Maalot yesterday that the May 26 target date set in the Camp David accords was not a deadline. Begin noted that it had taken six months rather than the targeted three, to negotiate the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and similarly the autonomy talks could proceed for as long as it takes to reach agreement.

These comments by Shamir and Begin appeared intended to prepare the public for the all but certain prospect that the autonomy talks will not be completed by May 26. Reports from Washington indicated that the U.S. also realizes that the chance for a successful conclusion by that date is exceedingly slim.

Linowitz Due In Israel Saturday

Nevertheless, the U.S. is urging Israel to make the most of the time available until May 26. Special Ambassador Sol Linowitz, due here Saturday, is expected to make that point. It is not known how long Linowitz will remain in Israel or what his precise schedule will be.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, Israel's chief negotiator in the autonomy talks, told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today that neither Egypt nor the U.S. objected to his proposal to speed up the negotiations. Burg suggested over the weekend that the top level autonomy team meet on a weekly basis instead of about once a month as has been the case until now.

Burg made his proposal in response to Egyptian charges that Israel was responsible for the slow pace of the autonomy talks. The chief Egyptian negotiator, Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil, was quoted by the Cairo newspaper, Al-Gumhuriya, yesterday as saying that while Egypt is not opposed to speeding up the negotiating process, "the good intentions are much more important than the frequency and the length of the autonomy sessions."

TRIAL OPENS OF TWO MILITARY COLLEGE STAFF OFFICERS WHO FAILED TO REPORT ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENT

By David Kantor

BONN, March 18 (JTA) — A gross anti-Semitic incident at the Munich military college three years ago is the subject of a trial that opened yesterday of two senior officers on the college staff. Col. Edgar Muench, 47, and Maj. Hans Joachim Stabenau, 40, are accused of failure to report the incident in February, 1977, in which a group of cadets burned a "Jew" in effigy, sang Nazi songs and shouted "Throw another Jew on the fire."

The incident was characterized as the worst manifestation of anti-Semitism in the German armed forces. Eleven cadets who participated were

suspended. A number of them have since appealed the decision on grounds that the military authorities had acted under the pressure of adverse publicity at home and abroad. Two of the cadets appeared at the trial today as witnesses. The defendants could receive prison sentences of up to three years if found guilty of failure to report a criminal act. During the last two years, serious anti-Semitic incidents were reported at a military college in Hamburg.

Meanwhile, the federal agency in Dortmund dealing with the prosecution of Nazi war criminals, disclosed today that about 20 proceedings are currently pending against persons suspected of mass crimes during the Nazi era. Hermann Wiessing, head of the agency, told reporters that new proceedings are continually being added. Last year the West German parliament removed the statute of limitations on prosecution for murder, including Nazi war crimes.

Statistics released in Dortmund showed that since the establishment of the special agency in 1961, about 640 proceedings against suspected Nazi war criminals were completed. But of 500 verdicts reached, the defendants were found guilty in only 165 cases.

IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING GALILEE STRESSED BY AACI

By Yitzhak Shargil

MAALOT, March 18 (JTA) — The Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel (AACI) stressed the importance of developing Galilee in a resolution adopted at the closing session of its 22nd convention here today. The 300 delegates, who elected Morton Skidelsky, a 41-year-old former resident of Chicago, president of the AACI for a two-year term, succeeding Esther Zackler, called on the government to recognize that the settlement of Galilee is as important as settlement elsewhere and to do everything in its power to aid and encourage such settlement.

The resolution represented a compromise reached in the ongoing controversy over the government's pre-occupation with settlements on the West Bank. Many delegates had wanted the AACI to express dissatisfaction with settlements in the Judea and Samaria regions at the expense of Galilee. In fact, the selection of this new immigrant town near the Lebanese border as their convention site was a pointed reminder to the government of the importance American and Canadian immigrants attach to the region and their desire to attract other North American immigrants to Galilee.

U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis, who came to Maalot to greet the convention, spoke in that spirit when he extolled the natural beauty of Galilee and declared that no foreign friend of Israel's is more in favor of settlement in Galilee than he was. Lewis' remarks were taken by some delegates as an oblique reiteration of U.S. policy against settlements on the West Bank. The Canadian Ambassador, Joseph Stanford, also greeted the convention. Other resolutions called for an end to discrimination in housing against single persons, encouraging aliya and easing the absorption process for new immigrants.

SUPPORT-WALLENBERG RALLIES SCHEDULED

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA) — Simultaneous demonstrations will be held March 27 on the East and West Coasts to marshal public opinion in support of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who

saved some 100,000 Hungarian Jews from death during World War II and who is believed to have been imprisoned in the Soviet Union for the last 35 years.

Avron Brag, chairman of the New York regional board of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, announced today that the demonstration here, sponsored by the ADL's New York regional office and the United States Free Wallenberg Committee, will begin at 7 p.m. at the ADL national headquarters followed by a candlelight procession to the nearby Isaiah Wall across from the United Nations.

During the demonstration, an attempt will be made to telephone Yuri Andropov, head of the KGB, the Soviet Union's secret police, and appeals will be read written by authors Elie Wiesel and Isaac Bashevis Singer.

In San Francisco, a candlelight ceremony will be held at the same time, 4 p.m. there, in front of the Soviet Consulate, according to Mrs. Annette Lantos, of Hillsborough, Calif., one of the chief organizers of U.S. efforts in behalf of Wallenberg. Mrs. Lantos, in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said that efforts are being made to organize demonstrations in Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston and Toronto.

'A Heroic Act Of Salvation'

Noting that Wallenberg was arrested by the Russians Jan. 17, 1945, three days after the Red Army marched into Bucharest, Mrs. Lantos said that 35 years later the Soviet Union should admit it made a mistake and release him. She said what Wallenberg did in rescuing Jews was "a heroic act of salvation" which, during the Nazi period, was "magically rare."

Mrs. Lantos was one of the Hungarian Jews rescued by Wallenberg. She was then 12 years old. Her husband, Tom Lantos, a professor at San Francisco State University, was also a teenager in Hungary at the time.

Mrs. Lantos told the JTA that she believed Wallenberg dead until three-and-a-half years ago when the first report reached the West that the Swedish diplomat was in a Soviet prison camp. She said since then she has "devoted" herself to effort to gain Wallenberg's freedom.

Wallenberg was sent to Hungary in 1944 by the Swedish government at the request of the U.S. to help rescue Hungarian Jews. He was able to save more than 100,000. But when the Russian troops moved into Budapest, he was arrested and disappeared. Soviet officials long denied that he was in their custody but in 1957 they said he died in prison in 1947. However, in recent years several Jewish prisoners have reported seeing a Swedish prisoner and Wallenberg is the only known Swede to have been arrested by the USSR.

BLUM ASSURES McHENRY THAT ISRAEL HAS NO GRUDGE AGAINST HIM PERSONALLY

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 18 (JTA) — Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, told United States Ambassador Donald McHenry today that the government of Israel and the Israel Mission here are not involved in any form of campaign against him following the U.S. vote against Israel in the Security Council March 1.

According to an Israeli spokesman, Blum pointed out to McHenry that Israel is critical of the U.S. vote but that this criticism is not in any way a personal criticism of the American Ambassa-

dor. "All news reports to the contrary," Blum said, "are baseless and with no foundation."

The meeting between the two Ambassadors was held prior to Blum's departure for Israel for consultations in Jerusalem. The Israeli spokesman said Blum requested the meeting with McHenry to discuss the American view toward the upcoming Security Council debate on the Palestinian question. Last week the Palestine Committee requested an "urgent action" on Israel's decision to expropriate some 1000 acres of land in East Jerusalem. This request was supported today by Jordan. Diplomats said that as a result of this request, the Security Council is likely to meet at the end of next week.

During his one-week stay in Israel, Blum will hold consultations with Premier Menachem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other officials. According to the Israeli spokesman here, they will discuss the Palestinian debate in the Security Council, the March 1 Security Council condemnation of Israeli settlements and last fall's General Assembly.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S PLATFORM UNIT 'OUTRAGED' BY U.S. VOTE IN UN

By Joseph Palokoff

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA) — The Democratic Party's platform advisory committee on Israel and the Middle East said today it was "outraged" by the United States vote for the anti-Israel resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council March 1 and said it should have been vetoed.

The advisory committee report was given to the 1980 Democratic National Convention Platform Committee gathering testimony here. The committee will meet April 10 in Baltimore to review the foreign policy testimony which may include statements from other elements within the Party on the Middle East.

"We steadfastly oppose all moves to isolate Israel in the international arena; to suspend her from the United Nations and its constituent organizations; and to equate Zionism with racism," the advisory committee's 12-page statement said.

"In this regard we express our outrage at the recent U.S. vote in the Security Council of the UN which condemned Israel. We reject this resolution in its entirety. It should have been vetoed by the United States."

The advisory committee urged placing in the 1980 platform the 1976 platform plank which said "we recognize and support the established status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel with free access to all its holy places provided to all faiths. As a symbol of this stand, the U.S. Embassy should be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem ..."

In addition to calling for economic and military support for Israel and economic strengthening of Egypt, the statement said: "The U.S. must follow the letter and spirit of the Camp David accords. It must refrain from imposing its views on issues such as the Israeli settlements, which are solely within the jurisdiction of Israel and Egypt."

The statement said "It is essential to maintain the present military balance in the region" and "we have the obligation to guarantee Israel an adequate supply of oil" and the "Egyptians must be assured" that "peace with Israel will bring economic dividends."

The advisory committee is headed by Jerome Grossman, a member of the Democratic National Committee from Massachusetts. Other members are: Michele Aisenberg and Robert Dryfoos, both New York; Zora Hesse, New Mexico; and Irving Kahler, Georgia, all members of the Democratic National Committee; and Betty Schlein, vice chairman of the New York State Democratic Committee.

200 AT PROTEST MEETING CALL FOR ACCEPTING WOMEN AS CONSERVATIVE RABBIS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA) — An estimated 200 men and women met today in front of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in the first lobbying effort of a new organization which seeks to induce the faculty of the Conservative school to accept women as candidates for ordination.

The sponsoring organization, the Group for the Rabbinic Ordination of Women (GROW), called the meeting to demonstrate to the Conservative seminary "and to the public, widespread dissatisfaction" with the decision of the JTS faculty senate "to table the issue of women's rabbinic ordination," Simha Rosenberg, a spokesperson for GROW, declared. She said another objective was "to voice strong support for the immediate acceptance of women" by the JTS as candidates for ordination.

Ms. Rosenberg told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, before the meeting was held, that GROW had been started in February, 1979 but had been revamped recently to be more active in advocating women's ordination and in educating Conservative Jews in Jewish Law and practice. She said GROW had switched to the more vigorous policy after the JTS faculty postponed last Dec. 20 by a 25-19 vote, any action on ordination of women.

Rabbi Seymour Siegel, professor of theology and ethics, and chairman of the Committee on Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly (RA), the association of Conservative rabbis, told the gathering that "the ordination of women is mandated and desirable according to Jewish Law, ethics and needs."

Urges AIT Deliberate Speed

Dr. David Silberman, professor of philosophy at the JTS, read to the assembled group the message he said he would present to the JTS Faculty Senate: "We urgently request that the Senate of the Jewish Theological Seminary promptly reconsider the question of ordination for women. More importantly, we urge them" to vote to "grant women the right to serve as rabbis with all deliberate speed?"

A resolution to admit women was approved by delegates to the 1979 convention of the RA. The delegates withdrew the resolution on a pledge by Dr. Gerson Cohen, JTS chancellor, to name a commission of 14 members, representing the entire range of Conservative opinion, with himself as chairman, to study the issue and make recommendations.

Francine Klagsbrun, a member of the commission, told the protest meeting today that the movement to ordain women as rabbis was not a "fad. It is a major social revolution, we cannot afford to sit it out."

Cohen promised the 1977 RA delegates he would commit himself to bringing the commission findings to the JTS Faculty Senate to act on those findings early in 1979. But in April, 1979, Cohen said he had agreed to a request from the JTS faculty to defer action on the report — which favored ordination of women — until early in 1980.

In its final report, the commission submitted a recommendation to the 1979 RA convention, declaring it found nothing in Jewish Law barring women from the rabbinate and proposed that "qualified women be ordained as rabbis." The

25-19 vote tabled the proposal indefinitely.

Seeking Broad-Based Support

Ms. Rosenberg said that the initial supporters of GROW, including students, professionals and rabbis, expect to attract broad-based support nationally from the Conservative movement's rabbinate and laity. She said GROW is establishing a speakers' bureau and a basic resource library to be available to all individuals and organizations interested in the goals of GROW.

Asked after the meeting today what GROW planned to do next, she said that GROW is planning a forum in April and is organizing a group to represent GROW at the 80th RA convention which will be held in Kiamesha Lake, N.Y., in May. She said GROW has a membership of more than 100, 75 of them rabbis, and that new members were being enrolled daily.

W. GERMAN GRANTS TO WEIZMANN INSTITUTE

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA) — Two important new Weizmann Institute acquisitions, financed by grants from West Germany, were dedicated Sunday during a visit to the Institute by the West German Minister for Research and Technology, Dr. Volker Hauff. They are an ultra-modern electron microscope for biological research and the Albert Einstein Center for Theoretical Physics.

During his visit, Hauff, accompanied by West German Ambassador Klaus Schuetz, revealed that 7.5 million German Marks are allocated each year by his ministry through various fellowships and grants to promote cooperation between the Weizmann Institute scientists and those in West Germany. This sum is in addition to grants by the West German government and private German institutions for special facilities at the Institute.

The Einstein Center, established for the anniversary of Einstein's 100th birthday, will be headed by Prof. Yigal Talmi and will be open to scientists from all parts of the world, including Israel and West Germany.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Carter on Monday signed resolutions adopted by both branches of Congress awarding a Congressional gold medal to Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal. The White House said that the medal "is in recognition of his contributions to international justice through the documentation and locations of war criminals from World War II." The medal probably will be presented to Wiesenthal in about six months after it is designed and struck.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Senate without dissent adopted a resolution Tuesday calling on President Carter to issue a proclamation marking the centennial of "service to humanity and the Jewish people" of ORT. Sen. Jacob Javits (R.N.Y.) who had introduced the resolution, pointed out that "over the past 100 years ORT has had an impact on the lives of almost two million people in more than 40 countries on five continents."

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Members of both political parties in the House and Senate on Monday and Tuesday deplored the continued detention of Soviet Jewish dissident Anatoly Shcharansky for his efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry to emigrate to Israel. Sen. Carl Levin (D.Mich.) and Rep. Robert Drinan (D.Mass.) sought to deliver a letter of protest on Shcharansky's behalf to the Soviet Embassy last Friday but the Embassy refused to accept it. The Congressional Wives for Soviet Jewry urged Shcharansky's release.

MAYORS OF N. Y. C. AND TEL AVIV LAUNCH \$100 MILLION PROJECT RENEWAL FOR NEIGHBORHOODS IN BOTH CITIES

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA) — Mayors Edward Koch of New York and Shlomo Lahat of Tel Aviv participated last night in the formal inauguration of Project Renewal, a collaborative effort to put at least \$100 million in philanthropic and public funds to work over the next several years in strengthening the social fabrics of neighborhoods in the world's two largest Jewish cities, New York and Tel Aviv.

The launching took place in the Hotel Pierre at a dinner attended by 300 leaders of New York's United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Joint Campaign, which aims to provide \$50 million for Project Renewal in addition to the funds it raises each year to support essential humanitarian services for more than three million people in Israel, elsewhere overseas and here in New York.

The co-chairmen of UJA-Federation's Project Renewal drive are Richard Ravitch and William Hock. It was announced at the dinner that the first 500 contributors have already pledged some \$8.3 million to Project Renewal.

UJA-Federation president Laurence Tisch presented an Award of Honor to philanthropist and realtor Irving Schneider. As Project Renewal's first chairman, Schneider was instrumental in devising the program of housing aid and intensive social and educational services now taking shape in the immigrant Hatikvah quarter of Tel Aviv and Jewish neighborhoods of New York, as well as the fund-raising drive to finance them.

Outlines Challenges Of Hatikvah

Lahat outlined to the dinner guests the Project Renewal programs developed by Israeli and American social planners — the latter recruited by New York's Federation of Jewish Philanthropies — to meet the needs of the 20,000 people of Hatikvah, a slum neighborhood on the fringe of Israel's largest city that has been "adopted" by New York's Jewish community as part of Project Renewal/Israel.

Hatikvah is regarded as the worst of 160 slum areas in Israel where some 45,000 immigrant families, mostly from North Africa and East Europe, comprising 300,000 individuals, dwell in poverty and deprivation, Lahat said. Project Renewal/Israel, undertaken at the urging of Premier Menachem Begin, aims to speed the integration of these Jews, who constitute what has been called the "second Israel," into the mainstream of Israeli life, he stated.

The estimated \$1.2 billion in financing required to break the cycle of poverty in which they live is to be provided half by the government of Israel and half by world Jewry through the Jewish Agency; \$400 million is to be raised in the United States, \$40 million of that from New York to be expended in Hatikvah and matched by the government of Israel.

The program to be implemented in Hatikvah, developed by a Neighborhood Steering Committee that includes Hatikvah residents and representatives of the Israel government, Tel Aviv municipality, Jewish Agency and New York's Federation, includes rehabilitation of existing and construction of some new housing; expansion and renovation of such community facilities; intensification of social services for youths and the aged, tutoring and career guidance for adolescents, and

training of parents in home management and family guidance.

The UJA-Federation Women's Campaign is committed to raise \$1.7 million for the renovation and expansion of an existing school in Hatikvah into the Ohel Neighborhood Center which will comprise a day care center, youth club and school of the arts serving up to 1000 students, with a faculty of members of the Israeli Association of Artists and Sculptors. Heading the Women's Campaign project is Myrtle Hirsch. Elaine Pohl Moore is Women's Campaign chairman.

Use Of Funds In New York Outlined

Ravitch, a former head of New York State's Urban Development Corporation, explained the uses to which possibly \$20 million in funds generated by Project Renewal will be put in New York neighborhoods with largely Jewish populations.

A \$5 million Neighborhood Preservation Fund will provide seed money to local Jewish community councils and Federation agencies for projects aimed at stabilizing and enhancing the viability of neighborhoods threatened with deterioration, Ravitch said. It is believed that, once under way, such local endeavors will be able to attract funding from government and other sources and, cumulatively, have a major impact on the struggle to stem the urban blight spreading in New York neighborhoods.

Another \$5 million in Project Renewal/New York funds is intended for the Fund for Jewish Education which the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies has established to channel aid to Jewish day and supplementary schools, Ravitch stated. The Project Renewal money is to be matched dollar for dollar by challenge grants made by philanthropists Caroline and Joseph Gruss and by special allocations for Jewish education by the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, he said.

A total of \$15 million would thus be available to day schools, yeshivot and supplementary schools for student scholarships, upgrading of teachers' compensation, and physical, instructional and pedagogical improvement. The funds would be provided in grants ranging in amount from as little as \$500 to as much as \$100,000.

"Project Renewal," Ravitch asserted, "can do much to upgrade curricula, increase enrollment, help Russian immigrants discover the Jewishness they came here to find. Such an effort is absolutely essential for the future of Jewish life in our city; it is a moral commitment we dare not ignore if we care at all about our cultural survival."

New Yorkers' philanthropic pledges to Project Renewal are accepted only after they have made their regular contributions to the annual UJA-Federation campaign, which is seeking \$106 million for 1980, he stated. The larger Project Renewal contributions are payable over a period of several years.

In a light-hearted ceremony before last night's dinner, Lahat pinned on Koch's lapel a Hebrew equivalent of an "I Love New York" button. He also presented Koch with a key to the city of Tel Aviv.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — More than 100 original letters by the late Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, were donated to the Tel Aviv University here by Mrs. Clara Urquhart of London. Urquhart was a close friend of Schweitzer as well as his assistant. The letters, written in the last years of the prominent scholar's life from 1950 to his death in 1965, deal with various issues, including his interest in Judaism and Israel and his opposition to nuclear weapons.