

## GERMAN GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION LEADERS URGE PLO ROLE IN PEACE TALKS

By David Kantor

**BONN, April 6 (JTA)** — West German leaders in both the government and opposition parties appeared to be in agreement on a Middle East policy favorable to the Palestinian cause and recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a participant in the peace process.

In a debate broadcast last Friday on the German Radio network, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher reiterated his support for the Palestinians' right to self-determination. He maintained that its implementation within the framework of a Middle East peace settlement might restore Arab unity which is a major aim of Bonn's policy in that region.

Former Chancellor Willy Brandt, chairman of the ruling Social Democratic Party, contended that a considerable portion of the PLO's leadership would be favorable to a solution based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which would enable both Palestinians and Israelis to live within secure boundaries in their respective states. Brandt met with PLO chief Yasser Arafat in Vienna last year, a move widely interpreted as a major shift in West Germany's Middle East position and bitterly denounced by Israel.

Another participant in the debate, former Foreign Minister Gerhard Schröder of the opposition Christian Democratic Union, observed that any lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict must offer the Palestinians the opportunity to create a state-like entity. According to Schröder, Israel should rely for its security on Big Power guarantees and demilitarized zones.

Schröder, who met with Arafat five years ago — the first German political leader to do so — said he doubted that the Palestinian issue could be resolved without the participation of the PLO. He said that would test the responsibility of the Israeli government. Meanwhile, Bonn continues to seek public support for the upcoming diplomatic initiative by the European Economic Community (EEC) member states to bring the PLO into future peace efforts in the region.

## UN COUNCIL TO RESUME DEBATE ON THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

By Yitzhak Rabi

**UNITED NATIONS, April 6 (JTA)** — The Security Council, which is presently discussing the issue of Palestinian rights, will resume its debate on Tuesday. The debate, which was expected to have concluded Thursday night, was extended at the insistence of the Soviet Union whose delegate will address the Council on Tuesday.

Sources here told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that this move was coordinated with the Palestine Liberation Organization which is still pressuring the West European members of the Council to accept a proposed resolution calling for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The debate on Palestinian rights, which began March 31, was to have been postponed

until July. The postponement, diplomats said, was due to the threat of a United States veto and the unwillingness of the West European countries to support such a resolution at this time. Diplomats said the European members of the Council decided not to endorse the Palestinian statehood resolution, pending the outcome of President Carter's meeting with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt this week and his meeting with Premier Menachem Begin of Israel next week and the progress of the autonomy talks up to the May 26 target date.

Diplomats said over the weekend that they do not expect the PLO to succeed in its efforts to have the Security Council vote on a resolution calling for an independent Palestinian state.

## LEADER OF ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IS VISITING ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

**JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA)** — Patriarch Tekle Haimanot, the leader of the Ethiopian Orthodox (Coptic Christian) Church, arrived in Israel last Thursday. The official occasion of the visit was to celebrate the Easter holiday, but he is expected to deal with the longstanding controversy between the Ethiopian Church and the Egyptian Coptic Church over the control of two chapels in a monastery near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City.

There is little chance that Haimanot will be able to resolve the dispute during his visit since the Israeli government is under heavy pressure from Egypt to grant it control over the chapels. A special ministerial committee which was set up here 10 years ago to deal with the issue is still working on it. Haimanot is scheduled to meet with Israeli leaders, including President Yitzhak Navon.

## First Visit By An Ethiopian Leader

This is the first visit by an Ethiopian leader since Ethiopia severed diplomatic relations with Israel in 1973 following the Yom Kippur War. It is Haimanot's second visit overseas. His first was to the Soviet Union. There are some 15 million Christians in Ethiopia, half of the country's population.

Upon his arrival in Israel, the Patriarch told reporters that the condition of the Falashas, Ethiopian Jews, is "good as the condition of other minorities in Ethiopia." He refused to elaborate. There are some 25,000 Falashas in Ethiopia, and so far there is no progress in securing their emigration to Israel.

(Last November, at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Montreal, Yona Bogale, the leader of the Ethiopian Jewish community for the last 50 years, who was allowed to leave his native land less than three weeks earlier, told the assembled Jewish leaders:

"We were once 250,000 people. Now we are less than 25,000. Time is against us. Every year, every month, every day we lose our young people to war, to discrimination and to persecution. We cannot sustain much more such losses and if the Jewish people in America and throughout the world and in Israel do not act quickly to help us come to Israel, then God forbid that perhaps in five or 10 years we might disappear.")

## SCA LAUNCHES 3-POINT PROGRAM FOR A UNIFIED JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America (SCA) has announced a three-point action program on May 14 to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the unification of Jerusalem that will emphasize to Americans of all faiths the central role of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel from the days of King David. Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, president of the national coordinating agency for the Conservative, Orthodox and Reform rabbinic congregational organizations, said the May 14 program will initiate "A Year of Rededication to Jerusalem."

Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum, executive vice president and director of research of the SCA, said the program will include a petition drive to obtain the signatures of one million Americans who will commit themselves to seeing Jerusalem as a unified city, the capital of Israel, and who will ask President Jimmy Carter "to advance the cause of peace of Jerusalem." The petition will be presented to Carter between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The other two elements in the program will consist of publishing a booklet entitled, "Next Year in Jerusalem," which will include statements from rabbinic literature on the pivotal role of the Holy City in the history and daily life of the Jewish people; and placing ads in leading dailies throughout the country on the central role of Jerusalem in the religious life of the Jewish people, which will be headlined, "Jerusalem of Peace, in One World, under God."

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA

### HOLOCAUST VICTIMS' CHIEF REUNITED WITH HIS 104-YEAR-OLD GRANDMOTHER

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA) -- The story began in Hungary 50 years ago and had its happy ending on Purim, 1980, in Paris, it was reported here by the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). A young man left Budapest in the 1930's, leaving his mother behind, and went to live in Paris with his bride. A son was born to them a few years before World War II. When the fighting separated the family, the child was placed in a children's home run by OPEJ, a French Jewish children's agency. This was the last time the Hungarian grandmother had any news of her son, daughter-in-law or their child.

Right after the war she heard that both her son and her daughter-in-law had perished in concentration camps, but no news was available of their child. The only thing she knew was the approximate date of his birth and the fact that he had been placed in a Jewish institution.

Last October, two representatives of the JDC went to Hungary to strengthen contacts with the Hungarian Jewish community. The grandmother, now 104 years old, approached them and asked them to try to trace her grandson, George Darvas. The JDC made inquiries with OPEJ in Paris, a JDC-supported agency, which confirmed the fact that young Darvas was indeed at their institution until 1951, but they did not know what became of him.

The file was sent to the Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU) and the French United Jewish Appeal which placed a small advertisement in the magazine L'Arche stating: "The address of George Darvas is being sought. Please address all informa-

tion to the FSJU." Two months passed, and on the eve of Purim, last Feb. 29, the FSJU representative received a phone call from George Darvas, who had heard about the advertisement from a friend. Now a Paris businessman, he was delighted to learn his grandmother had survived -- that another Darvas lived -- and made plans to go to see, for the first time, his 104-year-old grandmother.

## REDGRAVE CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

LOS ANGELES, April 6 (JTA) -- Vanessa Redgrave, who will portray an Auschwitz survivor in a forthcoming CBS-TV production of "Playing for Time," has provoked new anger in the Jewish community by proposing a business boycott of Israel and calling Israel "a racist state." The British actress, who espouses the view of the Palestine Liberation Organization, made that proposal last week.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies and Yeshiva University of Los Angeles, and a member of the advisory committee to the President's Commission on the Holocaust, sent a telegram to Gene Jankowski, president of the CBS Broadcast Group, stating that Redgrave's latest statement exposes her as "an anti-Semite." Hier said "The only response is for you to permanently shelve 'Playing for Time'; failure to do so would be a further slap in the face of the Jewish people and add salt to the wounds of those who survived the 'Holocaust.'"

## PLAN TO COMBAT DROPOUT PROBLEM

TEL AVIV, April 6 (JTA) -- Joseph Shapira, head of the Jewish Agency's Youth Aliya department, proposed today that Israel fight the dropout problem by withholding visas from Jews in those areas of the Soviet Union where the dropout rate is highest. In an interview on Israel Radio, Shapira noted that the dropout rate among Jews from Leningrad, Odessa, Kiev and Kharkov is almost 100 percent.

Dropouts are Jews who leave the USSR on Israeli visas but opt to settle in other countries, principally the United States, once they reach Vienna. Shapira conceded that his plan would have to be implemented collectively since it is never known in advance which individual Jews will drop out. However, he said, Israel should impose a ban on visas to Jews in the cities he mentioned and should take a firm stand against dropouts.

## NO 'HADASSAH WOMEN' IN HEBRON

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA) -- References in stories from Israel referring to a group of Kiryat Arba women squatters in a Jewish-owned building in Hebron as "Hadassah women" is incorrect, a spokesperson for Hadassah stated. No members of that organization are participating in the Hebron sit-in. In addition, the building which is frequently referred to as the "Hadassah hospital" or the "Hadassah clinic" is not and never was a hospital or a Hadassah building, the spokesperson said. "It was a building in which Hadassah rented space for a clinic."

NEW YORK (JTA) -- A three-day scientific conference, featuring a special convocation in the White House to present President Carter with an honorary Ph.D. will be held in Washington April 11-13 under the joint sponsorship of the American Committee and the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science. The presentation to Carter will be made on April 11.