

JTA daily news bulletin

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Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. LVIII — 63rd Year

Friday, May 2, 1980

No. 85

FINANCIAL AID TO NAZI VICTIMS

By David Kantor

BONN, May 1 (JTA) — The federal government decided yesterday to present to Parliament a supplementary budget of 1.95 billion Marks, of which 50 million Marks will go to the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany as the first part of a final financial gesture toward Jewish victims of Nazism.

Under an agreement worked out by the three factions in Parliament, the total sum of reparations in the framework of the final restitution would be 440 million Marks, but it is not known yet when the additional awards of 390 million Marks will be made available.

Observers here say that the debate in the Bundestag over the supplementary budget — most of which covers new international commitments — will take place sometime toward the end of May. If endorsed by Parliament, the money for reparations could probably be paid out at the end of summer.

Last December the parties represented in the Bundestag agreed upon a sum of 240 million Marks to be made available during 1980, of which 200 million Marks would go to the Claims Conference and 40 million Marks to the Jewish community in the Federal Republic. Under the same agreement additional sums of 100 million Marks would be paid out in each of the years 1982 and 1983.

Major Budgetary Problems

But major budgetary problems have changed the original plans. Officials here could not say exactly which course the government will follow in the final gesture, but they pointed out that the important thing is that there is a start.

No problems are expected in mobilizing support for the additional reparations among members of Parliament. But some of them — mainly in the Christian Democratic opposition faction — would like to link the debate on the issue with financial claims of former civil servants of the Hitler era who were never cleared by the de-Nazification tribunals.

The final reparations will cover the financial claims of Jewish victims of the Holocaust who were not in a position to forward their demands on time to benefit from the original reparations agreement. Most of these Jewish survivors lived in East European countries when the deadline for filing claims expired.

CHURCH TERMS AS DISTURBING EUROPEAN FLIRTING WITH RECOGNIZING THE PLO

WASHINGTON, May 1 (JTA) — Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said last night that it was "disturbing" that "some European nations have flirted with recognizing the Palestine Liberation Organization and changing United Nations Resolution 242."

But he blamed this on "confused and contradictory signals" from the State Department where, he charged, "some policy-makers have still not decided whether the path to peace goes

through Jerusalem and Cairo or through the PLO, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia."

Church addressed the National Womens Division of the American Jewish Congress at a convention banquet here honoring the division's outgoing president, Mrs. Leona Chanin of New York. The Idaho Democrat told the 300 convention delegates:

"Last week, the European community issued a statement which called for 'Palestinian self-determination,' one interpretation of which was recently articulated by the PLO when it demanded self-determination not only on the West Bank but in Tel Aviv and Haifa as well. Yet the fact remains that as long as Israel is not explicitly recognized and as long as savage terrorism continues against Israel, any major concessions toward the PLO is naive and reckless. It encourages them to believe that intransigence will beget concessions. It depreciates the vital security interests that Israel seeks so earnestly to protect."

Misconceptions Over Israeli Settlements

Church also said: "Misconceptions have developed over the issue of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. The fact that only 6000 Israelis live on the West Bank belies the assertion that Israel seeks to evict the Arab residents. Many of the settlements were established by the Labor government and served two strategic purposes of paramount importance: to prevent terrorism and to guard against an Arab invasion across Israel's thin waistline. The Camp David accords explicitly provide for a continuing Israeli security presence on the West Bank after the five year time frame."

Church stated that "If we truly want to see peace expanded in the Middle East, there is only one formula to remember, the one that has brought peace — the formula hammered out at Camp David." Unfortunately, he observed, "there are some in this Administration who would seek to undermine this very principle for the sake of a larger, grandiose design. How else can one explain voting for a Security Council resolution on March 1 that was clearly inconsistent with the Camp David accords?"

Although that vote was later disavowed, Church said, "the resolution apparently was looked upon with favor by those who believe that only Israel stands in the way of a closer alliance between the U.S. and the Arab world."

DELEGATES TO CJC URGED TO KEEP DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

By Michael Solomon

TORONTO, May 1 (JTA) — More than 1200 delegates from all over Canada and abroad attended the first session of the 1980 Plenary Assembly of the Canadian Jewish Congress, a triennial event which opened here today and will continue through May 4. Participating were such personages as Baron Alain de Rothschild, president of the Representative Council of French Jewry (CRIF), who came here from Paris; Ambassador Yehuda Blum, Israel's chief representative to the United Nations; Prime Minister William Davis of Ontario; and Robert Kaplan, Solicitor General of Canada.

The initial discussion this morning, devoted to Canadian-Israeli relations, heard an appeal from

Harold Buchwald, president of the Canada-Israel Committee for unity within the Canadian Jewish community. "Those occupying important posts in the (Jewish) community have a special duty to keep their differences within the community by avoiding conflicts between Jews," he said. "A responsible community speaks with one voice. I urge you to unite before the danger becomes larger."

Buchwald spoke of the events which followed former Conservative Prime Minister Joe Clark's campaign pledge to move the Canadian Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, noting that it was later rescinded on the recommendation of Robert Stanfield, Clark's personal emissary to the Middle East, because of pressure from Arab governments and Canadian business interests.

"It is a sorry and scary experience for those engaged in promoting Israel's interests in the non-Jewish community," Buchwald said. "For the first time in Israel's history it appeared that we were confronted with the tip of an iceberg of hostility and it marks the low point of Canadian-Israeli relations. The acceptance of Stanfield's report by Clark set Canadian-Israeli relations three steps back."

According to Buchwald, the most unfortunate aspects of Stanfield's report were its recommendations to increase communications with the Palestine Liberation Organization, to bring the PLO into the Mideast peace process and its premise that Canada profits from huge amounts of business with Arab countries.

Cotler Honored

In a parallel event last night, Prof. Irwin Cotler of the McGill University Law School received the first annual Human Rights Lecture-ship by Bar Ilan University in Israel. The presentation was made by the former Israeli Ambassador to Canada, Mordechai Shalev, who flew here for the occasion.

Cotler, who is counsel to Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky, said that Shcharansky has emerged as the "symbol and substance of the struggle for human rights and Jewish dignity." Canadian Poet Laureate Irving Layton read a special poem dedicated to Shcharansky. The evening was co-sponsored by the Bar Ilan University's Institute for Holocaust Studies, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Canada-Israel Committee and other national groups.

U.S. VEToes PALESTINIAN RESOLUTION

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, May 1 (JTA) — The Israel Mission to the United Nations issued a statement here last night, following the vote in the Security Council on a resolution calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state, declaring that the only way to advance the cause of peace in the Mideast is "through direct and serious negotiations on the basis of principles set up in the Camp David framework."

The United States vetoed the Tunisian-sponsored resolution, while the four West European members of the Council — France, Britain, Norway and Portugal — abstained. The Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, along with the eight other members of the Council, supported the resolution.

The resolution called for the creation of an

"independent state in Palestine, for the Palestinian people, called on Israel to withdraw from all the territories it took in June, 1967, 'including Jerusalem,' and affirmed the right of the Palestinian refugees to choose between peaceful repatriation and equitable compensation for their property."

In its statement last night, Israel charged that the debate on Palestinian rights in the Council "was launched with the purpose of trying to obstruct the only practical process for achieving peace" in the Mideast — the Camp David agreements — and was designed to interfere with the autonomy negotiations for the Palestinians and undermine Security Council Resolution 242.

Explaining The U.S. Veto

Explaining the U.S. veto, Ambassador Donald McHenry told the Council before the vote that the Camp David accords are the only "politically viable avenue available" for reaching a Mideast settlement. "No one has been able to come up with a working alternative," he added.

McHenry said that if the current negotiations between Israel, Egypt and the United States on autonomy are successful, they will provide the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza with a real opportunity to manage their own lives for the first time in modern history. He said that on an issue of such importance for the world, for the Palestinians and the Israelis, they (the Palestinians) should not be distracted by approaches that offered no prospect for making practical progress.

Zehdi Labib Terzi, the PLO's UN observer, told reporters after the vote that a special session of the General Assembly would be sought. Western delegates, however, are reportedly urging that such a move be deferred until after next month's summit meeting of the European Economic Community in Venice which will discuss the Palestinian question.

MAY DAY CELEBRATED IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, May 1 (JTA) — May Day, the international workers holiday, was celebrated in Tel Aviv today by one of the largest parades in the city's history with close to 150,000 marchers from cities, towns, kibbutzim and moshavim all over Israel. The turn-out was triple the conservative estimate made by Histadrut which predicted 50,000 and considerably greater than the 100,000 anticipated by the police.

The hero of the day was Yehoram Meshel, the popular Secretary General of Histadrut. Also prominent among the marchers were the leaders of the opposition Labor Alignment-Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Victor Shembev of Mapam.

The massive demonstration had a distinctly political note. It was billed as a protest against the economic policies of the Likud government, specifically the measures taken by Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz. The marchers carried huge placards reading, "What is Good for the Worker is Good for Israel."

The parade wound its way from the Yarkon River in north Tel Aviv to the municipal plaza in the center of town. Mayor Shlomo Lehat, a member of Likud, had refused permission to fly a red flag from City Hall. Nevertheless, the plaza itself was a sea of red flags and banners, mingling with the blue-and-white national colors.

QUEST CONTINUES FOR WOMEN TO BE ORDAINED AS RABBIS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA) — Some 100 members of a new organization seeking to persuade the faculty of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS) to accept women as rabbinical candidates for Conservative Judaism met here last night in the second public action by the group for that goal.

Elaine Kahn of New York, one of the six coordinators of the Group for the Rabbinic Ordination of Women (GROW), told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the primarily lay audience attending the forum last night at the Conservative Synagogue of Riverdale comprised roughly half of men and half of women. She also told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that four of the GROW coordinators are men.

The first GROW-sponsored lobbying meeting, held March 19 in front of the JTS building, was called to demonstrate to the JTS and to the public "widespread dissatisfaction" over the decision last Dec. 20 by the JTS Faculty Senate to postpone indefinitely any Rabbinic faculty action on the issue.

Recommendation Deferred

A resolution calling on the JTS to admit women for rabbinical training was approved by delegates to the 1977 convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis. The delegates agreed to postpone action on that resolution after Dr. Gerson Cohen, JTS chancellor, promised to set up a commission of 14 members, with himself as chairman, committed to submitting the commission's findings to the JTS faculty for action.

Cohen said at the time that the commission's findings, expected to favor admittance of women, would be submitted with a commission request to act on the findings early in 1979. In its final report, the commission submitted a recommendation to the 1979 RA convention declaring it found nothing in Jewish Law barring women from becoming rabbis and proposed that "qualified women be ordained." That was the finding and recommendation which the JTS Faculty voted to defer indefinitely.

The forum last night heard Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz, Professor of Talmud at the JTS; Rabbi Linda Holtzman, a 1979 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, who is rabbi for Beth Israel congregation, a Conservative synagogue in Coatsville, Pa.; and Frances Klagsbrun, one of the members of the Cohen commission.

Finds No Resistance

Holtzman told the forum that not only had she found no resistance or objections to her as rabbi of the Conservative congregation but that, in fact, she was sought out for such ceremonies as weddings within the congregation. Asked whether she was getting the same salary as a male rabbi would in that pulpit, she replied "definitely, yes."

Klagsbrun, who said she has been traveling extensively for a book she has written, told the forum that everywhere she went she was asked about women rabbis. Declaring she was "angry" over the JTS Faculty postponement decision, she said it was "ridiculous and unfair" to exclude women from the Conservative rabbinate. She also

asserted that the overwhelming majority of members of the movement did favor such ordination.

Rabinowitz said the major issue in the debate was not Halachic but political. He said the question of women rabbis serving as witnesses was a legal question but one which could be resolved by rabbinic interpretation. He said that, in respect to other rabbinic duties, such as preaching, teaching and counseling, there were no Halachic barriers.

Bernice Balter, wife of Shlomo Balter, rabbi of the synagogue where the forum was held, and executive director of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, told the forum that while the issue "has been tabled in the Seminary, it has not been tabled in the community." Reporting that the issue will be raised at the Women's League convention in November, she told the forum that "women all over the country are asking" for ordination of women. She said, "Let's not pretend that they are not."

Kahn told the JTA that GROW's next action will be at the RA 1980 convention, scheduled for Kiamesha Lake, May 11-15. She said four non-rabbinical JTS students would attend the convention, as well as other JTS students. She reported that GROW's membership includes some 200 Conservative rabbis.

SHCHARANSKY ALLOWED TO SEE HIS FAMILY

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA) — Anatoly Shcharansky, who was recently moved from Chistopol Prison to the Perm labor camp some 600 miles from Moscow, was finally granted permission to be visited by his mother and brother, the first time since August 1979 and only the third time since his arrest in March 1977; it was reported by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ). The visit, however, was cut from three days to one as punishment for Shcharansky's "violation of rules" in Chistopol Prison.

Ida Milgrom, his mother, and Leonid Shcharansky, his brother, reported after returning home to Moscow that Anatoly is working as an apprentice lathe operator, eight hours a day, six days a week at a camp machine shop. He is living in a barracks with other prisoners, some of whom are "politicals" as he is, and others who were Nazi collaborators.

Mrs. Milgrom said her son told her that the grim labor camp, where hunger is pervasive, was still "freedom" in comparison with the notorious Chistopol Prison where he could not even see the daylight. She said he spends his spare time walking in the camp compound. Mrs. Milgrom said Anatoly told her "I haven't yet time to become a member of the 'labor collective' but for the first time in three years I now sleep in a bed with two bedsheets and am in a room with natural daylight." When he was transferred from Chistopol he was forced to leave behind almost all his belongings, including his books, Mrs. Milgrom said.

NEW YORK (JTA) — After a year's intensive negotiations, Martin Poll, head of Martin Poll Productions, announced Wednesday that arrangements have been concluded for an historic event — the first Israeli-Egyptian-American film production, entitled "Bridges of Suez." The film is the personal story of Israelis and Egyptians, set against the background of the Yom Kippur War between their two countries.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS -- AN UPDATE

By Richard Schwartz

NEW YORK, May 1. (JTA) -- Holocaust education in the New York City public schools, "is no longer a growing phenomena," according to Albert Post, the assistant director for Social Studies at the city's school system.

Post, who helped prepare the 461-page curriculum guide that was introduced in October, 1977, contends that most of the teachers who are committed to teaching the Holocaust have already been reached. He estimates that about 600 teachers have taken the courses that have been made available on teaching the Holocaust. However, the last course that Post himself was to teach had to be cancelled because of lack of enrollment.

A further disappointment to Post, who has personally instructed 250 teachers on the subject, is that over 98 percent of the teachers who take these courses are Jewish. Of the number he has taught, only five were non-Jews and only one teacher was Black.

Though it is now mandatory in the New York City public schools to include the Holocaust into the 10th grade History curriculum as part of the study of World War II, it remains at the teachers' discretion whether to spend two months or two minutes on the subject.

Effort To 'Universalize' Holocaust

Some opponents of Holocaust education perceive the Holocaust as strictly a Jewish problem that, if dwelled upon, denies equal treatment to other groups that have also been victimized by genocide. The New York City Board of Education was sensitive to that charge even before any program was begun. In preparing the curriculum guide, great effort was made to "universalize" the phenomena of the Holocaust.

General issues such as bigotry, persecution, and genocide are treated as recurring themes. The genocidal treatment of the Armenians and other nationals are referred to throughout the guide in order to show how the aspects of the Holocaust are part of a continuing series of "man's inhumanity to man." The student is also asked to compare and contrast our own times with that of Nazi Germany; to learn how the toleration of injustice could lead to the toleration of genocide.

Student response has been very positive. Ira Zornberg, who has been teaching the Holocaust at John Dewey High School in Brooklyn for five years, said that his own students, most of whom are not Jewish, are very responsive. Interest in his eight-week elective course has been so high that he is presently teaching four such classes.

Another teacher mentioned that the Black and Puerto Rican students relate easily to the Holocaust because of their own plights. "They can identify with the feeling of powerlessness."

New York City is neither the first nor the only public school system to have a program for teaching the Holocaust: Philadelphia had its own program a year before New York. Other major school systems which have Holocaust programs include: Baltimore; Brookline and Great Barrington,

Massachusetts; Chicago and Evanston, Illinois; Los Angeles; the state system in New Jersey; Pittsburgh; San Diego, and San Francisco.

Interest Continues To Grow

Around the country, the interest in Holocaust education has not peaked and continues to grow, according to Judy Muffs, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's national director of research and curriculum. The ADL's 26 nationwide offices are all actively involved in bringing Holocaust education into schools around the country. They have had a tremendous response with remarkably little opposition. Ms. Muffs said that calls come in constantly for materials, for consultations and from publishers. She cites the TV special, "Holocaust" as a major stimulus to this interest.

When asked to comment on Post's view that the interest in Holocaust education in New York City has peaked, she agreed, but added that though the political interest may be slackening, and most of the committed teachers already reached, the real work continues to be done among the many teachers that are presently involved.

The ADL's director of education, Eleanor Blumenberg, attributes some of the resistance in the New York City's school system to what she calls the "me-too phenomena" where every ethnic group is zealous of getting their fair share of curriculum attention. However, ADL officers are pleased with the progress that has already been made in New York City and seem even more optimistic when they look at the national picture.

The ADL emphasizes that the crucial need now is for competent teacher-training in the subject. In a review of over 60 syllabi prepared by teachers teaching the Holocaust, the ADL found a disturbing consistency of presenting the Jew as a passive victim. Ms. Muffs worries that in addition to that being historically incorrect, it raises an inevitable question in the student's mind that if the Jews suffered so much throughout their history, then perhaps there was a reason why they deserved it.

It also revives an image of the Jew as one who wrings his hands at the prospect of persecution, she noted. For this reason and others, the ADL has periodically held nationwide conferences for teachers who are engaged in Holocaust education.

The political obstacles to teaching the Holocaust seem to have been overcome. What remains to be done is to continue to attract devoted, and competent teachers to carry on the work. Jay Schecter, a Brooklyn high school teacher and a pioneer in Holocaust education, has called the response to Holocaust studies, "one of the most wonderful surprises in American education." Though the big fuss has passed, the work goes on.

PHILADELPHIA (JTA) -- Lt. Col. Eli Schwartz, executive director of the Jewish National Fund, and Dr. Bernard Dishler and Jules Lippert, co-chairmen of the Soviet Jewry Council of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), have announced a new joint project, a tree planting program in Israel for Soviet Jewish refusenik families and Prisoners of Conscience. The trees will be planted in Abu Tor, the Peace Forest in Jerusalem. Individuals wishing to plant trees should call the JCRC Soviet Jewry Council, (215) 545-8430, for the name and address of a refusenik family or POC in the USSR.