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INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL CALLS ON THE USSR TO RELEASE SHCHARANSKY

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, May 13 (JTA) -- An international tribunal convening here found the Soviet Union guilty of a grave miscarriage of justice in the imprisonment of Anatoly Shcharansky and called on it today to release the Jewish activist who was sentenced in 1977 to 13 years in jail for alleged espionage and anti-Soviet activities.

The 11-member panel, composed of distinguished jurists, diplomats, political and civil rights leaders from many countries, reached its unanimous verdict after a two-day review of the evidence in the Shcharansky case. The tribunal was chaired by Andrew Young, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

Its members included Coretta King, widow of Martin Luther King Jr.; former U.S. Attorney General Ramsay Clark; Rep. Robert Drinan (D, Mass.) a Jesuit priest active on behalf of Soviet Jewry; Mario Soares, former Premier of Portugal; Johan den Uyl, former Prime Minister of The Netherlands; and George Fernandes, former Minister of Transport and Industry in India.

McGill University law professor Irwin Cotler, legal counsel to Shcharansky, served as his representative before the tribunal. At the opening session, Shcharansky's wife, Avital, made an impassioned appeal for the life of her husband and for all prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union.

Disputes Soviet View Of Tribunal

The official Soviet news agency Novosti charged that the tribunal was an anti-Soviet forum that was inciting to "cold war" and would cause a deterioration in relations between East and West. Harry van den Bergh, a Labor member of the Dutch Parliament, told a press conference here last week that the charge was "nonsense."

Van den Bergh said that he met twice with the Soviet Ambassador, Vassili Tolstikov, in his capacity as chairman of the "Friends of Anatoly Shcharansky Committee," to discuss human rights in general and the Shcharansky case in particular. He said Tolstikov rejected a request to send a Soviet representative to the tribunal and also refused to make available a copy of the sentence handed down on Shcharansky.

Van den Bergh said he considered the incentives by Novosti, which publishes news outside the Soviet Union, to be a sign that Moscow is sensitive on this issue. He said the tribunal was not organized as an anti-Soviet demonstration but to call attention to the violation of human rights in the USSR.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

THREE PERSONS KILLED IN FIRE THAT DESTROYS CHABAD HOUSE IN L.A.

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) -- Three residents of the Chabad Lubavitcher House on the UCLA campus in Westwood, Los Angeles, were killed in a fire which swept through the three-story building in the early hours of this morning. Three of the six persons in the house at the time escaped by jumping through windows. One of them was injured as was one of the 55 firemen who battled the blaze. The Fire Department said the

building was a total loss and estimated the damage at \$1 million.

The B'nai B'rith Messenger of Los Angeles informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Fire Department has labeled the fire of suspicious origin, pending completion of an investigation now underway. The building served as West Coast headquarters of the Chabad Lubavitcher movement.

According to Ronald Solomon, managing editor of the B'nai B'rith Messenger, one of the victims was a 17-year-old student from Beverly Hills, another was a recently arrived immigrant from the Soviet Union in his mid-twenties, and the third was a 32-year-old handyman. The names of the dead were not announced, pending notification of next of kin.

The fire started at approximately 1 a.m. Los Angeles time, reportedly in the basement, and spread through the stairwells. Twelve firefighting units were at the scene some 10 minutes later but by then the building was practically gutted, the JTA was told. Three Torah scrolls were burned, two of them beyond repair.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

CAPTURED TERRORISTS REPORT THAT

EL FATAH OFFICE OPERATES IN CAIRO

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA) -- Recently captured terrorists claimed under interrogation that they were briefed and dispatched on their mission by the El Fatah office in Cairo which Israelis believed was shut down when the peace process with Egypt began. El Fatah is the terrorist arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The report that its Cairo office, located on Adlie St., near the synagogue, is still functioning has disturbed Israeli officials.

The terrorists who made the disclosure were apprehended in the Gaza Strip. According to security sources there has been a significant rise in terrorist activity in that territory and a corresponding decline on the West Bank. Terrorist acts inside Israel have increased but attacks on Israeli targets abroad have dropped in recent months.

Security sources have made public additional information about terrorist activity. They reported that more than half of the terrorist cells uncovered while still in the process of formation belong to El Fatah. The same proportion is found among cells uncovered after committing terrorist acts. Activity by the Syrian-backed Al Saika terrorists and the Iraqi-backed Palestine Liberation Front has increased but there has been a lessening of activity by the Egyptian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The average age of the terrorists is between 18-28. About 10 percent of those arrested and convicted resume hostile activity after release from prison. Security sources acknowledged that there has been an enormous improvement in the quality of manpower and performance of terrorists and in the organization of terrorist cells. The cells are small. Their members are usually trained individually.

Unlike the common practice in the past, members are not necessarily from the same village. Internal security is tight and each member has only minimal knowledge of the activities of the group as a whole which limits the amount of information they can supply under interrogation. The educational level of the terrorists continues to rise.

The Israeli sources expressed concern over the politicization of the population in the occupied

territories. Because of their growing identification with Palestinian nationalist aims, security agencies have difficulty finding people willing to cooperate. This has created obstacles in obtaining intelligence. There has been a significant decline in the number of West Bankers in general who are willing to cooperate with Israeli authorities.

Recruiting officers for terrorist groups are known to be particularly active among Israeli Arabs who went on the pilgrimage to Mecca, the security sources reported. The sources also provided statistical information on Israel's war against the terrorists.

85 Percent Of Terrorist Crimes Solved

Since the 1967 Six-Day War, 85 percent of terrorist crimes were solved by the authorities but not all the perpetrators were captured and put behind bars. Some managed to escape into neighboring countries. During 1979 and the first quarter of 1980, there were 54 acts of terror in Jerusalem which has become a favored target of terrorists.

In the same period, 97 terrorist cells were uncovered while in the process of organization compared to 122 cells during the previous year. In 1979-1980, 1345 terrorist suspects were held for questioning on the West Bank and 738 on the Gaza Strip. The numbers in the previous year were 1664 and 566, respectively.

According to Israeli sources, the Palestinian National Guidance Council on the West Bank is dominated by representatives of the more extreme rejectionist groups but El Fatah is finding it difficult to maintain control of the situation. The sources said that 13 of the 22 members of the Council are rejectionists who oppose the Camp David accords and the autonomy scheme.

SECOND MENTEN TRIAL BEGINS

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, May 13 (JTA) -- The second trial of Pieter Menten, whose first conviction and sentence on war crimes charges was quashed by the Supreme Court in 1978, opened today in a Rotterdam district court. Witnesses from Israel, Poland, the Soviet Union and the United States are expected to testify against him.

Menten's new trial is the culmination of two years of tortuous legal maneuverings by the defense and prosecution in which rulings by one court were overturned by another. But the 80-year-old millionaire Dutch-born art dealer who served with the Nazi SS during World War II still stands accused of mass murders, mostly of Jews, in Podhorodze village in the Lemberg district of Poland in July 1941.

An Amsterdam district court found him guilty on that charge in December 1977 and sentenced him to 15 years imprisonment. He was acquitted of charges of mass murder in Urycz village. Although the court considered his guilt probable, there was insufficient evidence for conviction.

Menten appealed to the Supreme Court which threw out the Amsterdam verdict and referred the case to The Hague district court. The latter ruled that Menten could not be prosecuted because of immunity allegedly granted him in 1952 by the then Minister of Justice, since deceased. The public prosecutor appealed in turn to the Supreme Court which then referred the case to the Rotterdam court.

Menten produced medical evidence that he was mentally unfit to stand trial. This was upheld by a vote of 2-1 by a special panel of doctors.

But the Rotterdam court subsequently overruled that finding. Menten has been under house arrest for the past two years at his country villa. His original lawyer, Louis van Heyningen, has resigned and the court appointed a new defense attorney, Eduard Boehl. The public prosecutor, Leo Meyers, has called 13 witnesses and three expert witnesses, all but one of whom had testified at the first trial. Menten asked for 120 witnesses to be heard in his defense but the court limited that to 30. The trial will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays.

On the first day of his trial, Menten denied that there ever was a mass execution at Podhorodze or that he had helped shoot the victims or bashed in their skulls. He claimed, as he had at his first trial, that the charges against him were a Communist plot engineered by the Soviet Union. He alleged that the investigators had failed to find any reliable witnesses against him and that those who had testified were "told what to say" by the Soviet authorities.

BEGIN: OPPRESSED JEWS TO ISRAEL SOON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA) -- A community of Jews presently living under dire oppression will soon come to Israel where they will be able to live as free citizens, Premier Menachem Begin declared here last night. He would not identify the community or give further details.

His aides today sought to downplay the statement, made at a Herut women's convention, for fear of prejudicing the situation of this Jewish community. The aides, therefore, discouraged speculation about what the Premier had had in mind.

Begin made it clear that he was not referring to a Soviet Jewish community. He told the Herut convention that he had been delivered "an important message" related to these Jews' imminent immigration just before leaving the Knesset to attend the convention.

The Premier indicated that there were additional Jewish communities -- apart from the USSR -- where Israel was active in a clandestine way to help those who wished to make aliya. In this way, he said, the Jewish State was "fulfilling its raison d'etre -- to be haven for persecuted Jews."

GERMAN OFFICIAL SAYS SCREENING OF 'HOLOCAUST' FILM WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR RISE IN NEO-NAZI ACTIVITY

By David Kantor

BONN, May 13 (JTA) -- Interior Minister Gerald Tandler of Bavaria raised a heated controversy when he stated in Munich this week that the screening of the American television film "Holocaust" in West Germany last year was largely responsible for a dramatic rise in neo-Nazi activity. Tandler presented that view in his annual report to the constitutional body charged with controlling political extremism.

He attributed neo-Nazism to anti-Semitism, denial of Nazi war crimes and glorification of the Hitler era. The number of anti-Semitic incidents reported in Bavaria in 1979 was 279 compared to 127 in the previous year. One-third of the incidents occurred in Munich and Nuremberg, the Minister said. However, he observed that despite the increase of violence and incitement, the influence of the extremist groups on the public remains small.

Joachim Schmolcke, a member of the Social Democratic Party opposition in the Bavarian State Parliament, said Tandler's claim that the Holocaust film caused an increase in neo-Nazi activities was a "monstrosity." Whoever tries to explain the phenomenon in such a manner is in fact trying to veil the

real reasons, he charged.

"Holocaust" was screened on national television in January 1979 and according to polls had a dramatic influence on the estimated 25 million viewers. But while the film ended West Germans' silence and indifference toward the Nazi persecution of Jews, later polls showed that the effects quickly wore off.

KNESSET SPORTS UNIT VOTES 6-1 TO RECOMMEND BOYCOTT OF OLYMPICS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA) — The Kneset

Subcommittee for Sports has voted 6-1 to recommend that the Israel Olympic Committee (IOC) boycott the Olympic Games in Moscow this summer. The IOC is scheduled to vote May 22 on whether to attend the games.

The subcommittee's chairperson, Orah Namir, was the only one to vote against the recommendation, saying Israel should wait until the West European countries have made their final decisions. She noted that the European countries could decide not to go to the Olympics and then reverse their decisions and be welcomed with open arms in Moscow. But she said if Israel voted to boycott the Games and then changed its mind, it would be barred not only from Moscow but from other international athletic events.

The resolution adopted by the subcommittee called on the IOC to demand that if Israel did not go to Moscow the U.S. Olympic Committee and the committees of other friendly nations would not compete in other international athletic events from which Israel was barred.

IOC chairman Yitzhak Ofek said the Kneset subcommittee recommendation will be considered before the IOC makes a decision. The committee is also scheduled to meet with Premier Menachem Begin, who is expected to urge it to boycott the Games.

The decisions made by the Olympic committees in West Europe, particularly the West Germans, is expected to weigh heavily in the Israeli decision. Israel competes in international events through European athletic federations, since the Arabs and their supporters have succeeded in barring Israel from Asian competition. The French Olympic Committee voted today to attend the Moscow Games. The West German decision is expected Thursday.

BEGIN, KOLLEK ON JERUSALEM DAY

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA) — The liberation of Jerusalem in 1967 was hailed by Premier Menachem Begin today as "one of the greatest days of victory in the annals of the ancient Jewish people" when "we returned to the source." In a special message released on the eve of Jerusalem Day which will be celebrated tomorrow to mark the 13th anniversary of the reunification of the city, Begin declared:

"This year we celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem, the capital of Israel for three millenia, and for all generations to come. It is the most sacred Bar Mitzvah in the lives of our people, both in the land of Israel and in the diaspora. We rejoice in it and we take a silent oath: Jerusalem will never be divided, it will always be one Yerushalaim, radiating glory -- the eternal capital of our country, our people, our faith, our civilization."

Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem addressed his Jerusalem Day message to all Jewish communities in Israel and abroad. "Jerusalem, the capital

of Israel, has now been reunited for 13 years," he said, "and I believe we can point with pride to the impressive progress which has been made in our city, where Jews, Christians and Moslems live together peacefully despite the absence of a political consensus, and where religious and secular institutions of higher learning continue to flourish in the true tradition of Jerusalem."

He warned, however, that "we cannot afford to relax our efforts to strengthen Jerusalem in a political, economic, cultural and last but not least, in a spiritual context" because "not only among our enemies, but in friendly quarters plans are afoot which would undermine the national, ecumenical and universal character of Jerusalem."

THOUSANDS OF JEWS HONOR HOLOCAUST VICTIMS IN MINSK

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) — Several thousand Jews gathered in Minsk on May 9, VE Day, to commemorate the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). On hand for the occasion were many young Jews attending the event for the first time.

Despite frequent KGB disruption, Jewish activist Shmaya Gorelik delivered a eulogy for the dead. Several other Jewish activists spoke on the meaning and effect of the Holocaust, focusing on the theme that Jews have traditionally been persecuted only because they are Jews, the NCSJ reported.

Minsk Jews have repeatedly asked Soviet authorities to restore the memorial site to the fallen victims. During the celebration, a representative of the Minsk municipal authorities assured them that their request will receive action.

In a related development, Soviet authorities warned Col. Lev Ovsyshcher, prominent Minsk activist and refusenik, not to attend the VE-Day celebration. Fearful of the threats made, he did not join his friends.

HONOLULU (JTA) — The Hawaii Jewish Welfare Fund announced that it will "adopt" Hatzor HaGalilit, an immigrant township in upper Galilee earmarked for assistance through Project Renewal. To date, Hawaii has raised approximately \$90,000 for the purpose and the trustees of the fund have set a goal of \$250,000 during the next five years, the Hawaii Jewish News reported. Hatzor HaGalilit has a large population of Moroccan and Kurdish Jews, many of whom still live in makeshift housing erected in 1953 or in houses too small for their large families.

TORONTO (JTA) — Dr. Edmond Lipsitz, director of Education and Culture of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), has received a grant of \$7750 from the Secretary of State, Multiculturalism Directorate for the project "Audio Tutorial Hebrew Learning Aids." The project, called "Olam Shalem," is an independent study program that helps people -- who have no prior knowledge and had no opportunity to learn -- to read Hebrew and chant basic prayers. The Olam Shalem program consists of three pre-recorded cassettes and accompanying textbook.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's national debt increases by one dollar a day per person, State Comptroller Ernest Nebenzahl said at a press conference in Jerusalem Monday. Speaking on the occasion of the publication of his annual report, Nebenzahl said that an average Israeli family was spending more than 4000 Pounds a month to cover Israel's overseas debts.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**JNF IS MOVING MOUNTAINS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA) — The Jewish National Fund moved more earth during the fiscal year just ended than during any other single year ever. This earthy, prosaic statistic is pronounced with love by the JNF's chairman, Moshe Rivlin, to illustrate JNF's key role in changing the face of the country.

The earth, millions upon millions of cubic meters, was shifted mainly in the "Pithat Shalom" area in the southwest, where 10 new settlements are being prepared as the "fallback position" for the soon-to-be-ceded Pithat Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip.

For thousands of years, wind and weather have piled up massive sand dunes in the area, which would make cultivation impossible. The massive earth-movers and bulldozers plough through the dunes and literally shift them physically, to restructure the topography and facilitate farming.

To judge by the Pithat Rafah experience (the kibbutzim and moshavim there are also prepared by the JNF), the farming can quickly become lucrative and satisfying.

In view of the tight political schedule, the work at Pithat Shalom is proceeding, says Rivlin, literally around the clock — in three shifts. In scope, time and volume, therefore, he says, it is an impressive performance "even by international criteria." To shore up the newly-exposed farmlands and prevent a reencroachment by the sand, the earth-moving is followed by the planting of miles of windbreakers.

Activity In The Galilee

While the Pithat Shalom project is certainly the focus of JNF's efforts at this time, it does not exhaust the JNF's capacities. During the same 12-month period under review, April 1979 to April 1980, JNF opened up some 100 kilometers of roads in the Galilee, most of them access roads to the new "mitzpin" (lookout settlements) that the government and the World Zionist Organization are setting up on strategic high land in the area.

The basic aim is to attract young Jewish settlers and thereby bolster the Jewish presence in the Galilee, which, over recent years, had been becoming more and more homogeneously Arab.

There were "no incidents," Rivlin notes, "no scandals." Not one inch of privately owned Arab land was touched against the owner's will. And, equally important, the new roads and new settlements — whose basic infrastructure is another JNF responsibility — are not a visual blight upon the delicate scenery of the Galilee. "We are changing the scene without harming the scenery," the JNF chairman observes. The mitzpin are beginning to be settled now, he continues, "though not at the pace that we would like to see."

Taken together, these two major projects — carried out simultaneously with the JNF's ongoing work at dozens of local sites — represent, says Rivlin, "a supreme challenge to our operating capacity, a challenge that we are successfully meeting."

Most of the heavy equipment and its operators are sub-contracted, but JNF has maintained its policy of owning at least 25 percent of the machinery itself. This has meant massive purchases of expensive "iron monsters" abroad. The supervisory

staff, moreover, and the planners and landscapers, are all JNF personnel.

Enthusied With The Zionist Ideal

"They are genuinely enthused with the Zionist ideal," says the chairman of this team of dedicated professionals. He notes that their pay is invariably less than that of the men working for the private contractors. The JNF's forestry department — perhaps better known than the earth-movers — is not resting on its laurels either. This year's planning calls for 6000 acres of wasteland to be planted with saplings.

During recent years, Rivlin notes, the JNF forests have begun changing the ecology of the country and the life-style, especially the recreational life-style, of the people. On last Independence Day, for instance, an estimated one million Israelis spent the holiday picnicking in the woods, where the JNF has installed scores of landscaped "active recreation" centers, with rustic-design exercise apparatus that adults can use and enjoy while the children play in the mock forts, bridges and streams.

Coordination With Local Authorities

Rivlin stresses that the JNF's policy now is to develop these recreation areas in close coordination with the local authorities. In the old days, the groves were planted by out-of-work immigrants whom the JNF employed more out of charity than out of long-term planning and design.

Today, however, every park and forest is calculated to serve a specific hinterland, and the nearby towns and villages are asked to share in the planning and the maintenance. One result has been a marked decline in the incidence of vandalism against the JNF facilities. Local people are beginning to take pride in their parks, says Rivlin, and look after them.

Looking ahead, the JNF chairman points to two major recreational projects: a "desert park" already being created at Timna, north of Eilat, in an area of 70 square kilometers; and a rural tourism development around Mount Meron in the Galilee.

1980 SMOLAR AWARDS COMPETITION OPENS

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) — Submissions are being accepted now for the 1980 Smolar Awards for Excellence in North American Jewish Journalism, sponsored by the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF). Entries must be postmarked no later than June 2 to qualify for consideration.

Saul Wiener, chairman of the CJF Smolar Award Committee, said that the competition for 1980 will be organized around four new categories: Public Affairs, Human Interest, Opinion, and Magazine Writing. The number of awards in each category will be decided by CJF Smolar Awards Committee, the lay and professional leaders from communities across North America who judge the competition.

These and other new features in the format and regulations of the Smolar Awards were developed by the Committee in consultation with past award winners, participants in the competition, and others. Renovations reflect the expanding parameters of the competition since its founding in 1972.

The awards recognize distinguished achievements by journalists whose works appear in American and Canadian newspapers and magazines predominantly devoted to the coverage of Jewish communal affairs. The awards were founded in honor of Boris Smolar, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.