

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

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

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Wednesday, July 23, 1980

No. 140

EEC TO SUBMIT DRAFT TO UN BASED ON THEIR VENICE DECLARATION EEC - Arab Foreign Ministers Summit Also Sought By David Kantor

BONN, July 22 (JTA) -- The nine member states of the European Economic Community (EEC) will extend their Middle East initiative by submitting a draft resolution to the United Nations General Assembly based on their Venice declaration of June 30 which stated that the Palestinians and the Palestine Liberation Organization must be associated with the Mideast peace process.

The General Assembly began a special emergency session in New York today to discuss Palestinian rights. (See P.3.) Both Israel and the U.S. objected, the Israelis charging that the session was convened illegally "in violation of the rules of procedure at the UN."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has proposed a summit meeting of the EEC and Arab foreign ministers, except Egypt which is boycotted by the Arab League. The purpose is to discuss the West European role in the Middle East.

Genscher offered that suggestion as Chedli Klibi, Secretary General of the Arab League, arrived in West Germany today for meetings with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Gostan Thorn of Luxembourg who is acting President of the EEC's Ministerial Council. Thorn is expected to be dispatched shortly on a mission of inquiry into the Arab-Israeli conflict, as decided in Venice last month. He will head an EEC delegation for that purpose.

These developments were seen as an additional means of promoting Euro-Arab understanding and strengthening their political cooperation in search of a solution to the Middle East conflict on a new diplomatic basis. Genscher and French Foreign Minister Francois Poincaré recently spoke out in support of renewing the Euro-Arab dialogue on a high political level. The flurry of activity on the part of the EEC is believed to be related in part to expectations that American diplomacy in the Middle East will be paralyzed by the Presidential elections.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ON THE WEST BANK POSTPONED INDEFINITELY By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA) -- Municipal elections on the West Bank have been postponed indefinitely by the Military Government on grounds that at this stage they "would cause damage to the peace process." The authorities apparently fear an upsurge of nationalist and pro-Palestine Liberation Organization sentiment of the kind that followed the last municipal elections in 1976.

Most of the mayors elected that year were pro-PLO or supporters of other extreme rejectionist groups. Israeli authorities observe that the territories have been quiet of late and they do not want an election campaign at this time to stir nationalist passions. They attribute the relative calm to a weakening of the militant leadership on the West Bank since the deportations of the mayors of Hebron and Halhoul and the bomb attacks which crippled the mayors of Nablus and Ramallah.

The Military Government does not intend to permit the National Guidance Committee to resume its activities and in fact banned its latest meeting which was to have been held last week. The committee was the leading body among West Bank Arabs, including most anti-Jordan elements. While its leaders consulted closely with the PLO, they did not always follow PLO orders and the committee acquired a relatively independent status. It too has been weakened by recent events.

A senior security source claimed that a "silent majority" of the West Bank population does not share the extreme views of the local leadership and does not consider the PLO their legitimate representative. According to the source, a number of influential West Bankers were in favor of renewed contacts with Jordan. If Jordanian agencies were allowed to renew their activities in the territories, the "Jordanian option" would have a much better chance, the source said.

JEWISH CEMETERY IN GENEVA DESECRATED

GENEVA, July 22 (JTA) -- The old Jewish cemetery of Carouge in Geneva was desecrated last night. Several tombstones were overturned and sprayed with slogans "death to the Jews," "your dead shall never rest in peace" and "Hitler's lesson has not been forgotten." The word "Jude" and large swastikas were drawn on many of the tombstones.

The Geneva police department was alerted by an anonymous phone caller who said "The Nazis are still active. Go and see the cemetery in Carouge." The police department has opened an investigation but a department spokesman said that it was too early to determine who desecrated the cemetery. The police think it may be a political act, but do not rule out that it may have been committed by emotionally disturbed people.

While the Swiss police want to minimize the importance of the incident, Israeli circles in Switzerland connect this act with the desecration of the Jewish cemetery in Basel two months ago. As Geneva and Basel border on France, it is felt there might be a connection between the incidents here and in France. Some Jews in Geneva feel that the acts of desecration may be the work of French anti-Semites who cross the border into Switzerland.

CLASH NEAR THE TEMPLE MOUNT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA) -- Rival groups of Jewish religious zealots clashed near the Temple Mount in the Old City today. One group denounced the government for refusing to allow Jews to pray on the site which contains major Islamic shrines. The other contended that Jews are forbidden to go there as long as the Temple has not been rebuilt.

The skirmish, which police said was minor, was the only event that marred Tisha B'Av, the day of mourning over the destruction of the First and Second Temples. Large numbers of observant Jews gathered at the Western Wall today to read from the Book of Lamentations and chant prayers.

A holiday atmosphere prevailed in the rest of the country with many government offices, banks and private businesses closed. Many civil servants took the day off for trips to the countryside and beaches. There was no television, and movie houses and other places of entertainment were closed. Coffee houses in

Tel Aviv were jammed despite municipal laws prohibiting them from opening on religious holidays. The owners explained that their profits more than compensated for the fines they had to pay.

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE FAVORS MFN EXTENSION FOR ROMANIA; WARNS IT WILL MONITOR EMIGRATION OF JEWS.

WASHINGTON, July 22 (JTA) -- Saying that it would be good for the United States, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations gave a qualified endorsement to another one-year extension of most-favored-nation (MFN) status for Rumania and warned Bucharest that the emigration of Jews from that East European country would be closely monitored.

Jack Spitzer, president of B'nai B'rith International, in testimony yesterday before the Senate International Trade Subcommittee on behalf of the Presidents Conference, took the Rumanian government to task, pointing out that there is a great disparity between the number of passports issued by the regime of President Ceausescu and the number of Jews actually leaving.

Spitzer said "bureaucratic delays," "people changing their minds," and departures deferred until completion of the school year could account for part of the difference. "Still the discrepancies between passports issued and departures have been exceedingly large," Spitzer said. As a result, the Presidents Conference has been compelled to question the impact of the figures the Rumanians are providing.

"If the departures for the remainder of 1980 are to reflect the volume of passports issued earlier in the year, we think it is reasonable to expect last year's departure rate to be equalled." The B'nai B'rith president told the hearing that "the test of emigration is not how many passports are approved, but how many people who want to leave are actually free to leave."

The Conference of Presidents "wants to believe Rumania will meet the test" and its confidence in last year's agreement between the Conference and the Rumanian government on the issue of immigration "will remain unshaken," Spitzer said.

Because of that and "other commendable aspects of Rumanian policy, such as the country's independence of the Soviet Union and its good relationship with the United States, Israel and other Western states," the Conference favors another extension of MFN status for Rumania, Spitzer said.

POSITION: VILLAGE BLACKSMITH LOCATION: ISLAND OF TONGA

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA) -- If the village blacksmith once celebrated in verse is still at the forge, an American Jewish organization wants to post him -- or her -- to a South Sea island kingdom.

The organization is the American ORT Federation, the kingdom is Tonga, and the job, to train farmers in the use of plows, shoeing horses, and repair of small farm equipment. Smith skills are missing in Tonga, where, with small farm plots and an abundance of horses, plowing is best done by animal.

ORT seeks the blacksmith-trainer at the request of the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP), a fellow private voluntary organization under a grant from the United States

Agency for International Development (AID).

The Tonga project fits a well-established ORT activity. For 20 years ORT's Technical Assistance Department has conducted development and training programs in the Third World, with an emphasis on "training trainers." Local personnel called "counterparts" are involved in projects which they eventually take over, allowing ORT to "phase in - phase out."

ORT technical assistance programs are funded largely by governmental and non-governmental bodies like AID and the World Bank. They started with a call from the State Department requesting ORT to study manpower needs and the feasibility of meeting them in eight African countries.

The reports led to operations in Guinea and Mali which later became pioneering case book studies not only for ORT and what later became the Agency for International Development of the State Department, but also for other practitioners in the field.

Examples Of Current Programs

Altogether, 50 countries in Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East have been reached by ORT technical assistance programs, including the training of teachers at the Central ORT Institute in Switzerland.

Examples of current programs are maintenance of port facilities in Burma, micro-electronic and data processing development in Turkey, a 10-year program for managers and technicians in bauxite mining in Guinea and maintenance of Zaire's roads and road equipment. Also, in Zaire, on-the-job training in running that country's 243 ferries.

The blacksmith who takes on the Tonga project will work under the aegis of the Prime Minister, Prince Tuipelehake -- brother of the King -- according to Stanley Hosie, FSP executive director.

Graduates of the program are entitled to a cart and horse, which are not always where they should be. In one demonstration by an FSP officer, there was only one horse for nine students. The Tongans worked the animal so enthusiastically that a second had to be substituted before class was over.

Tonga (population 92,000) is a stretch of Polynesian islands in the South Pacific between Hawaii and New Zealand. Every male there over 16 is entitled to land, which is generally arable, but in short supply, and some of which is volcanic.

Program In Western Samoa

Also for the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, ORT supervised design and construction of two mobile agricultural storage vans for Western Samoa, another island kingdom. The vans are furnished with storage bins and audio-visual equipment and will travel over rough roads to demonstrate for local farmers the use of improved seeds and growing techniques.

The vans will be mounted on GM diesel trucks and were hand crafted by Richard Byers in his work shed near Paw Paw, Michigan. They are scheduled to arrive in Western Samoa early August to a reception attended by representatives of both the United States and local governments, as well as of the participating organizations.

MORDECHAI NEWMAN DEAD AT 85

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA) -- Mordechai Newman, a pioneer book publisher in Israel, died at Kibbutz Mishmar Haemek July 16 at the age of 85, it was learned here today. Born in Lodz, Poland, Newman came to the United States at the age of 18. During World War I, he joined the Jewish Legion of the British army and served in Palestine.

After the war, he and two other veterans of

the Legion founded a chain of book stores in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and other communities called Tarbut. They founded the Mizpa Publishing Company in the 1920s and Newman was credited with providing Hebrew translations of the works of leading international authors. He was responsible for calling attention to Y.S. Agron, who later became the only Israeli author to win the Nobel Prize.

The company was disbanded during World War II, but after the war Newman started his own publishing house, M. Newman Publishing Ltd., in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. He was also a former chairman of the Kupat Bank Ltd.

Up to his death, while living with his daughter at Mishmar Haemek, he maintained an apartment in Tel Aviv and devoted most of his time to the publication of "Shnaton," an annual for Biblical and ancient Near East studies. He was buried last Friday at the kibbutz.

ISRAEL, U.S. UNDER SHARP ATTACK AT UN SESSION ON PALESTINIANS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, July 22 (JTA) -- The General Assembly convened in special emergency session today to consider the Palestinian question. It was clear from the outset that the session will be dominated by virulent anti-Israel statements and extreme declarations in line with the positions of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

That tone was set this morning in the major address by Farouk Khaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, who attacked both Israel and the U.S., and warned that this session of the General Assembly is the last chance "before the explosion" to enable the people of Palestine to achieve self-determination and statehood.

Khaddoumi, who is regarded as the PLO's "foreign minister," devoted a large part of his speech to rejection of the Camp David agreements "between the Egyptian regime and the government of the terrorist Menachem Begin." He charged that since Camp David, Israel has "hysterically intensified all its racist, aggressive practices on all levels." He accused Israel of oppressing the Palestinians and plundering the natural resources of the West Bank.

Blasts U.S. For Supporting Israel

Khaddoumi also blasted the U.S. for supporting Israel. He said the present General Assembly session represented a "rebellion" against the "veiled weapon" used by the U.S. in the Security Council since 1974 to abort efforts toward the implementation of Palestinian rights.

At least 100 speakers have registered so far to participate in the debate which is expected to last for five working days. It will continue for the four remaining days of this week. A date for the fifth and final day of debate has not been set yet.

Israel was absent from the opening today because of Tisha B'Av, the Jewish day of mourning. Israel's Ambassador Yehuda Blum is expected to address the General Assembly tomorrow morning. The U.S., scheduled to speak today, will also address the Assembly tomorrow. It had already made known its opposition to the convening of this emergency session.

The session was officially requested on July 1 by Ambassador Fallilou Kane of Senegal who is chairman of the Committee on Palestinian Rights, but it is known to have been inspired by the PLO. Observers here said that the resolution to be adopted at the close of the debate is likely to

increase Israel's isolation.

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION APPROVES \$1.585 MILLION FOR GRANT PROGRAMS

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA) -- The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture reported that its board of trustees, consisting of leaders and representatives of 50 international and national cultural and communal organizations throughout the world, voted at its annual meeting in Amsterdam, an overall sum of \$1,585,000 for allocations to various cultural grant programs of the Memorial Foundation. The Amsterdam meeting was held July 7-8.

Nearly 2000 applications from institutions and individuals of five continents and 16 countries had been submitted for the academic year of 1980-81, according to the Foundation. Of these, 600 plus received favorable action. Almost 200 grants were designated for projects in the areas of Jewish research and publication, Jewish studies at colleges and universities and the documentation and commemoration of the Holocaust.

A similar number of Doctoral Scholarships and Fellowships went for the preparation of future Judaic and post-rabbinic scholars as well as for Jewish educators, research specialists, writers and artists, the Foundation reported. In addition, more than 200 grants were made for the support of the Foundation's special professional program to help train spiritual leaders, teachers, communal workers and other personnel for future service in isolated and/or culturally needy communities in various parts of the Jewish world, particularly those impacted by the Holocaust. Nahum Goldmann was reelected president of the Foundation.

WORLD TRIBUNAL FOR SAKHAROV

AMSTERDAM, July 22 (JTA) -- The Dutch government announced that it would make available the historic Knights Hall for an international tribunal on behalf of Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, to be held in The Hague on September 4-5. The medieval building stands close to Parliament and is the most prestigious meeting place in Holland.

The tribunal was initiated by Dr. Michael Stern, a Soviet-Jewish physician who emigrated several years ago with his sons August and Victor. Although they originally went to Israel, they have since settled in Holland. The purpose of the tribunal is to alleviate the treatment of Sakharov, a scientist and Nobel Laureate who has been expelled from Moscow to Gorki.

The tribunal will be attended by Sakharov's daughter who lives in France, by French author Michael Foucauld and by representatives of the French branch of the International Sakharov Tribunal Foundation of which Stern is secretary. A government spokesman said the Knights Hall was put at their disposal for "practical" reasons. The government does not intend to send representatives or observers.

ROME (JTA) -- Newspapers here are raising the specter that some of Rome's traditional business establishments will be bought up by oil-rich Arabs. The fear arises out of the sale of seven of Rome's most famous top quality restaurants by unidentified owners. Columnists have speculated that Arabs, probably Libyan exiles, plan to start a chain of restaurants, hotels and bars. "This will only add to the depersonalization of Rome," one commentator moaned.

LONDON (JTA) -- The Danish Jewish community has established a society for the study of Jewish settlement in Denmark.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA COURT ORDERS HOSPITAL TO PERMIT RITUAL CIRCUMCISION

By Ben Gollub

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA) -- A Manhattan hospital, which had refused the Orthodox father of a new-born son his request for a ritual circumcision by a mohel in the hospital, permitted the rite to be performed in response to a court mandate described as the first time a court has ever ordered any American hospital to permit that rite.

The problem for the Orthodox father developed when his wife gave birth to the boy by Caesarean section on July 3 in Lenox Hill Hospital. Because of complications following the delivery, the couple was told that the mother would be required to remain in the hospital beyond the eighth day of the infant's life when, according to Jewish Law, the rite must be performed.

The problem became religiously critical for the Brooklyn parents when hospital officials, citing a hospital rule banning performance of medical procedures by anyone other than a staff doctor or one affiliated with the hospital, said a ritual circumciser (mohel) could not perform the rite in the hospital. The infant could not be taken out of the hospital for the rite because a state law forbids the return of an infant to a hospital nursery once the infant is removed from the hospital.

The father, who requested anonymity, is an attorney who is a member of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA). When it became apparent, from the hospital's negative reaction, that court action might be needed, the father met with Dennis Rapps, COLPA executive director, and State Assemblyman Sheldon Silver (D, Manhattan), who is also a COLPA member. Rapps told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Preparations For Show Cause Order

The father called Silver and Rapps Tuesday evening, July 8, reporting he expected to have by 11 a.m. the next day -- the seventh day of his son's life -- a definitive statement from hospital officials as required by the legal proceedings. When the father informed the two COLPA members at noon Wednesday that the hospital officials remained adamantly opposed, the COLPA attorneys immediately began preparation of an order to the hospital to show cause why it should not permit a mohel to perform the rite in the hospital, plus a supporting petition.

Rapps explained that the papers had to be filed to require hospital officials to appear in court to justify their refusal. Because of the time factor, Rapps said, he knew that he and Silver would have to submit their legal documents promptly to Special Term Part II of the State Supreme Court in Manhattan, the customary court for initiating such actions.

Seeking the name of the justice who would be presiding in Special Term Part II on Thursday -- the eighth day -- they learned it would be Acting State Supreme Court Justice Herman Cahn. They also learned Cahn had been assigned to sit in small claims court that Wednesday evening.

The COLPA attorneys met with Cahn that evening and described their problem. Cahn directed that the Lenox Hill Hospital be notified immediately that he would hear the father's petition the next morning. He also ordered Silver and

Rapps to appear in the clerk's office of the court on the next day -- Thursday -- at 9:30 a.m. to file their papers, which was done.

An hour later, Silver and Rapps and the attorneys for the hospital presented their positions to Cahn. He ruled that the hospital must admit the mohel, basing that ruling on a provision of the New York State Public Health Law which requires protection of both the civil and religious rights of patients. Rapps noted that only four New York City hospitals have such bans on ritual circumcisers. For the other hospitals, a list is maintained of ritual circumcisers who are medically qualified.

Request For Stay Denied

Cahn issued his order at 2:30 p.m. the same day. The hospital attorneys immediately sought a stay of Cahn's order, which would have made the issue academic, or, in legal language, moot, since a stay would have meant that the ritual circumcision could not have been performed in the hospital that day -- the eighth.

The appeals court, after hearing arguments from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m., denied a stay. The hospital attorneys then called the hospital to inform hospital officials that the operation by a mohel would have to be permitted under court order. The rite was performed at 7 p.m. that evening of the eighth day by a mohel with whom the father had made prior arrangements.

Rapps, asked what would have happened if the hospital request for a stay had been granted, said that arrangements had been made for the father to take the child out of the hospital to have the rite performed at a nearby synagogue, those arrangements also having been made in advance.

YAHREZIT FOR MURDERED POETS

WASHINGTON, July 22 (JTA) -- The Soviet Jewry Committee of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington today sponsored a yahrzeit of the "Night of the Murdered Poets" at today's daily vigil in behalf of Soviet Jewry across the street from the Soviet Embassy here. This observance, traditionally held on Tisha B'Av, commemorates the night of Aug. 12, 1952 when 24 Russian Jewish writers, poets and intellectuals were murdered on Stalin's orders in an attempt to eradicate all vestiges of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union.

The traditional mincha service was conducted by Mendel Abrams of Beth Torah Congregation, president of the Washington Board of Rabbis. The service included readings from the Book of Lamentations and the works of the great Yiddish poets and writers murdered in 1952 and those imprisoned in the Soviet Union today. About 150 people attended.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Leadership Conference of National Jewish Women's Organizations Tuesday urged President Carter to instruct the U.S. delegation to the international women's conference in Copenhagen "to resist in every way the subversion of the conference by the Palestine Liberation Organization. The needs of women for education, health care and employment are the proper subjects of the Copenhagen conference -- not anti-Israel propaganda," said Leona Chanin, chairwoman of the Leadership Conference. She was referring to moves to brand Zionism as "one of the major evils of the world" and to channel funds designated for Palestinian women through the PLO. Ms. Chanin, in her telegram, said these developments represent a serious blow to Israel, the cause of Mideast peace and to the needs of women around the world.