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STEPS TAKEN TO BRING ISRAEL'S NATIONAL BUDGET INTO LINE WITH NATION'S GALLOPING INFLATION

By Gil Sedar

JERUSALEM, Sept. 17 (JTA) -- Finance Minister, Yigal Hurwitz's economic cabinet decided today to stretch the national budget to bring it in line with galloping inflation and to take tough measures against employers who exceed the government's wage guidelines.

Today's move will add IL 900 billion to the budget. Original estimates had projected an IL 653 billion increase. The Treasury reportedly calculated the higher sum on the basis of a 120 percent inflation rate. The adjusted budget will be 125-130 percent higher than its nominal value in terms of average prices for fiscal 1979, compared to a 65 percent increase originally calculated.

It does not take into account the proposed package deal now under discussion by the government, Histadrut and employers. It anticipates a three percent drop in consumption and a gross national product increase of only three percent, due mainly to greater exports. Hurwitz, meanwhile, continues to insist on further cuts in the various ministerial budgets.

Trying To Balance The Budget

One of the main problems in trying to balance the budget is an expected five percent shortfall of tax revenues, amounting to an estimated IL 20 billion. This has been explained by the government's austerity program which has led to a considerable drop in imports. Imports of consumer and durable goods have declined by 25 percent.

Hurwitz has ordered the internal revenue service to make good the tax shortfall by tougher collection measures. Employers and institutions which increase their manpower may be penalized by an employers' tax levy higher than the present seven percent. Similarly, employers who grant their workers more than the 15 percent wage increase stipulated by the government will be penalized by not being allowed to make the additional expenditure tax deductible.

This measure would be directed against employers in the service sector, such as banks and other financial institutions which, reportedly, have already exceeded the 15 percent wage ceiling. It is in line with the government's policy to shift service workers to industry and export-oriented jobs.

L.A. JEWISH COMMUNITY ON GUARD FOLLOWING INCIDENTS OF VANDALISM AND NEO-NAZI ACTIVITY

By Ron Solomon

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 17 (JTA) -- Recent incidents of vandalism and neo-Nazi activity in the Los Angeles area have put the Jewish community on guard during the Yom Kippur holiday which begins Friday night. Community leaders in the Eastern Region of the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles have called for "calm but continued vigilance" following the vandalism of Temple Beth Torah of Alhambra just before Rosh Hashanah last week.

Indications are that the incidents were the work of neo-Nazi groups in the area. A swastika was burned into the synagogue lawn in the early morning Sept. 11, shortly before Rosh Hashanah services began. Three glass doors and windows in the synagogue were broken Sept. 6.

In addition, cards were found scattered around the synagogue parking lot bearing words: "The only way: White Collar Movement" and a swastika prominently stamped in red.

Another incident occurred at the Pan Andreas Theater in West Hollywood where Shalom Aleichem's play, "It's Hard to be a Jew," was scheduled to open last Friday. Early in the morning of Sept. 8, vandals painted four large swastikas on the 75-year-old theater which is located in a predominantly Jewish section of Los Angeles.

Later in the day, George Pan Andreas, part owner and artistic director of the theater, said he received an anonymous telephone call from a man who asked what he thought of the swastikas. When he said the symbols would be painted over, the caller threatened that if they were, the theater would be blown up, Pan Andreas said.

The play opened on schedule in the 99-seat theater without incident. According to a report in the B'nai B'rith Messenger, 25 people attended the first performance.

Sheriff's Department deputies in the area have received a thorough briefing in this case and are calling for increased patrols. But police say they have no leads because there were no eye-witnesses to the vandalization. Meanwhile, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley synagogues have been requested to be on guard over Yom Kippur. They have requested police patrols.

ALLEGED WAR CRIMINAL TRIES TO COUNTER U.S. GOVERNMENT CHARGES

By David Gross and Marc Sugarman

(Editor's note: David Gross is news editor of the Jewish Exponent of Philadelphia and Marc Sugarman is a staff intern.)

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 17 (JTA) -- Wolodymir Osidach took the witness stand in his denaturalization trial in Federal Court here today trying to counter U.S. government charges that his wartime activities were responsible for the deaths of thousands of Jews in the Nazi-occupied Ukraine and that he falsified this information when he applied to enter the U.S. in 1949 and again when he became a naturalized citizen in 1963.

If U.S. Federal District Court Judge Louis Bechtle, who is hearing the case without a jury, finds Osidach, 76, of Philadelphia, guilty of misrepresenting his past, the defendant could be stripped of his citizenship and face deportation proceedings.

Osidach's defense attorney, Louis Konowal, argued in his opening statement before a courtroom filled to capacity, that his client was no more than a clerk in the Ukrainian police and that he had nothing to do with the rounding up, imprisonment or murder of Jews. "The Jewish people were the ones guarding the Jews," Konowal said. "It is embarrassing to the Jews but it's true."

The trial opened with prosecutor Neal Sher, deputy director of the Office of Special Investigations in the U.S. Department of Justice, stating

that, according to the law, a certificate of naturalization must be cancelled if it can be shown to have been illegally procured by wilful concealment or misrepresentation.

Osidach, he contended, had already admitted at pre-trial hearings that he concealed his pre-war arrest and prison record, as well as his wartime activities, to gain entry into the United States. When Osidach applied for entry under the Displaced Persons Act in 1949, Sher charged, he maintained he had been a dairy technician in Tomaszow, Poland from 1936 through 1944.

That, the government insists, was a lie. Osidach has since conceded that he was a dairy technician "for only a few weeks in 1941." He voluntarily left that job, the government charged, to enter the Ukrainian police in the small town of Rawa Ruska.

He later rose to the rank of police chief. "I couldn't say I was working as a policeman," Osidach testified through an interpreter. "I was taken to the police office because I knew German, Polish and Ukrainian and I knew how to type I considered myself a Ukrainian clerk."

Osidach, a staunch Ukrainian nationalist, has asserted that his pre-war arrest record stems from his anti-Communist activities with the outlawed Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and that the current denaturalization proceedings are a continuation of the harassment.

The prosecution will call witnesses from the United States, Canada and Israel to show that Osidach's wartime role was more than that of a clerk who had little or no contact with his German superiors. The prosecution also intends to utilize video-taped testimony from witnesses in the Soviet Union.

Testimony Of First Witness

The first prosecution witness, Raul Hilberg, professor of political science at the University of Vermont and author of "The Destruction of the European Jews," testified on this point. "Would it be possible for anyone with that rank (police chief) ... and in that village (Rawa Ruska) ... could have avoided working with the Germans?" asked Rodney Smith, one of the Justice Department prosecutors.

"In my opinion," replied Hilberg, who was granted "expert witness status," "it would have been utterly impossible not to have become involved." Hilberg also identified documents listing Osidach as "Hauptwachtmann" (police chief) in Ruska during 1942-43 and naming 10 officers in his command as well as other papers submitted as Osidach's medical benefits and employment insurance forms while on the Nazi payroll.

Tadeusz Sadowski, of Silver Spring, Md., a specialist on Polish and Russian law for the Library of Congress, also testified for the prosecution. He identified and validated documents attesting to Osidach's arrest and trial for OUN activities in pre-war Poland.

REPORT HUNDREDS OF SYRIAN JEWS HELD PRAYER VIGIL NEAR DAMASCUS

NEW YORK, Sept. 17 (JTA) -- A day-long prayer vigil last month by hundreds of Syrian Jews at the ancient synagogue of Jarbar near Damascus, caused the Syrian authorities to delay their planned take-over of the shrine which marks the site where Elijah anointed Elisha to succeed him as Prophet, it was reported today by Abraham Dwek, president of the Committee for the Rescue

of Syrian Jewry.

Dwek informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Syrian Ministry of Education, which plans to enlarge its compound in Jarbar, suddenly attempted to seize the synagogue, which probably would be leveled. The Ministry acted despite warnings by the attorney representing the Jewish community that such a move would have international repercussions.

Dwek said he has sent telegrams to President Carter and Secretary General Kurt Waldheim of the United Nations urging them to send their personal appeals to President Hafez Assad of Syria in the most appropriate way, requesting his protection of the synagogue, known in Arabic as "Maqam Al Khudr." Dwek pointed out that the Alawite Moslem sect, which Assad is a member, reveres Elijah as "Al-Khudr" -- The Prophet.

TRUDEAU TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA; WILL DISCUSS ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT MIDEAST SITUATION IN GENERAL

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Sept. 17 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau has accepted in principle an invitation to visit Saudi Arabia and is expected to go there later this fall or early in the winter.

The existence since 1975 of a bilateral commission for trade and technical cooperation between Canada and Saudi Arabia and the fact that eastern Canada imports 40 percent of its oil from Saudi Arabia, makes this visit particularly important, Canadian officials said. The commercial exchange between the two countries has reached the \$2 billion mark and is increasing. There are frequent exchanges of visits between Canadian and Saudi businessmen.

With Canada due to host the summit meeting of prime ministers and leaders of the industrial world in Ottawa in July, 1981, informed circles affirm that Trudeau will use the occasion to try to accommodate the views of the European Economic Community (EEC) leaders with those of Canada and the U.S. with respect to the Arab-Israeli conflict and Middle East problems in general.

After leaving Saudi Arabia, Trudeau will visit Amman, Jordan. The Jordanian government will be hosting an Arab summit meeting in mid-November and is keenly awaiting Trudeau's visit. The Canadian leader is a personal friend of King Hussein and it is believed the Jordanians hope to steer him toward a more favorable attitude with respect to the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the "moderate" Arab states in resolving the Middle East conflict.

NEW UN ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT HOPES FOR LASTING MIDEAST PEACE

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 17 (JTA) -- The newly elected President of the 35th session of the General Assembly, Ambassador Rudiger von Wechmar of West Germany, expressed the hope in his address last night that the Assembly will be able to contribute to "a just, secure and lasting peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors, including the Palestinians."

Von Wechmar, a 57-year-old former journalist, was elected by acclamation. His election marks the first time a German has been chosen for the prestigious post, and, in the view of diplomats and observers here, a further step in the acceptance of Germany to the international community after the atrocities of World War II. Von Wechmar succeeds Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania as President of the 154-nation Assembly.

During World War II von Wechmar served under Field Marshal Erwin Rommel in the Afrika Korps. He later was captured by the U.S. army and was a prisoner of war in Colorado and Virginia.

In response to a Jewish Telegraphic Agency question regarding von Wechmar's service in the army of Nazi Germany, a spokeswoman for the West German UN Mission here said the Ambassador's only response was to point out that for five years — from 1969 to 1974 — he was one of Chancellor Willy Brandt's closest aides and his spokesman. Brandt, a leader of the Socialist International, has been a relentless fighter against Nazism and neo-Nazism.

CARRINGTON IN BID TO QUELL DISQUIET OVER BRITISH WEST EUROPEAN MIDDLE EAST POLICY

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Sept. 17 (JTA) — Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington intervened personally tonight in a bid to quell the Anglo-Jewish community's disquiet over Britain's and Western Europe's policy on the Middle East.

Addressing a crowded meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, he sought to counter Jewish fears that Britain was undermining Israel's security by encouraging the Palestine Liberation Organization and that it was succumbing to Arab economic pressures.

The press was excluded from the meeting but a press conference immediately afterwards was held by Carrington who told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Britain "fully understands Israel's anxiety over security."

He denied that the Venice declaration issued last June by the nine European Economic Community states, to which Britain subscribes, was a pro-Arab document. The declaration was "even-handed" and its basis was that the Palestinians must recognize Israel in secure borders and that "Israel must recognize the rights of the Palestinians," Carrington said. These two conditions were "basic to any possible solution," he noted.

Europe alone could not solve the problem and it was essential that the United States should also be involved, he added. Britain was also "utterly opposed" to suggestions that Israel should be expelled from the United Nations.

Fails to Alter General Feelings

Commenting on his meeting with Jewish communal leaders, he admitted that he had failed to eliminate their suspicions of British policy, but added that "not everybody in the hall had disagreed." However, Greville Jenner, the Board's President, said Carrington had failed to alter the Board's general feelings, even though this was the first time that a British Foreign Secretary had ever addressed the leadership of the Jewish community.

Asked about the progress of the EEC's intervention in the Middle East, Carrington said that European foreign ministers would meet again at the United Nations in New York next Tuesday.

Defending the EEC's call for the PLO to be included in negotiations, he said the PLO represented "a very large body of Palestinians" and attributed its extremism to the Palestinians' long frustration. Israel should look at the many examples of decolonization in the British Empire involving former terrorist bodies, he added.

NEW TWISTS IN ABU HATZEIRA AFFAIR

By David London

JERUSALEM, Sept. 17 (JTA) — Moshe Gabbai, a long-time close associate of Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu Hatzeira and a senior official of the ministry, was remanded in custody for 15 days by a Tel Aviv district court today. It was the first such court action since the investigation began several months ago of allegations that Abu Hatzeira and other ministry officials misappropriated funds.

Gabbai was jailed at the request of the police. The Tel Aviv magistrate, who ordered him held after examining evidence in his chambers, said there was sufficient prima facie material to warrant the remand. He emphasized, however, that it should not be construed as an indication of guilt.

A police attorney told the court that Gabbai is suspected of taking kickbacks from several yeshivas which received unwarranted and disproportionate increases in their allocations from the Religious Affairs Ministry. The police said he is also suspected of bribery in a recent local election. Gabbai, who was held for questioning for 48 hours before his remand, reportedly has refused to cooperate with the police. Under Israeli law, a suspect may be held in custody for a maximum of 15 days. But the court can renew the remand at 15-day intervals as long as the investigation continues.

An Unexpected Turn

The case took an unexpected turn today when Israel's two chief rabbis stated that on religious grounds one of the chief witnesses against Gabbai could not testify. He is Deputy Mayor Yisrael Gottlieb of Bnei Brak, an Orthodox township north of Tel Aviv, who is himself a suspect in the case and had offered to turn state's evidence.

Askenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren and Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, whose opinions were solicited separately, both insisted that the institution of state's evidence was counter to Jewish religious law. According to the chief rabbis, by admitting his own guilt, the witness disqualified himself from giving acceptable evidence against anyone else. They cited Biblical and Talmudical texts to that effect.

National Religious Party circles observed that Gottlieb would not be able to transgress against the chief rabbis' injunction without losing all vestiges of his standing and his position in the party. The NRP and the entire Orthodox community in Israel has been shaken by the scandal involving the Religious Affairs Ministry.

Gottlieb himself has not commented on the chief rabbis' stricture. If he refuses to testify he faces criminal proceedings himself. It was not immediately clear to what extent the case against Gabbai hinged on Gottlieb's testimony nor was it known to what extent the entire fabric of the case against him and Abu Hatzeira rests on Gottlieb's evidence.

According to the police, Abu Hatzeira channeled ministry funds to his own faction of the NRP. The ministry channels funds to local religious councils, religious courts and religious schools. It has been accused of allocating funds to non-existent religious institutions.

Meanwhile, in a number of towns with many Oriental Jews, mass receptions were organized in honor of Abu Hatzeira. Several Sephardic leaders from Europe and the U.S. arrived in Israel to meet with Premier Menachem Begin to discuss the investigation and its impact on Israel's Sephardic population.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**THE VITALITY OF HADASSAH**

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Sept. 17 (JTA) -- Frieda Lewis, who last month became the 17th president of Hadassah, has been an active member in the women's Zionist organization for 32 years, ever since the State of Israel was established.

"It was inconceivable that I would not be a member of a Zionist organization," she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview in her office at Hadassah's headquarters here. She noted that her father was a believer in the messianic redemption of the Jewish people and her mother had been a member of Hadassah. They gave her a thorough Hebrew education.

"I always felt a close spiritual bond with Israel and later translated this into practical terms," she said.

Mrs. Lewis said that a recent study of Hadassah members and potential members under 40 found that these younger women also put support of Israel high on their list of reasons for joining Hadassah. "These young people don't have the memory ... the personal connection with the Holocaust," she said. She said this makes it more remarkable that they have the same feelings about Israel.

Reasons For Joining Hadassah

Mrs. Lewis heads an organization that with 370,000 members in 1550 chapters in the United States is the largest Zionist organization in the world and the largest women's volunteer group in the United States. One-third of the membership are life members. There are also some 10,000 men enrolled as Hadassah Associates. More than half of Hadassah's members are daughters or daughters-in-law of Hadassah members.

The poll Hadassah took recently of members under 40 found that 40 percent live in the suburbs, three-quarters are affiliated with synagogues and 60 percent have visited Israel. The survey also questioned potential Hadassah members and found they were mostly younger working women who lived in the cities. She said these women join Hadassah to help Israel, to develop Jewish identity and to seek personal fulfillment.

Mrs. Lewis said that in a time when volunteerism is criticized by some, "I found it most encouraging that the survey shows what I suspected from my own knowledge, that most women do not consider being complete unless they give of themselves without material recompense to a cause they consider significant."

Mrs. Lewis, who lives in Great Neck, N.Y., started her climb on the Hadassah ladder in Great Neck when she was named vice president for education. She herself is a former educator, guidance counselor and administrator. She eventually became president of the chapter, president of the Nassau-Suffolk regional group, and then moved onto the national level as treasurer and vice president. She was chairman of the youth aliya department before becoming president.

Mrs. Lewis is also a member of the Zionist General Council of the World Zionist Organization and the Executive and National Board of the American Zionist Federation. She has served as director of the Jewish National Fund, the Hadassah Zionist Youth Commission and the American Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Mrs. Lewis said she would not have been

able to do these things without the support of her husband, Edward, who heads a purchasing firm. She has two sons, Dr. Jeffrey Lewis and Dr. Michael Lewis, both physicians, and six grandchildren.

Goals Outlined

Mrs. Lewis has several goals for her presidency. One is to provide "opportunity for leadership wherever possible to younger women who seek it and are equipped," she said. Another is to involve Hadassah in activities in all parts of the U.S.

Mrs. Lewis said she wants Hadassah to "find ways to maintain its role as a pioneer in Israel. I want to increase the knowledge" of the health facilities Hadassah maintains in Israel as well as Israel's other needs so that "the unit Hadassah membership will maintain its connection to the land and people of Israel."

In addition, Mrs. Lewis pledges that "Hadassah will use its influence" to combat anti-Israel and anti-Semitic forces and will make its voice heard on these issues in the "highest offices of the land."

Mrs. Lewis has named her predecessor, Bernice Tannenbaum, who served the maximum four one-year terms as president, as chairman of the Hadassah Medical Organization. Mrs. Lewis noted that all the former presidents of Hadassah have been "brilliant women who have had an impact on history." The new president appears eminently qualified to continue this tradition.

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT WINS DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FOR DRINAN'S SEAT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17 (JTA) -- Liberal Democrat Barney Frank, backed by retiring Rep. Robert Drinan who decided not to seek a sixth term following direct orders from Pope John Paul II, won the Democratic nomination for Congress yesterday in the Fourth Congressional District in Massachusetts.

With all 143 precincts reported, Frank, 40, who is Jewish and a member of the State Legislature, won 50 percent of the vote to 48 percent for Arthur Clark, the popular six-term Mayor of Waltham, a Boston suburb.

Fifteen candidates initially sought to succeed Drinan, a Jesuit priest, who in his 10 years in the House of Representatives championed the causes of Soviet Jewry and the security of Israel, including its sovereignty over a unified Jerusalem.

Abortion was the central issue in the bitter campaign after an unprecedented pastoral letter last week by Boston Cardinal Humberto Medeiros, who urged Catholics not to vote for candidates who support abortion. Frank was supported by pro-abortion groups and by leading Democrats including, in addition to Drinan, Sen. Edward Kennedy and Rep. Ed Markey.

Clark, who also has strongly supported Israel and Soviet Jewry, had the backing of Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.) and numerous prominent Jews in the district, including Dr. Jehudah Leftin, honorary president of the Greater Framingham Jewish Federation. The district is largely Democratic and Frank is expected to win election in November.

PARIS (JTA) -- The Ministry of Culture announced Wednesday that a National Museum of Jewish Arts will open here next year to trace the role of Jews in French history and culture. It will include a collection of rare 17th Century altar cloths, prayer books, candleabra and other ritual objects donated to the nation in 1901 by Adolphe de Rothschild.