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NONALIGNED CONCLAVE CRUCIAL IN DETERMINING ISRAEL'S STATUS IN UN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 21 (JTA) — Israeli officials believe the upcoming conference of nonaligned countries in New York will be crucial in whether the Arab and other Moslem states are successful in their attempt to bar Israel from the current session of the United Nations General Assembly.

A three-day ministerial meeting of 39 Islamic countries ended in Fez, Morocco yesterday with a call for a "jihad," holy war, against Israel and a drive to enlist other Third World countries in the effort to bar Israel from the Assembly.

Some Israeli observers noted that many nonaligned countries will think twice before voting to bar Israel since this would be a denial of the UN principle of universality. The Israelis believe that if the Arabs find they do not have enough support to prevent Israel's seating they will drop the move and concentrate on introducing anti-Israeli resolutions into the Assembly and the Security Council.

The Islamic countries reportedly did not call for an attempt to oust Israel from the UN since this could be blocked by a United States veto in the Security Council.

Meanwhile, officials here are pleased over the composition of the General Assembly's nine-member credentials committee. It includes four countries with which Israel has diplomatic ties — the U.S., Costa Rica, Singapore and Haiti — Kenya, to which it has ties of friendship, and Spain, another country with which Israel is able to communicate. The other members are the Soviet Union, People's Republic of China and Angola.

Report PLO Demands Shelved

The reports from Morocco are that a "moderate" majority led by Morocco, Senegal and Saudi Arabia pushed through the anti-Israel resolutions while shelving demands by the Palestine Liberation Organization and Syria for an oil blockade against Israel and its allies, including the United States, and to set up recruiting offices in all Islamic countries to mobilize a holy war army under the PLO.

But the PLO is viewed here as the major beneficiary of the conference in Morocco which demonstrated that the Islamic world intends to press ahead in the effort to force Israel to accept a Palestinian state.

The conference issued a communique pledging the Islamic countries "to continue the struggle against the Camp David approach" and called on Islamic countries to break economic and political relations with Israel. Turkey is the only Islamic country, which attended the conference, that has such relations with Israel. The declaration also called on Islamic countries to withhold loans from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank "unless those bodies grant observer status to the Palestine Liberation Organization."

Although observers in Fez viewed the position of King Hassan of Morocco as a moderating influence on the conference, the Israelis see the pro-Western king as guiding the conference toward tough anti-Israel resolutions in order to highlight his Islamic orthodoxy within the Arab world and to strengthen his position at home against attacks from the PLO and the radical Arab states.

Another "moderate" at the conference, President Leopold Senghor of Senegal, said the conference was the start of the attempt to restore Jerusalem to its pre-1967 status. He said Israel's Jerusalem law was "a slap in the face inflicted by Israel to two billion (Moslem) people." Guinea President Sekou Toure promised the conference that all African states will abide by its decision.

FRENCH NEO-NAZI LEADER GOES ON TRIAL

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Sept. 21 (JTA) — Hundreds of organized Jewish demonstrators clashed last Thursday with several dozen neo-Nazis and police on the steps of the city criminal court where French neo-Nazi leader Marc Fredriksen went on trial. Over a dozen people, including three policemen and two Jews, were injured in the violent streetfight which lasted for close to two hours.

Fredriksen, a 46-year-old bank teller and leader of the now outlawed Federation for European and National Action (FANE), is charged with incitement to racial hatred, justification of Nazi crimes and spreading Nazi theories and propaganda.

Fredriksen, who entered the court accompanied by what looked like half a dozen bodyguards, said "I am here as the representative of the National Socialists who have been persecuted for the last 35 years." He told the court, "I demand for our organization the same freedom of expression enjoyed by other movements, including the Marxists and the Communists."

Anti-Israel, Anti-Semitic Tirade

Without any promptings, the self-styled "fuhrer" said, "I accuse Israel of having built itself on lies and corpses. Israel is an artificial state which has ignominiously behaved toward another people. It is only legitimate to destroy this state."

He added: "As for the Jews, I consider them neither as a religion nor as a race but as a people and a pressure group. I do not believe that the Germans carried out a holocaust nor that they wanted to exterminate the Jews. This is all postwar propaganda invented by the Jews to obtain a land and from the Germans, money."

Clashes With Police, Neo-Nazis

While Fredriksen, dressed in an army-type trenchcoat spoke, Jewish demonstrators clashed with the handful of neo-Nazi supporters, first in the court's corridors and basement, and then, after they were expelled by police guards and ushers, on the building's steps and in the adjacent streets.

Most of the Jewish demonstrators wore leather jackets for protection and carried bats or golf clubs. In the streets close to the court, Jewish demonstrators chased Fredriksen's supporters into shops, restaurants and even private stairways. The clashes

with police occurred when riot police intervened to try and evacuate some of the wounded, often badly bleeding FANE members. At one point, the police had to use tear gas to try and clear a pathway for the ambulances.

Most of the Jewish activists reportedly belong to the Jewish Defense Organization led by a young French Jewish member of Parliament, Jean Pierre-Bloch. Several witnesses said that Pierre-Bloch personally directed the operation but this correspondent did not see him.

Priest Expresses Disgust

While the street nattle went on, the court continued to sit, hearing witnesses and experts. A Catholic priest and writer, Father Riquet said: "I personally saw the gas chambers and the ovens in which the bodies were burned. I am disgusted and revolted by those who speak with nostalgia about the good old days of the Nazis." Riquet was, himself, deported for resistance activities. The prosecution has asked for a suspended prison sentence.

FANE was outlawed by the French government Sept. 4 after Justice Minister Christian Bonnet reported that Jews in the south of France had received threats and that the organization had carried out a number of violent attacks.

YOM KIPPUR ENDS; FOLLOWED BY A SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 21 (JTA) -- The traditional sounding of shofars all over Israel marked the end of Yom Kippur last night and the beginning of a special Memorial Day officially declared to honor Israeli soldiers who fell in the war that began on Yom Kippur, 1973. Thousands of bereaved families, comrades in arms and representatives of the armed forces attended services for the Yom Kippur War dead at military cemeteries throughout Israel today.

The Yom Kippur just ended was one of the quietest in recent memory. The weather was mild, tempered by breezes, which made the fast easier for those who observed it. There were fewer calls for medical assistance for people who collapsed in the crowded synagogues. In a few instances, in Rehovot and near Hadera, the free movement of ambulances, police cars and other emergency vehicles was impeded by religious zealots who hurled stones at them.

Police reported fewer incidents of burglary, a favorite crime on days when most people are away from their homes. There were no terrorist acts. Security was tight. The occupied territories were sealed off from Israel proper beginning at noon Friday and no residents of the West Bank were allowed to cross the line.

In Haifa, however, firemen were kept busy battling a forest fire that threatened a nearby industrial section. After eight hours the blaze was brought under control.

CHIEF RABBIS ATTACKED FOR 'STATES EVIDENCE' RULING

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 21 (JTA) -- Israel's two chief rabbis have come under heavy fire from various non-religious and legal sources for their alleged interference with the judicial process in the broadening investigation of Religious

Affairs Minister Aharon Abu Hatzeira and senior officials of his ministry who have been accused of financial misconduct. They were also rebuked, indirectly, by Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, himself an Orthodox Jew.

Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren and Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef raised the storm of protest when each asserted, in separate press interviews last week, that the institution of state's evidence was contrary to halacha, Jewish religious law. Their statements were seen as an attempt to prevent a key prosecution witness, Deputy Mayor Yisrael Gottlieb of Bnei Brak, from testifying against Moshe Gabbai, a top aide to Abu Hatzeira who was arrested last week and remanded in custody by a Tel Aviv district court.

Gottlieb had agreed to testify for the State in order to avoid possible criminal proceedings against himself. He was quoted by one newspaper as saying that "If the rabbis say I mustn't talk then I won't talk." But other newspapers reported that he has refused to commit himself unequivocally.

Goren and Yosef have rejected the charge of deliberate meddling in the case. They insisted that they were duty-bound to pronounce the halachic position when reporters asked them about it. They are strongly backed by the National Religious Party of which Abu Hatzeira is a member and which, allegedly, received misappropriated funds.

Statement Of Nissim

The most significant, albeit oblique attack on the chief rabbis was delivered by Nissim. An official statement released before Yom Kippur by the Justice Minister's office noted that "The Minister takes a serious view of any public statement that could have the effect of influencing the course of a police investigation or the considerations of the prosecutor... The deciding whether to make use of a state's witness must be taken solely on the merits... and without interference by extraneous officials or other parties," especially when "such interference comes in the midst of an investigation."

The statement noted that the device of state's evidence is used all over the world and has been used — sparingly — in Israel since the inception of the State.

Reaction By Reform Zionists

(In New York last week, Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn, president of ARZA—Association of Reform Zionists of America, released a statement demanding a thorough investigation of the Abu Hatzeira affair and accused the two chief rabbis of a "shameful attempt... to block the judicial process through the cynical application of halachic minutiae." Gittelsohn observed: "When Jewish law is misused to shield people in high places and to protect the vested interests of Israel's political-religious establishment, the Jewish tradition is perverted by those who claim to be its champions.")

Friction Between Religious, Secular Elements

The latest development in the Abu Hatzeira case has intensified the always present friction between the secular and religious elements in Israeli society. The secular parties — Labor, Mapam, the Citizens Rights Movement and others — have decried the chief rabbis' intervention with varying degrees of intensity. The NRP has lined up behind the chief rabbis. Its Knesset faction chairman, Yehuda Ben-Meir, declared last week that the NRP and all Orthodox Jewry backed the right of the chief rabbis to speak out on halachic issues at any time.

Another potentially explosive element was added to the conflict when the Sephardic community rallied behind Abu Hatzeira, charging that he was being scapegoated by the Ashkenazic establishment which dominates Israeli politics. Sephardic Jews outnumber Ashkenazim in Israel's ethnic mix but feel they are under-represented in political affairs.

Abu Hatzeira is of Moroccan origin and his father, Rabbi Yaacov Abu Hatzeira, was the spiritual leader of Moroccan Jewry. About 1000 supporters of the Religious Affairs Minister paraded in Jerusalem today carrying the Minister on their shoulders, waving garlands of flowers and singing traditional songs. They angrily charged that Abu Hatzeira was being tried by the press and that the entire matter reflected the anti-Moroccan attitude of the authorities.

BAPTIST MINISTERS DENOUNCE CLERIC'S REMARK ON JEWS

NEW YORK, Sept. 21 (JTA) -- Leading Baptist ministers and educators from several states have strongly deplored Dr. Bailey Smith, president of the 13 million-member Southern Baptist Convention, for his public remark last month that "God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew." Scores of letters addressed directly to Smith, to various Baptist church organs and to American Jewish leaders involved in inter-faith affairs, denounced Smith's views as contrary to the Scriptures and unfair and insulting to Jews.

A number of the letters were just made public here by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith which has long been engaged in dialogue with Southern Baptists on such topics as the Jewish roots of Christianity and the Jewishness of Jesus and his disciples.

Smith's remarks, made at the National Affairs Briefing, a gathering of Fundamentalist Christians in Dallas on Aug. 22, were recorded by the regional representative of the American Jewish Committee. The AJC committee subsequently disseminated the transcripts.

Joins Nefarious Company

In a letter dated Sept. 12 addressed to Rabbi Solomon Bernards, co-director of the ADL's department of interfaith affairs, J. William Angell, professor of religion at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., charged that Smith "has joined himself to the nefarious company of Haman, Hitler, Arafat and Khomeini."

He observed that Smith's "statements are not only untrue, unscriptural and unkind; they are also, as you know, far removed from the teachings and spirit of the Jesus whom he pretends to serve." Angell added, "I do wish Dr. Smith would pause at least long enough to realize that Jesus was a Jew — a loyal and faithful Jew. Does that mean that God would not hear him?"

Another letter addressed to Bernards on Sept. 14 from Bob Wallace, Pastor of Grants Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Maysville, N.C., said Smith's remarks were "another painful reminder of this man's ignorance. He may well be speaking for the majority of Southern Baptists but he does not speak for me. I repudiate his statement."

A letter to Smith on Sept. 3 from the Rev. Glenn Inglehart, director of the Southern Baptist

Convention's Interfaith Witness Department, reminded him that: "In our materials and training conferences we teach Baptists to share their faith without apology and without offense. We and those whom we train speak directly to our Jewish friends of our conviction of the uniqueness of God's act in Jesus of Nazareth for the redemption of all persons, Jews as well as Gentiles."

"That conviction we can affirm heartily. But to state that God only hears the prayers of Christians when they pray is another matter. Of course when a Jew prays, it is a Jewish prayer, not a Christian prayer. But I feel that we must be wary of placing restrictions on who God will listen to...."

John Laney, Minister of the Twinbrook Baptist Church in Rockville, Md., stated in letters to The Maryland Baptist in Lutherville, and The Capital Baptist, published in Washington, D.C., that the God posited by Smith "would be a God who would have listened to the silent Christians in Nazi Germany while turning a deaf ear to the millions of Jews who cried out from the concentration camps and the gas chambers of the Holocaust."

"I cannot conceive of a God who would eagerly listen to Jerry Falwell and Bailey Smith but who would not tolerate a prayer from such great souls of the recent past as Martin Buber and Abraham Heschel." Falwell, head of the Moral Majority, is a Fundamentalist preacher who appears widely on radio and television.

Reckless, Insensitive Words

Another letter to Smith from Jack Altman, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Cumberland, Md., stated as its subject "Your anti-Jewish remarks at the Religious Roundtable" in Dallas. In that connection, he wrote: "Such reckless, insensitive words by the president of the Southern Baptist Convention contribute nothing of a positive nature to the work of our Interfaith Witness dialogues with our Jewish friends."

The Rev. Alfred Johnson, Jr., Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gary, N.C., wrote to Smith: "We do have our differences with Judaism concerning the messiahship of Jesus. But no true Christian doubts for one moment that both Christians and Jews worship and pray to the same God and that He hears them. Jesus himself in John 4:22 says that 'Salvation comes from the Jews.' Please be careful what you say in the future."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Arab Postal Union (APU) meeting in Baghdad, has ordered a ban on an Egyptian postage stamp commemorating Egypt's peace treaty with Israel, according to an Iraqi News Agency report Sunday. The stamp is already in circulation and the APU urged its members to take "effective measures" to deal with mail arriving in Arab countries bearing the peace stamp.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The number of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union reached an unprecedented low for many years in August; 750, of whom only 250 proceeded on to Israel. The drastic decline in Soviet Jewish emigration is to top the agenda at a session of the Brussels conference on Soviet Jewry next month. There is concern both in Israel and abroad at the decline, which is attributed by most observers to the heightened tension between the super-powers.

HIGH HOLY DAYS MARRED BY SYNAGOGUE ROBBERIES, VANDALISM AND A FIRE

By David Friedman.

NEW YORK, Sept. 21 (JTA) -- A fire which destroyed a synagogue in New Jersey and several robberies marred Yom Kippur services for several congregations in the New York metropolitan area.

The fire, which destroyed Temple Ahavas Achim in New Brunswick, occurred yesterday as 300 persons were attending services. All were evacuated safely as were about 35 persons from four surrounding buildings.

The Middlesex County Arson Task Force is investigating the blaze which was described as being of suspicious origin. It started in a storage room at 3:48 p.m. as did an earlier fire Friday night in which congregation members discovered several opened gas jets and an American flag burning.

The fire yesterday was discovered when several temple members smelled smoke and traced it to the storage room during a break in the service. The temple was then quickly evacuated.

In Brooklyn, meanwhile, the Young Israel of Brighton Beach was robbed of three Torahs, valued at \$1500; four small silver crowns, valued at \$2500; two silver pointers, worth \$200 and three silver breastplates, worth \$1500, sometime between Thursday night and Friday morning. In addition, the Shomrei Torah Synagogue, also in Brooklyn, was robbed of a Torah valued at \$10,000 Thursday night.

Meanwhile, police in Suffolk County on Long Island are searching for vandals who caused \$100,000 in damages to the Hebrew Academy of Suffolk County in Hauppauge during Rosh Hashanah. The vandals scrawled swastikas on two classroom doors, flooded most of the building with water from a garden hose, and stole desks and school supplies.

RABBI'S KILLER FOUND GUILTY

NEW YORK, Sept. 21 (JTA) -- Rose Schrage, founder and president of Concerned Citizens, an organization committed to defending the rights of Jews in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, said it was ironic that Rabbi David Okunov, a 68-year-old Hasidic rabbi who was killed while on his way to synagogue services last Oct. 25, had come to America to escape persecution in the Soviet Union only to be wantonly murdered on the streets of New York.

Carl Miller, 18, who resided near the edge of the Crown Heights section, was found guilty last Thursday of the killing by a Supreme Court jury in Brooklyn which had deliberated for a total of nine hours over a two-day period. Miller, who was arrested last Nov. 30 and had been in jail since, had been charged with the fatal shooting.

Police said Miller was a member of a group called the Five Percenters, described as comprising mostly Black youths. The home is said to reflect their belief that 95 percent of the Black people do not strongly resist exploitation by whites and that members of the group are among the five percent who do resist.

Miller showed no emotion when the jury verdict was announced. He had insisted that he had been in an automobile in front of his girl-

friend's home in Queens at the time of the killing. He faces a maximum of 25 years in prison. Sentencing has been set for Oct. 20 in the court of Supreme Court Justice Sybil Kooper.

Another youth, Daryl Brown, 17, was the key witness presented by the prosecutor, Barbara Newman. Brown testified he had seen Miller grab Okunov and shoot him after the rabbi screamed.

Okunov, from whom the killer took only a small case containing the rabbi's prayershawl and prayerbook, came to this country from the USSR three years ago. He founded the Friends of Refugees in Eastern Europe (FREE), which provided a variety of services to Jewish refugees coming to Brooklyn, according to Mrs. Schrage. Sources said that while police stressed the feeling that robbery and not race was the motive for the killing, the slaying had added to long-time tensions between Hasidim and Blacks in Crown Heights. Large groups of Hasidim had packed the courtroom for most sessions of the five-day trial but all of them left the courtroom before the jury returned its verdict.

Mrs. Schrage said that Miller was convicted by a jury of his peers by due process of law but Okunov "was convicted in the streets with a single gunshot." She told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Concerned Citizens has about 500 members and seeks to be "eyes and ears" for victims of crime in the area. She said that the activities of FREE would be continued.

NEW YEAR'S CARDS SENT TO HOSTAGES

NEW YORK, Sept. 21 (JTA) -- Beth Israel Synagogue of Derby, Conn., a congregation of the United Synagogue of America, has sent a Jewish New Year's card to each of the 52 American hostages held in Iran. It was announced by Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman, executive vice president of the United Synagogue of America, the congregational arm of the Conservative Movement of Judaism.

According to Stanley Gampel, president of Beth Israel congregation, who himself was a POW in World War II, the text of the card from the Conservative synagogue said: "As our Holy Days approach, we are thinking of you and pray for your imminent release and for a world of freedom and peace." The card was signed: "Beth Israel Synagogue."

The cards were sent to the American Embassy in Teheran. Beth Israel Synagogue in Derby, Conn., has about 150 families affiliated as members. The spiritual leader is Rabbi Aryeh Weinman.

PINOCHET SENDS NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

SANTIAGO, Sept. 21 (JTA) -- President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte of Chile extended New Year's greetings to the Jewish community on behalf of his government and himself. In a letter to Gil Sinay, president of the Representative Committee of the Jewish Communities of Chile, Pinochet stated:

"On the occasion of the celebration of the Jewish New Year 5741 and the next 19th of September, the 'Day of Pardon' (Yom Kippur), I want to bring you and through your distinguished mediation, to all the Jewish community, the cordial greetings of the government which I preside as well as my own. I take the opportunity to express to the Jewish community my appreciation for their continual contribution to the progress of the country."

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) -- Mates Goldfarb, active in the Jewish community here, has been named new director of Di Presse, the only Yiddish newspaper in Argentina, and its weekly publication in Spanish, Nueva Presencia.