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## CONGRESS SPEEDS FORMALITIES ON LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- Congress today speeded formalities on legislation for the establishment of a "U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council" as a permanent body that will have statutory authority to plan, construct and oversee the operation of a museum in Washington to the victims of Nazism and to sponsor annual observance of "Days of Remembrance" for the 11 million people who died in the Holocaust -- six million of them Jews.

By voice vote, without dissent, the House of Representatives adopted the legislation Tuesday night after it was offered by Rep. Phillip Burton (D. Calif.). Rep. Bill Frenzel (R. Minn.) was co-author of the bill which had 125 co-sponsors. Last night, the Senate, also by voice vote without dissent, approved legislation introduced by Sen. John Danforth (R. Mo.) with 40 co-sponsors.

Clarification in wording on appointments of the Council's 60 members -- 50 to be named by the President and five each by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem of the Senate -- temporarily delayed transmittal of the legislation to President Carter for signing into law. Signing ceremonies at the White House are expected to take place next week.

The memorial movement began to take form Nov. 1, 1978 when President Carter created the Commission on the Holocaust, with author Elie Wiesel as its chairman, to make recommendations for an appropriate memorial "to those who perished in the Holocaust."

## To Confront The Memory Of The Holocaust

Danforth, who two years ago sponsored the first Congressional joint resolution establishing Days of Remembrance, told the Senate: "All Americans should set aside a few days each year to confront the memory of the Holocaust and to spur our individual consciences for any weakness that may encourage or permit hatred or apathy in the face of evil."

In making his presentation to the House, Burton asked to "indulge in a personal observation -- my beloved wife Sala's family was decimated by the Nazi terrorists and it has been a special honor for me to play a small role in this long overdue tangible recognition of the horror that Hitler and his legions inflicted on the Jewish people." Burton is not Jewish.

Pointing out the Council's functions, Rep. Sidney Yates (D. Ill.) noted it also would establish and administer an Educational Foundation and a Committee on Conscience to "provide early warning of threats of genocide against any people throughout the world." Noting that the funding for the museum is to be through private contributions, Yates said a private foundation -- "The U.S. Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, Inc." -- has already been established and it "will receive donations and contributions from private citizens and groups."

Rep. George Danielson (D. Calif.) observed that the "first genocide of the 20th Century" was the massacre of Armenians in 1915-1919. He said the Council "will commemorate for all times the horrible genocide and Holocaust of the Armenian and Jewish peoples." Rep. Margaret Heckler (R. Mass.) said that the Holocaust Memorial not only commemorates the deaths of six million Jews "but permanently honors the memory of their lives in the fervent hope that this people's safety and security will forever more be certain."

## WORLD BANK CLARIFIES POSITION ON STATUS OF OBSERVERS AT ITS MEETING

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) -- popularly known as the World Bank -- clarified its position today on the status of observers at the annual meeting here next week of the IBRD and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which is a member of the World Bank group, whose boards of directors have ruled out the Palestine Liberation Organization from attending.

The IBRD and the IMF adopted a U.S.-sponsored resolution that limited observers at the annual meeting from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3 to those who were listed as observers for last year's meeting. The PLO was not among the 42 observers who attended last year's meeting.

## Tanzanian Decision Not Overruled

However, the two organizations did not overrule the decision made by Tanzania, which holds the chairmanship of next week's meeting, to "disinvite all observers." World Bank sources indicated yesterday that the IBRD -- erroneously referred to as the Reconstruction Finance Corporation yesterday -- had in effect upset the decision by the chairman, Tanzanian Finance Minister Amir Jamal.

Today, however, they said the IBRD and the IMF boards can advise the chairman but are not empowered to overrule him if he doesn't want to issue invitations; it is understood that Jamal's decision was intended to placate Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which had sought observer status for the PLO. The boards reportedly went along with Jamal's "compromise" to avoid offending the oil-rich states since they may withdraw support from bank loans and credits.

In discussing confusion resulting from the board's action against the PLO and Jamal's decision to bar all observers, bank sources said it was now uncertain whether the Bank for International Settlements and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development would be allowed to attend as observers. They have traditionally attended the annual meetings. It was indicated that the Arab states may take the PLO issue to the meeting despite the votes against them. But bank sources felt that "the main flurry is over."

## FOCUS ON ISSUES TOMATOES IN THE NEGEV; LESSONS OF THE TRIAL DECADE

By David Landau

SDE NITZAN, Western Negev, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- The first six settlements of the Pithat Shalom region,

alongside the old-new border with Egypt, are close to completion. Within months they will be ready for their new inhabitants, and the Jewish National Fund and Jewish Agency Settlement Department will move on to prepare the farms and homes of the next batch of settlements.

In all, 20 settlements are planned for the Pithat Shalom region (now officially renamed the Besor region), and all of them, to a greater or lesser degree, will be based on the model of Sde Nitzan, the first intensive agricultural settlement established in this part of the country, almost a decade ago.

Since that time, when New Zealander Eddy Peretz finally persuaded the Settlement Department and the Ministry of Agriculture of the merit of growing greenhouse tomatoes in the sandy soil of the western Negev, the system spread to some of the settlements of Pithat Rafiah, which are soon to be handed back to Egypt, under the peace treaty.

A lot has been learned, a lot of mistakes have been made, studied and corrected. The new settlers at Pithat Shalom will be the beneficiaries of 10 years of experimenting. The members of Sde Nitzan feel, not unnaturally, that they were the guinea pigs.

#### Problems Faced By Sde Nitzan

Bruce Alpert, formerly of Columbus, Ohio, chairman of Sde Nitzan's Council, said: "We have had our problems -- we like to think they were birth pang problems."

Alpert and Sde Nitzan's secretary, Les Barkin, formerly of Johannesburg, explained to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Sde Nitzan's problems have been both economic and social -- and have all evolved from the experimental nature of the place. Peretz, the two young men, hinted, was a bit of an autocrat when it comes to growing greenhouse tomatoes -- and not all Sde Nitzan's 56 farming families could keep up with his tough demands for quality and disciplined growing.

Partly because of friction with Peretz, and partly because the tomato-growing too is still experimental, some of the moshav families also began growing flowers. They took what seemed to be low interest loans from the Jewish Agency to build additional green- and plastic-houses -- and in common with so many of Israel's farmers nowadays -- find themselves saddled with inflation-linked debts that are hard to keep abreast of.

Income -- from tomatoes and/or flowers -- has been modest to fair. There has not, yet, been the high returns from the European export markets that the Sde Nitzan settlers -- all of them young Western immigrant families -- had perhaps come to expect.

Alpert and Barkin, both deeply committed to the venture, firmly believe that the big profits are just around the corner -- once the growing-harvesting-marketing techniques are refined to yet greater scientific precision. Meanwhile, though, there is little extra cash available for luxuries; and some of the families have been digging into their savings.

#### A Success Story

It is to give the Sde Nitzan settlers a greater sense of economic confidence that the Jewish Agency Settlement Department and the Ministry of Agriculture have now agreed -- after much badgering, say Alpert and Barkin -- to help

the moshav plant fruit orchards. The fruit from these orchards will also go for export and, while there is no spectacular profit to be made here, at least there is the prospect of a steady side-income.

All in all, the two young men stress, Sde Nitzan is a success story -- with the big success just up ahead. Over the 10 years, 17 families left -- some of them returning to the U.S. and others settling up home in Tel Aviv or in another moshav. In terms of Western-alia statistics, that is a pretty good record.

And the atmosphere around the place, when people are not worrying about tomato prices, is relaxed and easy-going. Above and beyond such economic headaches as investment and interest, there is the huge satisfaction of living in Israel, among like-minded people, and being part of a new project with great promise and potential, say Alpert and Barkin.

#### Seeking To Apply The Lesson

The Jewish Agency, constantly monitoring Sde Nitzan's achievements and difficulties, is seeking to apply the lessons learned to neighboring settlements -- and above all to the massive Pithat Shalom complex.

The first lesson, summed up in lay language, is that over-intensification is perhaps too much of a good thing. The greenhouses have certainly proven their value as the basis of one-family moshav-type farms in this part of the country -- but settlers seem to need some additional variety.

Hence the planners' decision to provide, right from the start, fruit orchards in addition to the greenhouses supplied to each family for vegetable and flower-growing.

This departure from the pristine theory of family-based intensive agriculture will pose "ideological" problems for at least some of the new settlements, since it implies the need to employ hired labor, which goes against the beliefs of some settlement movements. In Sde Nitzan the farmers have gotten around this by having volunteers from abroad, wishing to spend some time on an Israeli settlement, help out during the harvest months.

#### Need For Diversification

But plainly, there is a need for some diversification. In pure economic theory, an exclusively greenhouse-based moshav is viable and even impressively profit-making. But people, men and women, don't work strictly according to economic theory: they need some relief from the impact of intensive agriculture.

Alpert put it this way: tomato-growing occupies only eight months of the year. In the summer season there is nothing to do in the tomato greenhouses -- and the farmers need something else to occupy them.

Of course tomato-growing in greenhouses is by no means an Israeli specialty. What is unique in the intensive agriculture that Peretz brought to the western Negev area is that it is almost entirely energy-free. The area itself, with its temperate winters, is a natural greenhouse: there is no need to heat the greenhouses. Moreover, the sandy soil is ideal, since it is "well aired."

The area in which this form of agriculture can be practiced is limited by these two natural considerations: only the land near the coast is suitable. Further inland the night-time frost can kill off the crops within hours. And further inland, too, the sand of the soil becomes more desert-like, its granules smaller and its effect less "ventilating."

The Besor region, therefore, is ideally suited in every respect. The visitor there can already

see greenhouses -- each of them a quarter-acre in area -- springing up all over. Once Pithat Shalom is completed, a veritable agricultural revolution shall have been achieved.

Technological advances are also being harnessed to help the farmers. This year, export -- of both vegetables and flowers -- has begun in refrigerated ships rather than exclusively in cargo planes as heretofore. The savings in haulage is, of course, major -- some \$200 a ton of tomatoes which sell in Europe for up to \$1300 a ton.

And at the Hebrew University, experiments with strains of tomato have evolved a new type which the Sde Nitzan farmers are proposing to try out in the coming year.

Yes, in this too they will be the guinea pigs -- and they could face difficulties and even losses. But Alpert and Barkin regard the effort with equanimity. They are proud to be pathfinders, and entirely confident that the years of hard work and experimenting are now providing them and their families with the beginnings of prosperity, and lives of deep satisfaction as farmers in Israel.

#### AZIZ: ISRAEL IS THE MAIN ENEMY

PARIS, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- Iraqi Deputy Premier Tarek Aziz said here today he regretted that his country had to wage war against Iran and stressed that the main struggle for Iraq was against "Zionism."

The Iraqi envoy, who came here to present his country's views to President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, said the conflict against Iran would continue until Iraq could recover sovereignty of its territories "usurped" by the Iranians who violated the 1975 Algiers agreements. "Our soldiers wish to return home rapidly and prefer to fight against Israel," the minister said.

Asked if Iraq accepted mediation offers to end the conflict, the minister said: "Yes, from everyone except from Israel and from the United States which we consider as an enemy of the Arab people."

#### SOLARZ: NO ROOM IN THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS FOR A MEMBER OF THE KKK

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-NY) announced that he will lead a move in the Democratic Caucus to prevent the Democratic Party from giving any campaign assistance to Tom Metzger, the Democratic candidate for the House of Representatives in San Diego's 43rd Congressional District. Metzger, the president of the California chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, has called for the expulsion of all Jews from the U.S. because they are "parasites."

"There is room in the Democratic Party for moderates, conservatives, and liberals; for people who favor public funding of abortions, and for people who don't; for people who support a balanced budget and for people who don't. But there is no room in the Democratic Party for someone who resurrects the banners of racist calumny and slanders entire races and creeds," Solarz said.

"Since Mr. Metzger has chosen the path of defamation, inflammatory remarks and derogatory statements, he would seem to have little regard for either the Constitution or laws of the United States," Solarz said, "and thus has no claim to the support or assistance of the Democratic Party."

Solarz pledged that if Metzger is elected to the Congress, he will lead a battle to expel him from the Democratic Caucus. Solarz's effort is viewed as significant since the Democratic Caucus assigns committee seats and seniority to Democratic members.

#### U.S. SUSPENDS DELIVERIES OF MARINE ENGINES INTENDED FOR IRAQ

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- The State Department announced today that it has suspended delivery of six marine engines to Italy where they were to be installed in four frigates being built for the Iraqi navy. Originally, the General Electric Co., manufacturer of the engines, was to have delivered eight of them for about \$12 million. Two already have been shipped to Italy but General Electric has agreed not to deliver the others.

The State Department said that it stopped future deliveries in order to be "consistent" with President Carter's position against taking sides in the Iraqi-Iranian war and "because of the current hostilities, we do not think a business as usual position should be followed." The State Department added that it will "review this postponement at an appropriate later moment."

The Department's action was hailed by members of both major parties in Congress who long have been opposed to the shipment of military equipment to Iraq which the Carter Administration has officially described as a "terrorist" nation.

Sen. Richard Stone (D-Fla.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on the Middle East, declared that "Iraq is a country that supports international terrorism and instigated the present fighting with Iran which is a threat to the stability of the region and to international oil supplies. This sale should never have been approved in the first place and should be permanently revoked now."

Rep. Millicent Fenwick (R-NJ) called the suspension of deliveries a "welcome and prudent first step." She added, "It would have been better if the Administration held up the licenses long before the present conflict broke out."

#### KOLLEK: JERUSALEM'S UNIFICATION ALMOST AS IMPORTANT AS FOUNDING OF THE STATE

MONTREAL, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem declared here that Jerusalem will always be the capital of Israel, that its unification was almost "as important as the founding of the State of Israel itself" and that the city has been "comparatively peaceful" despite considerable tension there.

Addressing an audience of 1000 people at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel Tuesday night, organized by the Allied Jewish Community Services with the Canadian Jewish Congress and the United Israel Appeal, Kollek said Jerusalem was a "success story" and "will remain the capital of Israel no matter how many countries move their embassies from the city."

But, he warned, "If we want to be a strong nation we have to give everyone the same chances. If we want to keep Jerusalem as one city, we have to give the same chance to the Arabs and the Christians as to the Jews. If we don't, what are we going to say if they try to divide us again?" Kollek stressed that Israel would never bow to outside pressure, and added, "We want to do things right because of our own conscience, not because someone is forcing us."

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

**RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT FOUNDER STILL GOING STRONG AT THE AGE OF 99**

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Sept. 25 (JTA) - Last June 11, one of the most influential scholars in the history of Judaism, Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, reached the age of 99. Though he had formally retired from an active role as teacher and public speaker in 1977, Kaplan continues to give lectures and greets a steady stream of visitors at the home of his second wife in Jerusalem where he has lived since settling in Israel.

(The founder of the Reconstructionist Movement made aliya seven years ago, bringing to at least a partial close an extraordinary career as scholar, educator, philosopher and author. He continued in Israel to make public appearances, one of the last formal ones -- according to Rabbi Ludwig Nadelmann, president of the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation -- as a speaker at a reception given for him by a visiting Reconstructionist study mission, in Jerusalem, in July 1977.

**Gala Reception On Nov. 22**

Nadelmann also told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the entire year between Kaplan's 99th and 100th birthdays would be celebrated as "Mordecai Kaplan Centennial Year." Nadelmann said the centennial year will be launched in the United States with a gala reception at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City on Nov. 22.

While specific plans remain to be completed, Nadelmann told the JTA, Kaplan and his second wife will come to the United States during the centennial year to be the honored guests at the Nov. 22 event. Nadelmann said one of four daughters by Kaplan's first marriage, Hadassah, was coordinating plans for the visit.

Nadelmann, reporting that he had last seen Kaplan in 1977, described Kaplan as mentally alert, though suffering from some of the physical disabilities associated with his advanced years. He is recovering from a broken hip suffered in a fall.

In his something less than total retirement, Nadelmann said, Kaplan is still regularly sought out by visitors to Israel, including the hundreds of rabbis and Jewish teachers who studied in his classes at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in Manhattan, where he taught for more than half a century. He was ordained at the JTS in 1902 as a Conservative rabbi.

**History Of Struggle**

His ideological history is one of a struggle between the Orthodox beliefs he was taught and by which he lived, until he decided that such a Jewish outlook was incompatible with the outlook of Jews born and raised in the unique freedom of American life. Out of that struggle, the Reconstructionist philosophy emerged.

Kaplan was described in the June 1980 issue of "The Reconstructionist," the movement's organ which he helped found, "as the one man who has taught at least three generations of Jews how to think about Judaism in the modern world."

The editorial declared that "the century which Rabbi Kaplan's life has spanned has been, for the world at large and for the Jewish people in particular, an extraordinary one." In 1881, the Czarist regime issued its May Laws, "cruel edicts which caused a tidal wave of Jewish emigration

to the new world." Kaplan, born in Swenziany, Lithuania in 1881, was one of those thousands of Jews.

"Perhaps no man ever became more obsessed with a cause than he: for him, the cause was the survival of the Jewish people, physically, spiritually, culturally. From heder to yeshiva, from public school to university, from the Jewish Theological Seminary to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, he clung to his single purpose, the reconstruction of Judaism for the Twentieth Century," the editorial added.

The editorial disclosed that Kaplan had suppressed a temptation "to develop his talent as a sculptor" and forced himself "to turn a deaf ear to the seductive sounds of music -- unless from art and music and drama he might draw strength for his battle against the steady disintegration of Jewish life."

**Developed Some Basic Concepts**

Among the basic concepts he developed and taught and wrote about for more than half a century were the idea of the organic Jewish community -- an American version of the European self-governing Jewish community (kehilla) -- and the definition of Judaism as a religious civilization, with its spiritual center in Israel.

Denounced by the Orthodox, who put him in herem (excommunication), a somewhat less than drastic ban in the open society, Kaplan has responded in his own unruffled way to those who have honestly differed with him.

The editorial predicted that, in the coming months, "much will be written and spoken about Dr. Kaplan's writings, his ideas -- even his opponents concede he asked the right questions -- the answers he offered, the influence of his thinking and writing, and the nature of the Reconstructionist Movement to which they gave rise."

**Stimulated Thinking In Non-Orthodox Forums**

Kaplan originally developed Reconstructionism not as another branch of Judaism but as a stimulation to thinking in non-Orthodox forums. His ideas have profoundly influenced Reform and Conservative Judaism. But the pressures for change which his teachings generated led to the crystallization of the movement in its own institutions.

One was the Society for the Advancement of Judaism (SAJ), the pilot Reconstructionist congregation in Manhattan, which Kaplan founded and served as rabbi even while continuing his teaching duties at the JTS and his busy schedule of writing and lecturing.

Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, probably his foremost disciple, also served as rabbi at the SAJ then became president of the steadily growing Reconstructionist Movement and held that position for 20 years. Similarly, in response to persistent requests from Jews who came to consider themselves Reconstructionists and who wanted rabbi-taught in that philosophy, Kaplan founded the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia and taught at the college. Eisenstein is now the president of the Rabbinical College.

Kaplan's first wife, Lena, died in 1958. A year later he met and married his second wife, Rivka, a long-time Israeli. His first book, published in 1904, was titled, "A New Approach to the Problems of Judaism," and was followed by a steady stream of books and articles in which Kaplan developed his philosophy of Judaism.

Until recently, Kaplan directed seminars for Reconstructionist rabbinical candidates during their mandatory year of study in Israel.