

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Tuesday, October 7, 1980

No. 192

GERMAN JEWISH LEADER URGES CONCERTED ACTION AGAINST NEO-NAZISM

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- The chairman of West Berlin's Jewish community, the largest in Germany, urged West European leaders today to take coordinated, decisive action against the spread of neo-Nazi violence. The community leader, Heinz Galinski, made his statement in the aftermath of Friday's fatal bombing of a synagogue in Paris and the rash of rightwing terror in France, West Germany and Italy.

Galinski charged that the French authorities were too soft in dealing with anti-Semitism. He has been warning for some time against rightwing and leftwing terrorism in Europe. West German police have uncovered terrorist plots against him and other Jewish leaders.

Meanwhile, the authorities are continuing to investigate links between the outlawed neo-Nazi Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann and the Palestine Liberation Organization. But inasmuch as the Bonn government is trying to woo the Arab states and the PLO, no official revelations are expected. Until now, disclosures about the Hoffmann group's relations with the PLO have been confined to the media.

It has reportedly sold trucks and other equipment to the PLO. Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, leader of the Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann, visited Damascus last July for talks with PLO officials, according to reports. Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Christian Democrats and Premier of Bavaria, who was defeated yesterday in the national elections for Chancellor, revealed last week that Col. Muammar Qaddafi of Libya has made undisclosed sums of money available to Hoffmann and his supporters.

JOINT U.S.-ISRAELI MILITARY DIALOGUE RESUMES; TALKS REPORTEDLY CENTER ON U.S.-ISRAELI MILITARY RELATIONS

By Yitzhak Shviril

TEL AVIV, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- Gen. David Jones, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, left Israel this morning after a one-day visit in which he conferred with Premier Menachem Begin in his capacity as Defense Minister and Israel's top military brass. A total news blackout was imposed on the discussions that apparently centered around U.S.-Israeli military relations.

According to informed sources, their dialogue was limited to an exchange of assessments on the military situation in the region but there were no concrete expressions on strategic cooperation such as has developed between the U.S. and Egypt.

Jones' visit, which followed by four days the visit of U.S. Undersecretary of Defense Robert Komer, represented a resumption of the regular joint military dialogue between the U.S. and Israel that was postponed by the U.S. a month ago. Israeli sources believe the visits by Komer and Jones were intended to mollify critics in Israel and the U.S. who have charged that American military cooperation with Egypt is growing at the expense of Israel.

The discussions yesterday were held between Jones and his aides and Israeli General Headquarters staff officers. Jones received short briefings from Chief of Army Intelligence Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, Navy Commander Gen. Zeev Almog, and Air Force Commander Gen. David Ivri. A detailed assessment of the Iraqi-Iranian war is said to have been among the topics discussed. Jones met with Begin later in Jerusalem.

The joint talks are expected to be continued in Washington next month. Jones said he would visit Israel again in December and spend the Christmas holidays here but he declined to elaborate on the nature of that visit.

Neither the Americans nor the Israelis who participated in the talks yesterday would confirm or deny whether the questions of a U.S.-Israeli mutual defense pact or joint maneuvers between the two countries were among the subjects discussed.

Jones, who was greeted with full military honors on his arrival by Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eytan, declined an invitation to visit the Galon Heights. However, after his briefings he was taken by helicopter to an Israel Air Force base and was then flown to watch large-scale exercises by the combined services in the southernmost region of the Negev and in Sinai. An army spokesman said later that the American military chief was visibly impressed. Last night, Jones was guest of honor at a military reception given by Eytan who was his official host.

TWO EXILED WEST BANK MAYORS GIVEN RIGHT TO RETURN TO APPEAL SENTENCE

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin gave his approval today to the return from exile of two West Bank mayors to allow them to appeal against their expulsion, a military spokesman announced here. The two mayors, Mouhamad Milhem of Halhouth and Fated Kawasme of Hebron, were deported last May after Palestinian terrorists killed six Jewish yeshiva students in Hebron. The Israeli authorities charged the two banished mayors with incitement against the Jewish State.

According to today's announcement, Begin's decision opens the way for the two mayors to appear before a special military appeals board. The Supreme Court recently criticized the government for refusing to let the two mayors appeal to the military board prior to their expulsion.

The military board, the spokesman said today, will now have to set a date for the hearing. He said the two mayors will be allowed to return to their homes if the board decides on their behalf. But if the earlier decision is upheld, "the two would probably have to get out of the West Bank immediately," the spokesman said.

AUTONOMY TALKS TO BE RESUMED 'FORMALLY' NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- Discussions will be resumed "formally" on West Bank-Gaza autonomy starting on an unspecified date next week in Washington, the State Department said today. The announcement appeared to contradict official Egyptian reports that the talks will be resumed here Oct. 14, but only to discuss "modalities" on how to

proceed with the negotiations that Egypt broke off in August.

Confronted with these differences of view on a subject of broad interest in the Presidential campaign, State Department spokesman John Trittner insisted that the talks are "formal." He emphasized "Yes" when asked if the talks would mark a "formal resumption" of negotiations. He named as the participants the heads of the three delegations -- U.S. special ambassador Sol Linowitz, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal-Hassan Ali, and Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg.

In this connection, Trittner volunteered that the Iraqi-Iranian hostilities "underscore the very great importance of moving as quickly as possible to resolution of other disputes that are potential sources of conflict. It makes it all the more essential we vigorously pursue our efforts of trying to bring about in the Middle East peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors, a just resolution of the Palestinian problem and security for Israel. We plan to do just that next week."

Trittner's statement came in the context of questions about Secretary of State Edmund Muskie's conversations in New York last week with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal. The Minister said yesterday in a CBS national television broadcast that "The PLO, if there is a peaceful settlement, has to be brought into the picture."

View Of Saudi Arabia

Trittner refused to say if any change has taken place in Saudi Arabia's opposition to the Camp David process in view of the U.S. supplying the Saudis with sophisticated aircraft and other military equipment and American personnel to operate it. He noted, however, "We have made it clear we would like to widen the peace process in the Middle East to include as many of the directly affected or closely interested parties as we can -- as can be included."

Last Friday, in one of his toughest statements on Israel, Saud told the United Nations General Assembly that in order to "free Jerusalem from the grip of racist Zionism," Moslems and Christians must conduct an all-out holy war and endorsed an Arab move to suspend Israel from the General Assembly.

Inasmuch as the State Department last week said it regarded the autonomy talks and the Iraqi-Iranian war as unrelated, Trittner was asked why he was now relating the events in his volunteered remarks. He replied, "I don't see any organic relationship between the war and autonomy." At another point, Trittner said he has not "seen tangible concrete results" of Arab states bending toward the Camp David process as a result of the war. He denied that the U.S. has tilted toward the Arab position in the Iraqi-Iranian hostilities.

Despite the transfer of men and equipment to Saudi Arabia, Trittner said the "U.S. clearly has stated its position. It is not taking sides in the conflict between Iraq and Iran." He noted that "we did urge" the Persian Gulf states last week to "remain and continue on a neutral course."

Trittner reserved comment on Jordanian King Hussein's identification with Iraq and his possible transfer of U.S. military equipment to Iraq.

Reaction To Paris Synagogue Bombing

In another development, the State Department spokesman said the terrorist attacks on Jews

in Paris did not constitute a "setback" to the autonomy talks but that "the tragedy" in Paris represented "trying to settle by violence what can only be resolved by negotiations."

He declined to condemn any organization. "We are not condemning any group," he said. "We don't have a lot of really good information on who is responsible for these things."

HIAS MARKS CENTENARY IN ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- HIAS is celebrating its centenary by holding its annual "specialists conference" for the first time in Israel. Some 40 HIAS professionals from its offices and operations around the world will take part in closed-door discussions here this week on the refugee outlook in world trouble-spots during the 1980s.

The conference is expected to highlight once again the ongoing rancor between HIAS on the one hand and the Jewish Agency/World Zionist Organization on the other over Soviet Jewish emigrants who do not continue on to Israel. Indeed, it was this issue which dominated a question and answer session here yesterday between local reporters and HIAS' president Edwin Shapiro.

Shapiro was careful not to speak antagonistically about the Jewish Agency. On the contrary, he offered lavish praise for the Agency officials working in difficult physical and psychological conditions at the Vienna transit point. But he did speak of "distortions" in the Israeli media reflecting on HIAS' work and image, and, when pressed, acknowledged that some Israeli and Agency officials had sought to "wash dirty linen in public."

HIAS considered this tendency "divisive and destructive" for world Jewry and for Israel, Shapiro said. Since he had taken office as president he had tried to ease the tension, Shapiro implied. "We do not seek to lower ourselves," he remarked, by engaging in public vituperation instead of healthy and necessary debate over policies.

Will Make New Proposals

Shapiro said new proposals regarding arrangements at Vienna would be presented at the forthcoming Jewish Agency Board of Governors meeting -- but these would certainly not call for the closing of any HIAS facility. There might be some marginal cutback on office staff, but the HIAS service would continue in Vienna.

Shapiro stressed repeatedly that HIAS in its policies and actions was not alone, but was the executive arm of organized American Jewry in the field of refugee work. Policies were laid down by the Jewish leadership as a whole, not by HIAS individually.

Shapiro said HIAS fully subscribed to what he said were Premier Menachem Begin's own priorities for Soviet emigration: the primary obligation of world Jewry is to get Soviet Jews out in as large numbers as possible; to get as many as possible to go to Israel; and to facilitate family reunion in whichever Western country part of a family is living.

There was a good deal of HIAS-Jewish Agency cooperation regarding Soviet Jewish emigration, much of it unknown publicly, Shapiro said. He said he hoped for "more excellency" on the part of the Agency in Vienna and more close cooperation in the future. Seven top HIAS leaders will meet with Begin during this week, presumably to review the dropout issue and to discuss other delicate areas in which HIAS and Israel work closely together.

ARABS THWARTED IN MOVE TO LEGITIMIZE PLO IN WORLD BANK, IMF

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6 (JTA) — The industrial democracies in the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) successfully blunted the drive of the Arab states to win legitimacy for the Palestine Liberation Organization and to achieve additional authority in the governing of the two fiscal institutions as their annual meetings concluded here Friday.

Decisions made on issues growing out of the PLO bid were: selection of a committee of nine governors to examine the complaint of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait that the voting which blocked the PLO's entry as an observer to the meetings was illegal; the institutions' executive boards are to recommend possible changes in the bylaws to avert future complications regarding observers; negotiations that may take several years are to be held on demands by the two dozen Arab countries and their Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) allies, known as "Group 24," for more voting power.

As these decisions developed, the threats over the PLO issue by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to cancel contributions to the World Bank and IMF not only receded but actually evolved into support for the proposed establishment by the Bank of an "energy affiliate" to help oil-importing developing countries economically battered by the steep and continuing increases in petroleum prices.

Satisfied With Proceedings Against The PLO

"We regard the proceedings against the PLO were successful," a Bank Governor of a Western country remarked when asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency how he viewed the circumstances. Asking not to be identified, the Governor noted that the subcommittee of nine named to look into the legal aspects of the rejection of the PLO consists of the eight countries that split evenly on the issue last year but now includes Sweden which voted last month for the U.S. resolution that resulted in barring the PLO.

The Arabs had charged that extending the vote on the resolution from Sept. 9, when allegedly a quorum was not available, to Sept. 19 when it was, constituted an illegal process. The resolution limited observers to this year's meetings to those listed in 1979.

Besides Sweden, this committee includes Belgium, France, West Germany and New Zealand which backed the quorum decision, and Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria and Yugoslavia which opposed it. The group will submit its findings to the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF by Jan. 31. Kurt Eklof, Sweden's IMF Governor, told JTA "Sweden is traditionally very neutral" and "at present, I cannot say anything on the position Sweden will take."

Recommendations To Be Drafted

Meanwhile, the executive bodies of the two institutions will draft recommendations for submission by March 1 to the Governing Boards on possible changes in the bylaws regarding observers and the power of the chairman of the annual meetings on invitations. Tanzania's Finance Minister, Amir Jamal, had "disinvited" all observers on the 1979 list because the PLO was not legitimized. The Governors found they could not reverse him.

Regarding the demands by the ministers of the "Group of 24" for more power, which if granted would result in less voting strength for others among the 140 IMF members and 135 in the Bank, the decision was for "negotiations" that IMF specialists said would continue at least for the next two years and possibly into 1985. Voting power is determined by financial output. The U.S. leads with 21 percent; the United Kingdom is next with 11 percent; and Germany, Japan and France follow. The "G-24" have 38 percent and want 45 percent. Cuts in the authority of other countries would entail acute political decisions.

Indicating abandonment of threats to diminish support, Sheikh Mohammad Abal-Khail, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Finance and National Economy, told the Governors "We are fully prepared to participate with others in a discussion to look into all aspects of the proposal" by outgoing Bank and IMF president Robert McNamara for an "energy affiliate" to help poorer countries with energy problems. McNamara suggested a pool of \$25 billion for this purpose.

Earlier, U.S. Treasury Secretary G. William Miller said he did not think the PLO issue would result in unwillingness by the oil cartel parties to participate in the larger financing. Saying "there is a cooperative attitude and good will all around," Miller invited Saudi and American business leaders to the U.S. Treasury to discuss business investment opportunities in Saudi Arabia.

Israel Pledges Support To Poor Countries

Arron Gafny, Governor of the Bank of Israel, pledged Israel's support to poor countries. He told the plenary: "As in the past, we stand ready to share our experience and technology with other developing countries and with international and regional development institutions."

He noted that "despite stringent constraints in terms of capital, arable land and water, Israel has, with the help of World Bank financing, developed its agriculture over the past two decades to the point of becoming a net exporter, instead of a net importer, of food. In view of our problems, the technologies developed place emphasis on high output with minimum capital investment, and have therefore proven to be particularly suitable" for the needs of developing countries.

Referring "regretably" to the PLO issue, Gafny said the Bank and the IMF had observed by "an unwritten agreement" the "letter and spirit" of their rules, "saving the meetings from political issues" by barring the PLO. "The PLO does not meet any" of the "criteria" for observer status, he said. "Only a firm stance against the introduction of extraneous political elements jeopardizing the form and substance of the bank and fund functions will enhance the best interests of the international community as a whole."

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The newly appointed 20-member U.S. Intergovernmental Advisory Council on Education constitutes "a unique opportunity" to help advance learning and training of America's youth, according to Rabbi Abraham Shemlov, the lone Jewish member of the group. "I hope the Council will be active and not a passive paper organization," the Lubavitcher rabbi said after the Council was sworn in last week at the White House. "With good will and cooperation, it can be made to work and help improve America's educational processes." Shemlov is director of the American Friends of Lubavitch and regional head of the Lubavitcher movement in Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware. His office is in Philadelphia.

TRIAL OF ALLEGED NAZI COLLABORATOR ADJOURNED UNTIL OCTOBER 15

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- The denaturalization trial of Wolodymir Osidach has been adjourned until Oct. 15 due to his hospitalization with chest pains. The 76-year-old Osidach, who is accused of concealing his collaboration with Nazi forces occupying the Ukraine in order to enter this country and obtain citizenship, has had a history of heart problems.

Before the trial adjourned last week in Federal District Court here, the prosecution had completed its case which included eyewitness testimony on Osidach's role as police chief in the Ukrainian village of Rawa Ruska, it was reported by David Gross, editor of the Jewish Exponent. Gross' report was compiled with the daily courtroom aid of staff writer Robert Cohen and staff intern Marc Sugaman. Witnesses had been brought from Israel, Canada, and the United States, and on videotape from the Soviet Union.

The defense, which opened its case Sept. 25, maintains that Ukrainian police were only responsible for keeping order in the non-Jewish part of Rawa Ruska. According to defense attorney Louis Konowol, they never entered the ghetto, never rounded up Jews, never herded them to cattle cars for transport to the death camp at Belzec or guarded the slave laborers who turned the Jewish cemetery into paving material.

Witness For The Defense

As its first witness, the defense called Petro Mirchuk, a retired Ukrainian political science professor who himself survived three years in Auschwitz and has been honored by the Philadelphia Association of Jewish New Americans and the local Jewish Identity Center for his book, "In the German Mills of Death: Jewish collaborators, not Ukrainian policemen like Osidach, assisted the Nazis in 'beating, torturing and murdering the Jewish population," he testified.

Mirchuk contended that evidence to the contrary was the result of "Jewish brainwashing." "At one point, I thought Ukrainian police might have helped transport Jews," he said, "but I was brainwashed by Jewish literature, and since that time I have changed my thinking."

Under cross-examination by Justice Department attorney Rodney Smith, however, Mirchuk admitted to have done no research about the treatment of Jews by the Ukrainian police and that he knew nothing specifically about Rawa Ruska. He also conceded that he had leapt to the defense of his friend Osidach without knowing the charges against him. Both Mirchuk and Osidach were members of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists.

Mirchuk defended Osidach, he said, because he felt that the U.S. government, in league with "my enemy" the Soviet Union, was inciting "hysteria" against Ukrainians. He said he wanted to clear the Ukrainian community's name before another "holocaust" began.

Mirchuk also had some advice for the Jewish community. "We are all Americans," he said. "We have our own problems now. We should leave the past alone, whatever happened."

Attempt To Impeach Testimony

The defense also tried to impeach the testimony of Shlomo Altschuler, one of the Israeli witnesses against Osidach. In his testimony, Altschuler had stated that he had never been in-

terviewed about Osidach. When he was shown a 1977 Philadelphia Daily News article based on an interview with him, he said he couldn't recollect the incident.

The defense called Daily News reporters Frank Dougherty and Stuart Bykowsky in an effort to challenge Altschuler's credibility. The matter was of some importance, Federal District Court Judge Louis Bechtle indicated, because "if Altschuler's testimony is to be believed, it is likely to be sufficient to allow a ruling in favor of the government."

Osidach and his wife were expected to have taken the stand as the defense's final witnesses. He had already been on the stand as a prosecution witness and had been excused from all other court sessions because of his health. While he was in court, he was attended at all times by a physician and a nurse. Osidach was taken to a local hospital, but defense attorney Konowol requested the judge not to release its name.

Interesting Aspect Of The Case

One interesting aspect of the case was the defense effort to show that one of the prosecution's witnesses, whose deposition taken in Sarasota, Fla., was admitted into evidence, was himself a "worker" for the Nazi secret police. Two government witnesses, videotaped in the Soviet Union, identified Miroslav Stasiu, who deposed under the name of Jaroslaw Tesarowycz that Osidach commanded the Ukrainian police in Rawa Ruska, as a "worker of the Gestapo criminal police."

The defense showed reporters a May 23, 1980 deposition in which Stasiu admitted entering the U.S. in the 1950s using an assumed name. He also admitted failing to provide immigration officials with complete information about his wartime activities and failing to admit being arrested in the 1930s for Ukrainian nationalist activities.

Neal Sher, deputy director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations and chief prosecution attorney, refused to discuss any of the allegations made against Stasiu. He also declined to indicate whether Stasiu was under investigation for possible immigration violations.

During the two weeks that the Osidach trial has been going on, considerable hostility has built between the local Jewish and Ukrainian communities. While Judge Bechtle has strictly enforced courtroom decorum, threatening to have spectators removed after the one outburst that occurred in court, several confrontations have taken place in the crowded hallways.

BOMBING SEEN AS CRIMINAL VENDETTA

TEL AVIV, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- Police investigating the booby-trap explosion that killed three people and injured six in the Givatayim post office yesterday believe it may have been the result of a criminal vendetta even though the Palestine Liberation Organization claimed that "Palestinian warriors" were responsible.

Funeral services were held today for two postal clerks, Aharon Amiga, 53 and Avraham Joseph, 54, who were killed when a parcel containing a wired hand grenade exploded, wrecking part of the post office. Amiga was the father of nine children and Joseph the father of eight. The third fatality was a woman whose name has not been released. Last night police detained a man suspected of having mailed the parcel.

There will be no Bulletin dated Oct. 13 due to Columbus Day, a postal holiday.