

JTA daily news bulletin

Copyright © 1980 by Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Monday, December 1, 1980

No. 228

NEO-NAZIS DRAW SUSPENDED SENTENCES

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Three neo-Nazi activists received suspended sentences from a Hamburg court for a violent attack on left-wing demonstrators protesting their anti-Semitic activities. The sentences ranged from six months to four years imprisonment. Two other defendants were fined 1800 Marks each. All had been charged with breach of the peace.

The four year suspended sentence was imposed on Michael Kuehnen, the self-proclaimed "Fuehrer" of the group. He is a former West German army officer who has been leading right-wing organizations that maintain close contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In another development, a West Berlin federal court is continuing open hearings on the complaint by Karl-Heinz Hoffmann against the government's ban on the so-called "Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann", a neo-Nazi para-military organization that he heads. The group, which masqueraded as a sports club, was outlawed last January on grounds that its activities were in violation of the constitution.

One of its members was named by police recently as the person responsible for the fatal Oktoberfest bombing in Munich. It was disclosed at that time the members of the Hoffman group attended a military training program at PLO installations in Lebanon. Hoffman himself visited Beirut and Damascus, Syria several times in recent months.

YITZHAK SHARGIL OF JTA DEAD AT 53

TEL AVIV, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Yitzhak Shargil for more than 20 years the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's correspondent in Tel Aviv, died here today of a massive heart attack. He was 53. Shargil was also an editor of Israel's largest daily, Yediot Achronot. Burial services will be held in Tel Aviv tomorrow afternoon.

Shargil had been ill with pneumonia for the past three weeks but recovered and returned to work this morning. Stricken while driving home, he managed to bring his car to a safe stop. Police rushed to his aid and a Red Mogen David ambulance took him to Ichilov Hospital where he died.

Shargil joined the JTA in the mid-1950s. His specialty was military affairs but he also covered stories dealing with political, economic and social developments and was a master of the "human interest" angle. His contacts within Israel's armed services enabled him to keep close tabs on military matters. He performed his reserve duty in recent years in the office of the military spokesman. During the past ten years, Shargil kept a telex in his home to keep him abreast of late breaking stories.

BEGIN MULLS BAN ON CONGRESS OF ISRAELI ARABS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin is being urged to exercise his

authority as Defense Minister to ban the "Arab Congress" scheduled to meet in Nazareth next Saturday. The Congress was initiated by elements of Israel's Arab population -- as distinct from the Arabs in the occupied territories -- to give expression to their political aspirations.

Begin's advisor on Arab affairs, Binyamin Gur-Arye, has recommended legal measures to prevent the gathering and, if necessary, restrictions on the movements of its organizers, most of whom are members of the Communist Party. Government circles believe the Congress is a tool of the Communist Party aimed at creating a new body among Israeli Arabs that would be in effect a separate national entity within Israel.

The Congress organizers have formulated three targets: an end to the "policy of oppression" in the occupied territories; equal rights for Israeli Arabs, specifically the abolition of several allegedly anti-Arab laws; and the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside of Israel. They adhere to the position of the 1974 Arab summit conference that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and claim that the Israeli Arabs are an integral part of the Palestinian people.

Knesset Liberals Oppose Congress

At the same time, they insist that "the PLO does not represent Israel's Arabs." They maintain that Israeli Arabs have their own representative bodies, most prominently the Committee of Arab Mayors and the Committee for the Protection of Arab Land. Both are guided by the Communist Party but include representatives of non-Communist elements. The organizers of the Congress say its purpose is to rally Jews and Arabs against the government's policies in the name of Jewish-Arab understanding.

Opposition to the Congress has emerged in liberal quarters of the Knesset. Amnon Rubinstein, a prominent civil rights advocate and Shmuel Toledano, an advisor on Arab affairs to Labor-led governments, share the view held in government circles. Both believe that if the Congress is permitted to take place it will engulf moderate Arabs and openly identify with the PLO.

However, Rubinstein and Toledano are opposed to a legal ban. They have recommended that the authorities quietly persuade moderate Arabs to boycott the Congress. If it turns out to be little more than a Communist gathering, its repercussions on Arab-Jewish relations will be less harmful, they say.

Government circles believe that an outright ban would be more effective. Begin, as Defense Minister, would merely have to invoke the emergency regulations held over from the British Mandate regime. It is agreed however that whatever action he takes could determine the course of Israel's relations with its Arab population for some time to come. Gen.(res) Matityahu Peled of the leftist Sheli faction warned, "If they ban the Congress, they will set the stage for much more extreme elements next to which the Communists will seem moderate." The organizers themselves said if the Congress is banned they would not be able to control the angry reactions of the Arab population.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY CHIEF PLEDGES EVEN COURSE ON MIDDLE EAST

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Michael Foot, newly elected leader of Britain's opposition Labor Party, made a strong call for friendship between Britain and Israel here and especially between Socialists in both countries last night. Addressing a dinner of the Labor Friends of Israel, he offered his first comments on Middle East matters in many years.

It was intended to reassure Labor's influential pro-Israel lobby that although he is a left-winger on economic matters he does not share the anti-Israel bias of several other left-wingers. Nevertheless, he made clear that he would steer an even course between Israeli and Arab positions. He described the Palestine conflict as one between "two rights", adding that such conflicts can be more dangerous than those between a right and a wrong.

Foot criticized the Venice Declaration of the European Economic Community (EEC). British support for that declaration, he said, showed that the Foreign Office was suffering from short-sightedness reminiscent of the last days of the British Mandate in Palestine which were "a very dark blot" on the record of the post-war Labor government. It was not clear, however, whether he was criticizing the Venice Declaration because it stressed the need to involve the Palestine Liberation Organization in negotiations. Indeed, he added ambiguously that the Venice statement contained "other features" which, he implied, were not reprehensible.

Clues to Foot's thoughts on the Middle East were contained in a speech by Peter Shore, the shadow Foreign Secretary, with which Foot said he agreed completely. Shore said that in their talks in Luxembourg this Monday and Tuesday, the EEC ministers should look at Middle East issues in a broad spectrum and not just concentrate on the Palestine issue. He contrasted the Persian Gulf war and the chaos in the Arab world with the peace between Israel and Egypt, which he called "one of the great achievements of the last few years and a model of what can be achieved."

But he also warned Israel not to take the Arab disarray as an excuse for stalling the search for a solution of the Palestinian problem. Israel had no right to rule the West Bank and Gaza Arab people who had a right to govern themselves, just as Israel had a right to security, he said.

Sir Harold Wilson, the third speaker, criticized the Conservative government's Middle East policies, and said there had been a sharp deterioration in Anglo-Israeli relations since the Conservatives came to power 18 months ago. The former Prime Minister was confident that when Labor was returned to power, Anglo-Israeli relations would be restored to their previous harmony.

TOUGH PUNISHMENT URGED FOR ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALISM

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Law enforcement officials from New York City and surrounding counties agreed at a meeting here that strong measures must be taken to halt the increasing incidence of anti-Semitic vandalism

in the area. The consensus was that the incidents are isolated, show no organized pattern and often were the work of juveniles. But they were firm that vigorous prosecution and punishment must be imposed for their deterrent effects.

The meeting, held last week, was called by Attorney General Robert Abrams in response to a request from the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC), an umbrella group of 29 major Jewish organizations. It was attended by district attorneys, police chiefs and other law enforcement officials from the city, and from Westchester, Rockland, Nassau and Suffolk counties.

They discussed improving communications among the various crime-fighting agencies, sharing intelligence information and fostering cooperation to respond to vandalism and desecration of houses of worship and communal institutions as well as acts against individuals. They also discussed various legislative initiatives that would facilitate prosecution.

Rise In Arrests

In recent weeks there have been significant numbers of arrests particularly on Long Island but unlike past years, no major incidents occurred during the Halloween weekend because of special efforts by city and suburban police.

The officials outlined steps being taken including the establishment of special task forces and units to monitor anti-Semitism, patrol houses of worship, monitor courtroom hearings and crime prevention campaigns. Among the ideas suggested at the meeting were an educational campaign involving schools, churches and community groups and greater media exposure for arrests and prosecutions.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the JCRC, thanked the officials for their concern on behalf of the Jewish organizations. "The fact that this unprecedented meeting took place will serve notice to those who committed these acts as well as to community residents that the police and prosecutors are dealing in a forceful and serious way," he said.

N.Y. SYNAGOGUES VANDALIZED, ROBBED

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Police reported Friday that a Staten Island synagogue was smeared with swastikas and that a synagogue in Brooklyn was the target of a break-in and robbery, in the latest manifestations of anti-Semitic acts in New York State.

The Young Israel of Staten Island was daubed with the word "Jew" and with swastikas. In Brooklyn, Rabbi Joel Aschkenasy of the Ohav Zedek congregation reported that thieves broke into the synagogue through a basement window and stole prayer shawls and silver ornaments from Torah Scrolls of the synagogue. He estimated the loss at about \$5000.

RABBI YITZHAK HUTNER DIES AT 74

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Rabbi Yitzhak Hutner, a leading Orthodox educator and Talmudic sage, died here Friday at the age of 74. He was buried the same day on the Mount of Olives where his casket was brought on foot by pupils and admirers.

Rabbi Hutner was born in Poland of a distinguished rabbinic family. As a young man he published a learned work on the laws of the Nazirite which earned him the praise of leading Talmudic scholars. Later he settled in the U.S. with his family and founded the Rabbi Haim Berlin Yeshiva, one of New York City's leading schools of advanced Talmudic studies. Hutner also played a major role in Orthodox high school education in the U.S.

JEWISH LIFE IN PUERTO RICO DESCRIBED AT WOMEN'S PARLEY

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Nov. 30 (JTA) — The Jewish community of Puerto Rico has only two synagogues serving it, according to three delegates from Puerto Rico who attended the biennial convention of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism at the Concord Hotel here last week. The Jewish Community Center of Puerto Rico in Santurce, a Conservative synagogue, serves some 250 families and a small Reform congregation serves some 40 families, they reported.

The three delegates, Esther Low, Susy Kaiser and Ana Wagner, said the community center is affiliated with the United Synagogue and its Sisterhood is affiliated with the Women's League. Because the Jewish community in Puerto Rico is approximately 65 percent Cuban and 35 percent American, the Conservative synagogue is bilingual. Worship services are conducted alternately in Spanish and English and meetings are conducted in both languages.

As an example of the bilingual nature of their Jewish community, the delegates, who are members of the community center, brought with them for sale at the convention a cookbook entitled "Kosher Cooking in the Caribbean," with all recipes printed in both Spanish and English. Many of the recipes, such as arroz con pollo (chicken and rice), are of Spanish origin.

Jewish Activities Not Lacking

For the some 25 families that observe kosher, meat is ordered every several months and flown in from New York or Miami, the three delegates said. In San Juan, kosher frozen poultry and delicatessen products are always available in a supermarket. The Conservative synagogue, which they described as the center of Jewish life on the island, maintains a Jewish library and Dr. Israel Ganapolsky, a physician, is a certified mohel.

In some ways the Jewish community feels removed from the center of organized Jewry in America, the delegates noted, but there is no serious lack of Jewish activities. For the children, there is Hebrew school three times a week and a Young Judea club. In addition, to the Women's League and United Synagogue, the United Jewish Appeal, Israel Bonds, Hadassah and other organizations are active on the island.

The three delegates themselves reflect the varied backgrounds of the members of the Puerto Rico Jewish Community. Mrs. Kaiser is the wife of Rabbi Claudio Kaiser, who has been spiritual leader at the Jewish Community Center for the past year. He studied for the rabbinate at the Conservative Seminario in Argentina. They were both born in Peru, of German and Austrian parents who emigrated to Lima before World War II. Mrs. Low also grew up in Lima, but she is married to an American who works for the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration in Puerto Rico. By contrast, Mrs. Wagner, along with many other Jews, fled Cuba at the time of the Castro revolution.

CANADIAN HADASSAH-WIZO COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF ISRAEL, EGYPT

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Nov. 30 (JTA) — The Canadian Hadassah-WIZO leadership "People to

People Mission" which this correspondent accompanied in a 16 day tour of Israel and Egypt from Nov. 3-20 successfully combined new dedications of social and cultural institutions inside Israel with an in-depth examination of the political situation in both countries and the chances of improving peaceful relations between them.

Lead by Mirial Small, national president of Hadassah-WIZO, Cecily Peters, coordinator, and Lilly Frank, executive vice-president, the leadership mission visited the southern airfields to be handed back to Egypt; the development towns of Yamit and Ofakim as well as the "good fence" at the Lebanese border where it met with Maj. Saad Haddad, commander of Christian forces. It familiarized itself with the complex security problems facing Israel during the normalization period of relations with Egypt.

The Canadian Hadassah-WIZO mission dedicated a kindergarten for Druze children in the Druze village of Julis. Sheikh Kamel Tareef welcomed the delegation and stressed the loyalty of the Druze people to the State of Israel. Other dedications took place at Ramat Israel where the Rose Kanee Community Center was inaugurated in the presence of Shlomo Lahat, Mayor of Tel Aviv.

Received by Mrs. Sadat

The high school and vocational school of Magdiel where an Olympic-size sports and culture center was opened for the boy and girl students, represented another Hadassah-WIZO project made possible by the Kanee family of Winnipeg. At the Acre Youth Village where the Hadassah-WIZO of Canada supports a school for children from under-privileged families, the Krupp's Sports Center was inaugurated.

In Cairo, Mrs. Jihan Sadat, wife of President Anwar Sadat, received the Canadian mission and spoke warmly about the ongoing rapprochement process between the Egyptian and Israeli people. She expressed her hopes that Egypt's example will be soon followed by other Arab nations. A splendid Eskimo sculpture was presented to Mrs. Sadat by Mrs. Small as a token of friendship. The gift was graciously accepted.

Back to Jerusalem, the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO mission met with Mayor Teddy Krollak and president of the Hebrew University, Abraham Harman and heard briefings on the political situation from Knesset members Ora Namir, Shulamit Aloni, Geula Cohen, Roni Milo and Joseph Rom. The five MKs urged diaspora Jews to settle in Israel.

Ofira Navon, wife of President Yitzhak Navon, received the delegation at Beth Hannassi, the presidential residence. She thanked the Canadians for the tremendous support of Israel's social and cultural institutions. Mrs. Navon will visit Canada next January.

AMSTERDAM, (JTA) — Israel lodged a formal protest with Holland over the presence of two top Dutch Foreign Ministry officials at a Palestine Day reception here last Thursday, held by A.G.B. ambassadors. The Netherlands envoy to Israel, Iwan Verkeade, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem and asked to convey to his government Israel's "profound regret." Palestine Day, the anniversary of the November 29, 1947 partition resolution, was officially designated by the UN three years ago as a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people and their aspirations. Until this year, Holland had ignored the event, having voted against the original resolution in 1977. The Arab envoys advanced the date of the observance to Thursday because Saturday is an inappropriate time for a diplomatic fete.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**CABINET MINISTERS QUESTION LOYALTY OF CIVIL SERVANTS TO LIKUD GOVT.**

By Uri Ben-Ziman

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30 (JTA) — The civil service has twice recently been subject to sharp attacks from the Cabinet which it serves. The charge each time has been "disloyalty" on the part of civil servants towards the present government.

In September, when the Cabinet was formally asked to endorse the composition of the Israeli delegation to the UN General Assembly, several of the ministers pointedly questioned the Foreign Ministry staff's sense of identification with the government's policies. The first to voice this criticism was Commerce Minister Gideon Patt who claimed that Israel's representatives around the world do not support the government's views and consequently cannot defend its policies in the course of their political and diplomatic contacts.

Patt suggested a "reconsideration" of the personal composition of Israel's delegation to the UN Assembly. It comprised veteran ambassadors and other high-ranking Foreign Ministry staffers.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir diplomatically evaded the suggestion by arguing that there was no time for reshuffling the delegation and by reminding the Cabinet that the problem Patt was raising had been discussed a year earlier, and no specific decisions had been taken at that time. Premier Menachem Begin, however, observed that Shamir would do well to bear in mind Patt's remarks and to impress upon the UN mission members their duty to faithfully represent government policy. On his return from New York, Shamir made a point of praising the delegation members in his report to the Cabinet.

Political Interference Charged

A year earlier, the same suspicions and allegations concerning the "loyalty" of the Foreign Ministry civil servants and their ability to represent the government's policies were first voiced at the Cabinet. In May, 1979 the Cabinet was asked to endorse the nominations of some 20 diplomats to various posts in Israel Embassies in Europe and the U.S. Usually, Cabinet approval of such Foreign Ministry nominations is a formality. But on this occasion, Begin asked the Cabinet to withhold its confirmation. Begin argued that he is entitled to study the curriculum-vitae of the diplomats before sending them to their new posts.

Staffers at the Foreign Ministry reacted angrily that Begin was exercising unwarranted political interference in the civil service.

A week later the issue was discussed again at the Cabinet's weekly session and all the diplomats were approved. But the Prime Minister took the opportunity to express his views on the qualifications of the Foreign Ministry staff. He alleged that many of them are not purely professional diplomats but political nominees of past Labor Party administrations. He accused the Foreign Ministry diplomats in various Israeli Embassies of disloyalty to the present government.

Begin's accusation a year ago, and Patt's remarks just recently, impelled the Foreign Min-

istry employees union to protest by issuing tough statements against the attempts "to destroy their image and to smear them with accusations regarding Israel's failures in the international arena." In one case, the Foreign Ministry staff threatened to strike should the attacks continue.

Commerce Ministry Staff Accused

The criticism voiced on the Cabinet level against the civil service has not been limited to the Foreign Ministry. Cabinet Ministers had claimed time and again that the Finance Ministry senior staff do not support the government's economic policy and accused them of deliberately planting obstacles in the government's path. Commerce Minister Patt launched a verbal attack on his own subordinates, claiming that they are not entitled to differ from his policy. Patt's ire was raised because a memorandum composed by one of his officials, disagreeing with the Minister's decision on the value added tax policy, was leaked to the press.

Under the British Parliamentary system that exists in Israel, a change in government does not mean personnel changes in the civil service.

The law accords the civil service in the government ministries an independent status. The law regards government employees as a professional caste expected to serve the political level regardless of what party or policy is in power. A new minister is entitled to appoint only very close aides, according to his personal choice, i.e., his secretary, his bureau chief, his spokesman and the director general of the ministry. All the other appointments in each of the ministries are made in accordance with an administrative process involving a tender and an internal appointments committee. Formally, at least, every staffer has the same opportunity to compete for every available post.

However, during the 30 years of Labor's administration, many of the important posts in the public administration were manned by supporters of the leading political party. Labor and its coalition partners obeyed the formal rules, obliging them to open the senior jobs to free competition. But in practice they managed to man these posts, by and large with their own people.

This tendency gradually declined during the last years of Labor rule, and in some of the ministries a truly "British" civil service has in fact been established. Likud came to power in 1977. It was the first time that the governmental administration was subordinated to a new major political party. Begin and his ministerial colleagues declared that they would follow the British tradition by keeping the senior civil servants at their posts nevertheless. During its three years in office, the Likud has done its best to man senior and sensitive positions with its ideological supporters.

At the same time, Cabinet ministers and other coalition politicians have resorted to attacks on the civil service in those ministries where the new government failed to replace the manpower with its own followers. Thus, Likud has failed to live up to its own high-minded promises to emulate the grand British tradition of an apolitical civil service and has emulated, instead, the less lofty practices of its Labor predecessors.

VIENNA, (JTA) — Several thousand students marked Anti-Fascist Day at Austrian universities last week. They organized discussions and cultural programs, screened films and demanded a ban on neo-Nazi organizations and an amendment of the election law to prohibit fascist groups from participation in student government. The Supreme Court has ruled that all groups must take part in student government elections.