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ISRAEL ARRANGING TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN ALEXANDRIA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) — Israel has begun making arrangements to open a Consulate in Alexandria, Foreign Ministry sources said today. Israel's Ambassador to Cairo, Eliahu Ben-Elissar, dined last night with the Governor of Alexandria to discuss the plans.

The opening of Israel's first diplomatic installation in Egypt outside Cairo is reciprocal with President Anwar Sadat's proposal for Egyptian Consulates in Haifa and Beersheba, the two towns he visited in Israel.

Egypt's first Parliamentary delegation is due on an official visit to Israel later this month. Ten Parliamentarians will come, accompanied by a number of Egyptian journalists.

REPORT CAPUCCI WAS THE MAIN ARCHITECT OF THE EEC'S

'PEACE FORMULA' FOR JERUSALEM

By Lisa Palmieri Billig

ROME, Jan. 5 (JTA) — Hilarion Capucci, the former Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox (Greek Catholic) Church in East Jerusalem and the West Bank who served a term in an Israeli jail for smuggling weapons to Palestinian terrorists, was the main architect of the European Economic Community's (EEC) "peace formula" for Jerusalem, according to the Italian weekly, "Panorama."

Capucci, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's National Council, was recruited for the task by Msgr. Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican "Foreign Minister," who headed the team that drafted the EEC's Jerusalem proposals, "Panorama" said. They comprise one of the four chapters in the 30-page peace plan for the Middle East incorporated in the EEC heads of state Venice Declaration of last June.

Three Suggested Solutions

The contents of the documents are still secret. "Panorama" claimed that the Jerusalem chapter contains three suggested solutions for Jerusalem. They are, according to the magazine: "a return to the pre-1967 situation"; "a new plan for dividing the city under a joint Arab-Israeli administration"; "extraterritoriality for the holy places" similar to that of certain Vatican basilicas outside the Vatican walls in Rome. "Panorama" said of the latter that "in this manner, Jerusalem would have a religious administration and this, for the Vatican, would be the best choice."

Israeli security forces arrested Capucci on Aug. 18, 1974 on suspicion of aiding members of El Fatah. He was accused of acting as a liaison for the Fatah command in Lebanon and of bringing weapons and sabotage materials from Lebanon to terrorists on the West Bank.

On Dec. 9, 1974, Capucci was sentenced by a Jerusalem district court to a total of 59 years' imprisonment on six counts of smuggling arms to terrorists in Israel occupied territory, having contacts with terrorist organizations and serving illegal or-

ganizations. He was to have served a maximum of 12 years as the six sentences, pronounced by Judge Miriam Ben Porat were concurrent. However, Capucci served only 39 months of his sentence. He was released in 1977 through the personal intervention of Pope Paul VI. The Vatican agreed at the time to Israel's request that the cleric stay out of politics and never return to the Middle East.

Capucci did not honor that promise. In January, 1979, he appeared at the PLO's National Council conference in Damascus, to the acute embarrassment of the Vatican. The Holy See issued a statement at the time explaining that Capucci, who had been assigned to pastoral duties in Latin America, "made the trip to Damascus on his own initiative, without the authorization of the Holy See and without having previously informed the Holy See."

HURWITZ SUBMITS 'CONDITIONAL' RESIGNATION OVER DISPUTE ON PAY RAISES FOR TEACHERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) — Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz submitted a note of "conditional" resignation to Premier Menachem Begin during the Cabinet meeting yesterday. He said he would not hesitate to carry it out unless an acceptable compromise is reached in his dispute with Education Minister Zevulun Hammer over pay raises for teachers.

Hammer supports the raises, recommended by the Etzioni Commission. (See Jan. 5 Bulletin.) Hurwitz insists that no pledge be given the teachers beyond a promise to discuss their pay demands a year from now. He contends that raises for teachers would trigger wage demands in other sectors, leading to the collapse of his efforts to contain inflation. The Cabinet avoided a showdown on the issue yesterday when it instructed Hurwitz and Hammer to sit down with Begin "with a view to reaching an agreement."

Classes Suspended For One Hour

But neither minister had budged from his position today. The teachers meanwhile, accused the government of "footdragging" over their raises. Classes in all Israeli schools were suspended for one hour today while the teachers, on union orders, held staff meetings to protest the government's inaction. Union officials said tonight that there would be no further job actions. But both the elementary school and high school teachers' unions have filed formal notice of a "labor dispute." This entitles them, under law, to call a full-scale strike in 15 days.

Hurwitz reportedly wrote his resignation notice by hand during the weekly Cabinet session. Legal experts were uncertain as to whether it can be regarded as a formal letter of resignation. Apparently its purpose is to permit Hurwitz to leave the Cabinet if Begin decided to "go to the President" to submit the resignation of his government.

Israeli law does not permit a Cabinet member to resign from a "lame duck" or caretaker government that remains in office pending elections.

Political sources said the crisis would come to a head at next Sunday's Cabinet meeting unless Hurwitz, Hammer and Begin reach agreement on

the teachers' pay dispute. Most observers are not optimistic that they will.

Hammer met with teachers union officials this evening to report on some compromise formulas brought up at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. They were rejected out of hand by the teachers. Hammer, a leader of the National Religious Party (NRP), Likud's principal coalition partner, has indicated that he would resign if the pay hikes were not approved.

Hammer's close political ally, Yehuda Ben-Meir said today that the NRP would "have to think hard about the future of the government" if the Education Minister was forced to resign over the teachers pay issue. He noted, too, that the NRP was not consulted and had no part in Begin's current negotiations with the three-man Ahva faction which may enter the government if Hurwitz quits and pulls out his Rafi faction.

KISSINGER SAYS JERUSALEM SHOULD REMAIN UNITED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger toured the Old City with Mayor Teddy Kollek today. When pressed by reporters as to what he thought the future status of Jerusalem should be, he replied, "I think it should remain united" but would say no more.

Kissinger, who arrived in Israel on a private visit Saturday night, insisted that he is touring the Middle East to listen and not to make pronouncements. His trip is reported to have the approval of President-elect Reagan who he will serve as a special advisor on foreign policy matters in the new Administration.

Although his trip is unofficial, his schedule is that of an active diplomat. He met yesterday with Shimon Peres, chairman of the opposition Labor Party. He breakfasted this morning with another Labor Party leader, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

Following his Jerusalem tour, he had meetings with former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Kissinger also paid a courtesy call on President Yitzhak Navon and later met with a group of intellectual leaders. He will dine with members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee this evening and is due to leave for Saudi Arabia tomorrow on the next leg of his Mideast visit.

CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL IN PHILLY ELECTED CONSULAR ASSOCIATION HEAD

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Asher Naim, Consul General of Israel in Philadelphia, has been elected president of the Consular Association which represents all foreign consuls -- 33 nations -- in the city. Some people are pleased about Naim's election, others don't like it, according to a story in this week's Jewish Exponent.

Those who are pleased about his election include members of the Consular Association. They want the organization to be more active, and they believe that Naim will be a strong leader. Naim noted that as president of the Association "it gives me the opportunity to bring Israel to the fore. The president of the Consular Association is always invited to official events as the representative of the Consular corps."

But some people don't want to rub shoulders with representatives of Israel. Take, for instance,

the reaction of officials from the People's Republic of China at an otherwise festive occasion held last month in Independence Hall.

The event was the signing of a joint communiqué formalizing a "Sister City" relationship between Philadelphia and Tianjin. Mayor William Green and City Council President Joseph Coleman attended, as did Tianjin Vice Mayor Wu Zhen and representatives of China's Office of Foreign Affairs.

The Chinese delegation objected that a second event was scheduled to follow the "Sister City" signing. The second event featured the Israeli Consul making a presentation to Mayor Green on behalf of the diplomatic corps. Israel and China do not have diplomatic relations.

No one at City Hall knew quite what to do. Apparently, the Chinese delegation didn't want the Consular officials participating in the ceremony. Naim's presentation was called off, then on again.

In the end, about 100 consular officials and guests witnessed the "Sister City" signing. Over a dozen Chinese officials attended. There were smiles, toasts and applause as the documents were signed. Naim remained quietly in the back of the crowd.

The first ceremony concluded, Green escorted his Chinese guests from the Hall, then returned for the second ceremony. Green and Naim took the podium and the Consular officials drew up close.

"On behalf of the Consular corps," Naim said, "I bring you holiday greetings from our people and everyone present." Naim gave Green a recording of a Christmas Eve Mass in Bethlehem. Green replied: "I'm happy to accept this as a symbol of a friendship of the deepest kind that exist between people here and people in Israel." Green then presented Naim with a silver tray with an engraving of Independence Hall.

ANTON RAMSELAAR DEAD AT 81

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Msgr. Anton Ramselaar, for more than 30 years chairman of the Roman Catholic Council for Christians and Jews in Holland, has died at the age of 81. He was active in promoting better understanding by Catholics of Jews and of Israel. He visited Israel many times.

At Vatican Council II, Ramselaar made great efforts to promote better relations by the Roman Catholic Church toward Jews. He said the church contained "absolute prejudices" against Judaism and Israel. He said that by denying the roots of Christianity in Judaism and Jewish history, Christianity was creating a phantom with no relation to reality.

ARKIA PAYING PRICE FOR PEACE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Arkia, Israel's domestic airline that links Tel Aviv and Jerusalem with Eilat has been forced to re-route its flights and employ larger planes, as an indirect result of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. The changes were required because the Negev air space through which Arkia normally flies has been closed for two weeks for Air Force exercises.

The Air Force previously conducted its training maneuvers over Sinai. But with half the peninsula back in Egyptian hands and preparations underway to return the rest by next year, it has shifted them to the Negev. Arkia planes bound for Eilat now must fly out to sea before turning inland south of Rafiah on the Mediterranean coast. This adds 10 minutes to the flight. The number of flights has been reduced and larger aircraft are being used to provide the same number of seats.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF EAST GERMANY

By Rochelle Saidel-Wolk

(Part Two Of A Five-Part Series)

ALBANY, Jan. 6 (JTA) — When I visited the German Democratic Republic (GDR) for 10 days last October to study the Jewish community there, I often felt like Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland." The situation became "curiouser and curiously," as I realized I was facing that age-old unanswerable question: "Who is a Jew?"

According to Helmut Aris of Dresden, Chairman of the Association of Jewish Communities in the GDR, there are about 650 members registered in the eight Jewish Gemeinden (communities) of the GDR. (Dr. Peter Kirchner, head of the Berlin Gemeinde, used a figure of 550.)

About half of the total Jewish community is in the East Berlin Gemeinde, with the rest in Dresden, Karl Marx Stadt, Halle, Leipzig, Magdeburg, Mecklenburg and Thuringen. In East Berlin, Dresden and Leipzig, I spoke with the leaders of the Gemeinden and visited their headquarters, synagogues, cemeteries and memorial sites.

Unlike the United States, where organized Jewry counts "unaffiliated" Jews as part of the Jewish population, only voluntarily "registered" Gemeinde members are considered Jews in the GDR. "Otherwise, we would be following Hitler's racist theory," Aris and numerous State officials explained.

But if the "unaffiliated" Jews of the GDR were counted, as they are in America, the Jewish population would rise considerably. One Gemeinde official estimated the number to be as high as 8,000, with half that number in East Berlin.

Strong Identity With Judaism

Most of the "non-Jewish Jews" of the GDR presently consider themselves "Communists of Jewish descent." Ironically, most of these atheistic, high-ranking members of the Communist Party, not members of the Gemeinde, can be considered as authentic Jews. I met so many of these "non-Jewish Jews" that I half-jokingly asked if they were being trotted out on our behalf.

But many of the Communist leaders are in fact, "of Jewish descent." They were in the forefront of the Communist resistance movement in the 1930s, or became Communists in concentration camps or in exile during the war. Returning to the then Soviet sector of Germany in 1945, as Jews and Communists, their anti-fascist credentials were impeccable. When the GDR was proclaimed a nation in 1949, many of them assumed important position in the new Communist government.

While all those whom I met were proud of their Jewish heritage, they no longer considered themselves Jews. Among them were: the son and grandson of a Berlin rabbi who was jailed as a Communist from 1936 to 1939, then fled to Shanghai, now retired from his Ambassador-level position; a formerly traditional Jew from Silesia who became a Communist in British internment camps, now a deputy-general of the GDR radio; an information director for the Education Office, another who "converted" to Communism in a

British internment camp; a leader of the anti-fascist resistance movement who once lived in Palestine and still speaks Hebrew, now also a high official of GDR radio.

Even the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the State Secretary for Church Affairs each had one Jewish parent. And the list does not end here. The life story of every one of these individuals, and others whom I met, is incredible. Communism, to them, was the answer to their personal struggles against Hitler's fascism. Those who would condemn their choice might consider Hillel's advice: "Judge not your fellow man until you've been in his position." (Mishna; Abot, 2.)

Struggling To Maintain Jewish Tradition

But what about the Jews of the Gemeinde, that small minority of some 600 who are struggling to maintain Jewish identity and tradition? Aris said that about 65 percent of them are now 60 years old, and receiving pensions. As "victims of fascism," they are eligible five years earlier than other citizens, with female victims eligible at 55 and males at 60.

In Leipzig, for example, one sees the nearly total devastation of a once thriving and populous Jewish community. Before 1938, there were 18,000 Jews in Leipzig. With 14,000 murdered during the war and 3,000 escaping as emigrants, only 1,000 Leipzig Jews survived in Europe. Of these, 350 Gemeinde members — that is, one-third — returned to Leipzig in 1945-1946. Since then, the Jewish population has shrunk to 54. Of this number, 25 are above the age of 60; there are only five children. The death rate has been high, the birth rate extremely low.

Many of the affiliated Jews of the GDR, unlike the Communist "non-Jewish Jews," are not Jewish by traditional standards. Some are the offspring of mixed marriages where the mother was not Jewish. The children of men married to such women, as well as to non-Jews, are not technically Jewish. Yet these people have chosen to identify themselves as Jews and perpetuate Judaism in a country officially atheistic and largely Protestant.

Several Fascinating Discoveries

In addition to determining "Who is a Jew" under these circumstances, there were a number of fascinating discoveries:

* In both Berlin and Leipzig, a magnificent large synagogue was left relatively intact on Kristallnacht, in order to protect abutting buildings. The insides were gutted. During the war, they were a warehouse and a soap factory, respectively. In other cities, synagogues have been built or rebuilt, but there are not enough Jews to fill them. At the Friday night service I attended in Leipzig, there were less than 30 congregants (a commendable record, percentage-wise). The huge Berlin synagogue rarely gets a minyan, I was told.

* The popular Leipzig Synagogue Choir tours the country and abroad, singing traditional synagogue and Jewish folk music. This choir is not now connected with the Leipzig Synagogue, and none of the choir members is a Jew. A recorded Shabbat service is performed by the choir on the GDR radio every other Saturday morning.

* In the Berlin Gemeinde library, a back room contains books that can be read only by special permission. The two basic subjects of these "forbidden" books: fascist writings and Zionist writings. Gemeinde leader Kirchner's wife, Renate, is in charge of the library, censoring books according to government directives.

* The Leipzig Gemeinde sponsors a lecture series on Jewish topics. None of the lecturers is Jewish.

* "Fiddler on the Roof" is the most popular play in East Berlin, and has been playing there to a full house for several years, to audiences from East and West Berlin.

* The Buchenwald concentration camp memorial is just outside Weimar, site of some of Germany's greatest cultural achievements.

Encouraged By The Government

Amidst these and other ironies, the ever-smaller Jewish Gemeinde of the GDR exists, encouraged by the government. The Gemeinde publishes a quarterly magazine, *Nachrichtenblatt*, a Jewish calendar and informational booklets. A kosher slaughterer comes to Berlin from Budapest regularly, and a rabbi comes for the high holidays. (At other times, Gemeinde members lead services.) There is a summer camp for Jewish children. Kirchner and Aris often represent the Jewish community at international meetings, with observer status at the World Jewish Congress.

There is still a viable Jewish community in the GDR. In the not too distant future, possibly within our lifetime, this once glorious Jewish community may disappear.

(Tomorrow: Part Three)

UJA COLLECTED \$287.5M in 1980

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal collected \$287,538,000 in 1980 for support of humanitarian needs of the Jewish people in Israel and throughout the world, Edgar Cadden, UJA national cash chairman, announced. The total represents an increase of almost \$7.5 million over 1979.

Cadden said these funds represent allocations transmitted to UJA for overseas programs, from campaigns conducted by some 200 federated communities and more than 400 non-federated communities throughout the country.

He said that \$83,367,000 of the 1980 total was received in December, with \$21,800,000 of that figure coming in on the last day of the month. While congratulating communities on this achievement, Cadden noted that it underscores a continuing national problem of uneven cash flow to the Jewish Agency in Israel and to the worldwide operations of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the principal beneficiary agencies of UJA.

"The programs and services we support require cash payment throughout the year," Cadden said. "This erratic cash flow had made it necessary for the Jewish Agency to borrow huge sums at extremely high interest rates simply to meet daily expenses."

To alleviate this critical situation in 1981, Cadden suggested that all communities follow the lead of several larger federations, transmitting annual allocations to UJA in proportionate monthly amounts, rather than in one or two lump sum payments.

THOUSANDS OF NABLUS RESIDENTS WELCOME MAYOR SHAKA HOME

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Thousands of Nablus residents and Arabs from nearby villages turned out to welcome Mayor Bassam Shaka who returned home yesterday after an extensive stay

abroad for medical treatment. Shaka lost both of his legs in a car bombing last June 2, believed to have been in reprisal for the ambush slaying of six yeshiva students in Hebron a month earlier.

Thousands bearing wreaths of flowers and waving Palestinian flags massed outside the municipal library as Shaka was driven into the West Bank town. They chanted the traditional slogan, "In spirit and blood we shall save you Abu-Nidal" (Father of Combat). Shaka, surrounded by local dignitaries and foreign newsmen, vowed that he would continue to strive for a Palestinian state headed by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

He said that he would renew his efforts to revive the National Guidance Committee, the central nationalist body of West Bank Arabs which has been moribund since the attacks on Shaka and other Arab mayors last June 2 and the deportations of the mayors of Hebron and Halhoul. One of Shaka's colleagues, Mayor Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, who was also crippled in a car bomb attack that day, returned to a hero's welcome in his home town a week ago.

DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF OLIM

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Only 850 newcomers were registered as immigrants during December, 100 less than November when the *aliya* figure fell below 1,000 a month for the first time in 12 years. During December 889 Jews left the Soviet Union but only 206 of them came to Israel, making the drop-out rate a high 76 percent.

Throughout 1980, a total of 1.2 million tourists visited Israel, a six percent increase over 1979. Two-thirds of the tourists came from Western Europe, mainly West Germany and Great Britain. About a quarter of the total came from the U.S.

COINS TO REPLACE SHEKELS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The Bank of Israel is planning to replace the present one Shekel bills, worth about 13 cents today, with metal coins within the coming three months. Five-Shekel coins (66 cents) will be introduced by the end of the year and 10-Shekel coins at a later date.

At the present rate of inflation (130 percent during 1980) the new coins will be worth less than half their present foreign exchange value when introduced. The bank explained that metal coinage costs less than half as much to produce as a paper note and has a life expectancy of years instead of a maximum of one year for a paper note.

GOVERNMENT-OWNED REFINERIES FINED

By Hugh Orgel

HAIFA, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- A magistrate's court imposed a token fine on the government-owned Haifa Refineries and gave it two years to modify its waste gas burning facilities to reduce air pollution or shut down.

The fine of 200 Shekels (\$26) was the maximum allowed under the public nuisance law. Both the refineries and the Haifa municipality which brought the action, have spent substantial sums for legal counsel in the year-long dispute. The refinery management said it would take two years to install equipment designed to reduce the black smoke and noxious gas emissions at a cost of more than \$1 million.

The smoke and foul smells became a problem two years ago after the refineries installed two gas flares at its new ethylene plant as a safety precaution. An American engineer, Robert Chase who is a consultant to Standard Oil of California, checked the plant and declared it to be of "excellent design." But he suggested alterations to reduce pollution.