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JAN 12 1981 MODAI URGES BEGIN'S GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN AS SEVERAL MINISTERS INDICATE THEIR INTENTIONS TO QUIT

By David Lardou

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai, a powerful figure in Likud's Liberal Party wing, today called for the resignation of Premier Menachem Begin's government unless it can make rapid and dramatic improvements in its decision-making processes which, Modai said, were in disarray.

He said he would "recommend this" to the Liberal Party and that the Liberals "might well be the one to initiate it." Modai's remarks, in an Army Radio interview, came at a time when two other key members of Begin's Cabinet, Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, were each threatening to resign in a bitter dispute over a pay raise for teachers. Should either of them quit, observers said, the Begin government would be in too precarious a position to carry on.

Begin himself apparently recognizes this. While his slim Knesset majority may survive no-confidence challenges in the immediate future even if Hurwitz or Hammer leave, it could not do so indefinitely. Begin is said to prefer an honorable resignation initiated by himself to the ignominy of defeat in the Knesset.

Several newspapers reported today that Begin has resolved to "go to the President" to submit his government's resignation next Tuesday should Hurwitz or Hammer announce their resignations at the next Cabinet meeting Sunday. A number of newspapers have urged Begin to resign.

Says Government Should End Its Term

Modai spoke as last ditch efforts were being made to reach a compromise on the teachers pay hike which Hurwitz vigorously opposes and Hammer supports. The Energy Minister said, however, that in his opinion "it won't matter much" if Hurwitz and Hammer reach a compromise by Sunday.

He said his conclusion that the time has come for the present government to end its term and seek a new mandate from the electorate was reached "weeks ago -- before the crisis over teachers pay." He said it also ante-dated several other crises such as the controversy over the dismissal of Police Inspector General Herzl Shafir and the bitter dispute over cuts in the defense budget.

Modai said there were "deep fissures" in the government's "staffwork and decision-making processes" and unless they are repaired, the government should go. His views were said to be shared by other Liberal Party leaders, notably Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich and Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Gideon Patt who could be expected to support a resignation proposal. It would also be backed by the two Democratic Movement ministers, Deputy Premier Yigal Yadin and Minister of Social Betterment Yisroel Katz.

Should Hurwitz resign, the government would lose the three votes of his Rafi faction. If Hammer, a leader of the National Religious Party, quits it is not certain that the NRP as a whole would leave the coalition. The NRP is in a poor position to face early elections inasmuch as one of its Cabinet members, Religion Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira, is under indictment for bribe-taking and Interior Minister Yosef Burg has been accused of trying to quash a police investigation.

If Begin does resign, political observers believe elections would be held in May as the major parties have no desire for a prolonged care-taker regime. One date mentioned is May 17, exactly three years to the day after Likud's election victory ended 29 years of Labor Party rule.

Meanwhile, the teachers' pay dispute is expected to come to a head Sunday. Leaders of the teachers unions met in Tel Aviv today with Eliezer Shmueli, Director General of the Education Ministry and MK Shlomo Lorincz of the Aguda Israel, chairman of the Knesset's Finance Committee to discuss a compromise formula worked out by Lorincz. But majority opinion in the union's executives seemed to be to reject the formula.

WIESENTHAL CENTER DEFACED WITH SWASTIKAS, ANTI-SEMITIC SLOGANS

By Ronald Solomon

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies here was defaced yesterday with spray-painted swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans some of them written in German. Officials at the Center, which is located at the Yeshiva University of Los Angeles (YULA), estimated that the vandalism took place between midnight and 5 a.m. yesterday morning.

The outside walls of the Center's Holocaust Museum were daubed with slogans which read, "Death to the Jews," "Simon is a Murderer," "National Socialist White People's Party, Awake," "Jews Beware, the S.S. is Coming," and "Kill Jews."

President-elect Reagan sent a message to the Center yesterday saying: "I am shocked at the vandalism and the defacement. The actions are an outrage to Americans." Mayor Tom Bradley reacted with anger when he learned about the vandalism. He declared that "the city of Los Angeles is proud of its multi-racial, multi-cultural population and we do not accept the ugly and shameful attempts of the few sick vandals to frighten, threaten or goad us into the pit with them." Gov. Edmund Brown Jr. reacted similarly to the incident. At the same time there was a flood of telephone calls to the Center from Christian clerics throughout Los Angeles offering their help in cleaning the walls.

Earlier Bizarre Incident

Two cans of spray paint were found outside the building by students as they prepared to attend classes yesterday morning. Police are seeking the whereabouts of two young men who participated in a bizarre incident at the Center last Sunday, and may be connected with the vandalism.

According to museum spokesmen, the two men entered the building wearing Nazi uniforms including storm trooper boots and swastikas. The two approached a volunteer, a Holocaust survivor and spoke of their fathers having served in the SS and how proud they were of that fact. The two men were escorted from the building. "These haters always begin with spray paint," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, head of the Center. "Unfortunately, as history has taught us, white-washing their slogans can only lead to the most profound tragedies." Security will be tightened at the Center and at YULA.

Another possible connection with the vandalism, Center officials said, may be the notorious California-based "Journal of Historical Review" published in Torrance, Calif. In the winter edition, published a few days before the incident, the Journal called Wiesenthal a Nazi collaborator and attacked the Center and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The vandalism followed the arrest and arraignment of two neo-Nazis in connection with the Dec. 6 fire which gutted the sanctuary of Temple Beth David in Temple City, about 20 miles from Los Angeles.

CLERICS CONDEMNED FOR CALLING ON U.S. TO TALK TO THE PLO

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- A Massachusetts-based group called "Search for Justice and Equality in Palestine" has urged the United States to reduce its aid to Israel until Israel "recognizes the human rights of the Palestinian people."

A petition supporting that demand, signed by 400 clergymen and other religious figures, also called on the U.S. to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization. "U.S.-PLO talks will allow Washington to better understand Palestinian aspirations and will enable the U.S. to act as a genuine mediator" in the Arab-Israeli dispute, the petition stated. It also accused Israel of violating human rights.

The petition was condemned today by the Synagogue Council of America (SCA), the coordinating agency for the Conservative, Orthodox and Reform rabbinic and congregational organizations, for "hypocrisy and blatant lies." The SCA statement, issued by Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum, SCA executive vice president, noted that among the signers of the petition were Rev. Daniel Berrigan and Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Biased And Unfounded Statements

"These ministers have often made biased and unfounded statements against Israel," the SCA statement said. "Now, however, they are joined by others in accusing Israel of violating human rights. In doing this, they ignore a recent UN report which distinctly cites Israel's observance of human rights, in marked contrast to the autocracies of its surrounding neighbors, Syria, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

In commenting on the petition's call for the U.S. to meet with the PLO, the SCA said the PLO "is a terrorist organization whose leadership has embraced and fought alongside with the Ayatollah Khomeini in his anti-American policies which defy international law."

The "Search for Justice" petition, which was delivered yesterday to President Carter, President-elect Reagan and the Israel Embassy

here also also condemned Israeli settlements on the West Bank as a "major violation" of international law and urged the Israeli and American governments "to recognize the right to self-determination, including an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza if they so decide."

In addition to Berrigan, who was a prominent Catholic anti-Vietnam war activist, and Jackson, founder of Operation PUSH, others who signed the petition included: William Wipfler, director of the office of human rights for the National Council of Churches; Philip Saliba, Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Church; Philip Berrigan, a prominent Catholic anti-Vietnam war activist; Bishop James Mathews of Washington, of the United Methodist Church; and five other United Methodist Church bishops.

VARIETY OF DEVELOPMENTS SPARKED INCREASE IN ANTI-SEMITISM IN U.S.

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The sharp increase in anti-Semitic incidents in America in the last year is due to a variety of domestic and international developments, according to the Task Force on anti-Semitic Vandalism, convened by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and made up of psychiatrists, social scientists, educators, law enforcement officials and government representatives from six states and the District of Columbia.

Dr. Melvin Tumin of Princeton University, speaking at a press conference here yesterday afternoon at the end of a two-day closed session of the Task Force, said that recent anti-Semitic incidents are the "tip of the iceberg." He said that the "dormant anti-Semitism in American society" is surfacing. He observed that the 25-member Task Force saw a connection between the emergence of rightwing groups in America, such as the American Nazi Party and the Ku Klux Klan, the growing economic difficulties and the resurgence of anti-Semitism.

"Jews serve as scapegoats" for the frustration and bitterness over the increased price of oil and inflation, Tumin said. He also said that anti-Israel and anti-Jewish propaganda by the Arabs and UN resolutions such as Zionism equals racism also contributed to anti-Semitism.

Theodore Freedman, director of ADL's program division, said that among recommendations suggested by the Task Force was to seek the creation of a coalition of all minority groups in America to combat racism and anti-Semitism. The ADL, he added, also plans to seek meetings with representatives of the media to urge them to report on anti-Semitic incidents with the "right perspective" and do more reporting on the apprehension of the vandals who commit anti-Semitic acts.

PLO IN 3rd MONTH OF HUNGER STRIKE

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Isosif Mendelevich is in his third month of a hunger strike in the Perm labor camp, it was reported here today by Soviet Jewish organizations. The 33-year-old Orthodox Jew is the only remaining Jewish prisoner from the 1970 Leningrad trial of a group that planned to steal a Soviet plane to fly to freedom.

He began his hunger strike to demand that his religious books and ritual articles confiscated by camp authorities be restored and that he be allowed to observe the Sabbath. Moscow Jewish activists reported that Mendelevich was force-fed after fasting for two weeks and that camp officials had planned to repeat the action every 10 days.

ROSEN: 1084 RUMANIAN JEWS MADE ALIYA TO ISRAEL IN 1980; 509 ARE WAITING FOR EXIT VISAS TO ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) — During 1980, 1084 Rumanian Jews went on aliya to Israel and presently there are 509 Jews in Rumania who are waiting to receive exit visas to Israel, Rumania's Chief Rabbi, Moses Rosen, disclosed here today.

Addressing a press conference at the Joint Distribution Committee's headquarters, Rosen said that an exit visa's application takes between four to eight months until it is approved, which is "a short period" in terms of Communist countries' bureaucratic procedures. Rosen added that any Rumanian Jew who desires to go on aliya is free to do so without fear of harassment or the threat of being fired once the intention to emigrate is declared.

Rosen, who was in New York to discuss the JDC's 1981 aid for Rumania, described the 35,000-member Rumanian Jewish community as a minority that enjoys full religious, cultural and social freedom. "We are free to state our love for Jerusalem and proclaim that we are part of the Jewish people," Rosen said. He added, however, "At the same time we are devoted citizens of Rumania" and "we have to be loyal to the government." He said that "a climate of confidence" exists between the Jews of Rumania and the government.

Anti-Semitic Incident Denounced

In reply to a question citing recent reports of an anti-Semitic article in one of Rumania's newspapers, Rosen confirmed that last Sept. 5 an anti-Semitic article was published in the Bucharest weekly, "Septemena" (The Week), by an unidentified author. Rosen said that anti-Semitic articles have been rare in the Rumanian press in the last 30 years and that the article in September was an "exception."

Noting that the article did not mention the word Jew, Rosen said that he protested the anti-Semitic content of the article in public statements and in private meetings with high officials. A letter of protest to Septemena, which he wrote, was not published, Rosen said, but on Oct. 24 the editor of the newspaper published an article denouncing anti-Semitism in sharpest terms.

Jewish Life In Rumania

Turning to the issue of Jewish life in Rumania, Rosen warned that Rumanian Jewry is facing "a leadership crisis." He said the Jewish community is in great need of spiritual and religious leaders such as rabbis, ritual slaughterers and teachers. He said that the major challenge and task of Rumanian Jewry is to preserve its Jewishness.

Noting that half of the members of the Jewish population in Rumania are over the age of 65, Rosen, who is also president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Rumania, described his community as "an elderly Jewish community but not a dying one." He said the community has difficulty finding young students who are available to join training for Jewish leadership and spiritual positions.

According to Rosen, there are presently 61 functioning synagogues out of 120 synagogues in the country, and 24 Talmud Torah schools. "We do everything we can to maintain Judaism," Rosen declared, stressing that "there is a danger" to the continuation of Judaism in Rumania.

Ralph Goldman, executive vice president of the JDC, said his organization's budget for Rumania in 1981 will amount to \$3,808,000. He said that JDC programs provide assistance for the many Jewish aged in Rumania and include programs of cash relief, winter relief, clothing distribution, food packages, health services and Passover supplies.

RECORD CASH TOTAL OF \$422 MILLION PRODUCED BY ISRAEL BONDS IN 1980

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) — In 1980 the Israel Bond Organization produced record cash receipts amounting to \$421,961,000, the largest sum realized in any year with the exception of 1973, the year of the Yom Kippur War, in the sale of securities for Israel's economic development. It was announced by Sam Rothberg, general chairman.

These proceeds brought to \$5.1 billion the total funds channeled into Israel's development budget by the Israel Bond Organization since its founding 30 years ago, he said. The past year's results represented an increase of \$27.4 million over the 1979 sales figure of \$394.5 million.

"Despite high interest rates and unfavorable economic conditions in the United States and other countries where Israel Bonds are sold," Rothberg pointed out, "friends of Israel continued to express their support by purchasing substantial amounts of 4 percent Bonds and other instruments."

In addition to Jewish community support, the 1980 proceeds showed an increase of participation in the non-Jewish community. Purchases by banks, employee benefit funds, labor unions, insurance companies, and other institutions demonstrated their confidence in Israel's economic future and the importance which they attach to reinforcing the economic foundations of Israel as a stronghold of democracy in the Middle East," he declared.

NAIROBI TERRORIST IDENTIFIED

LONDON, Jan. 8 (JTA) — The terrorist responsible for the fatal bombing of the Jewish-owned Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, Dec. 31, was identified by Kenyan authorities yesterday as 34-year-old Qaddura Mohammed Abd al-Hamid, a Moroccan member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

A time bomb exploded in the hotel during New Year's Eve celebrations, killing 15 persons and injuring 85 others, most of them foreign tourists. The government news agency in Nairobi said in a statement released yesterday that al-Hamid arrived there Dec. 23 using a Maltese passport and false name and left Kenya for Saudi Arabia seven hours before the bomb blast. According to the statement, he is a former member of El Fatah, the terrorist branch of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Some observers suggested that Nairobi was chosen for the outrage because Kenya aided the Israeli commando force that rescued the Air France hijack hostages from Entebbe Airport near Kampala, Uganda in July, 1976.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Israel Army's northern command played host Wednesday to hundreds of olim from absorption centers in the area, many of them Russian refuseniks who had fought for years for permission to come to Israel. The gala meeting, at Ein Gev on the shores of Lake Tiberias, wound up an army "absorption week" during which the newcomers toured army camps, told soldiers of their efforts to come to Israel, and heard from the soldiers what they had done to help newcomers settle down.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF EAST GERMANY

By Rochelle Sidel-Wolk

(Fifth Part Of A Five-Part Series)

ALBANY, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- "Gut Shabbos. We speak Ashkenazi Hebrew here," Helmut Aris chairman of the Association of Jewish Communities of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), responded to an Israeli-style greeting of "Shabat Shalom." Aris evidently wanted to make it pointedly clear that his first allegiance was to his native homeland, and not to the homeland of the Jewish people.

A native and current resident of Dresden, Aris is leader of the some 600 members of the eight Jewish communities of the GDR. As head of the association, he represents his fellow Jews in discussions with the State Secretary for Church Affairs, the Central Committee of Anti-Fascist Resistance Fighters and other official bodies. He also travels to the West, as an observer at World Jewish Congress meetings. He plans to attend such a meeting in Jerusalem, this month.

Attitude Toward the PLO

Asked if it was difficult for Jews to live in a country that strongly supports the Palestine Liberation Organization, Aris responded: "We feel about the PLO as all Jews feel. The Jews of the GDR and all Jews are against any kind of terrorism, no matter where it comes from." He said that he favored United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and that they guarantee for all countries in the Middle East and the people of these countries the right to live within safe borders."

"Jewish citizens, just as all other citizens of the GDR, support these resolutions," he added. "The question of territory has to be decided by the states involved. I am of the opinion the remainder of the Second Temple, the Wailing (sic) Wall, should remain in Jewish hands. But it's up to the states involved."

Aris, now 73, did forced labor in the Dresden area during the war. Only 110 Jews survived in Dresden, and 40 of them were killed there during the Feb. 13, 1945 air raid.

Asked to describe his feelings when he heard the announcement of Israel's statehood in 1948, he replied: "L'Shanah Habbah b'Yerushalayim" ("Next year in Jerusalem"). He immediately added, however, "But let's become serious again."

Warm Feelings For Israel

Other members of the Jewish community throughout the GDR privately expressed warm feelings for Israel in subtle ways -- a hope to go there one day, a request for an Israel-made religious object, or just a sad smile. It is difficult for the Jewish community to get a clear picture of current and historic events in modern Israel, because Zionist writings are "verboten."

In the library of the East Berlin Jewish Community headquarters, for example, Zionist and fascist literature are both relegated to a back room, requiring special permission for entrance.

The press, like the government, is pro-PLO. One official of the Jewish community said he knew the newspapers were one-sided, but he doesn't have sufficient information to give answers. He can, however, listen to a number of

Western radio stations beamed in from West Berlin and elsewhere.

GDR 'Especially Close' To The PLO

Werner Handler, a "Communist of Jewish descent" who heads the international desk of GDR Radio, described the GDR's relationship with the PLO as "especially close." "It is too easy to say the PLO is terrorist," he said.

"It is the political representative of the Palestinian people. We maintain that all peoples in the Middle East should have the right to live in peace. We do not support terrorist activities. I condemn all terrorist acts, including those supported by the Israel Government. There are not only Palestinian terrorists, but the Begin government also acts terrorist at times ... I'm worried about the course Israel is forced upon by this policy."

While Handler acknowledged the GDR's support of the PLO's political aims and the existence of a large PLO office in East Berlin, he denied any military support of the PLO. "Despite this denial, a reliable source said that some 80 wounded PLO terrorists were being treated in an East Berlin hospital.

"All peoples, including Israelis, should have the right to live in the (Middle East) area," Handler said. "But Israel should behave like any other state. Israel does not have the right to be a state extraordinaire ... the only state with the right to expand."

When asked if he has read the PLO Covenant, which calls for Israel's destruction, Handler refused to acknowledge its existence. He also said: "I don't accept that Israel was invaded in 1967." He described the 1956 Sinai Campaign, which he covered as a correspondent in Cairo, as the "First Sinai Aggression."

Attitude Towards Israel

Handler admitted, "It is not good for an anti-fascist German state not to have relations with Israel." He added, however, "It is impossible, with the expansionism going on there. At the beginning, Israel didn't want to, or couldn't have, relations with the GDR. Now the situation is very complicated," he said. (The complications are the results of Israel's ties with the United States, and with West Germany, through reparations; and the GDR's allegiance to the Soviet Union.)

Rudi Helmer, an official of the Anti-Fascist Resistance Fighters, one of the most highly respected groups in the GDR, explained his country's position as follows: "The Palestinian people are entitled to determine their own fate. They have the right to construct their own state and the right of independence. We still maintain that safety and security must be safeguarded, and, frankly, we say we do not agree with some of the imperialist attitudes of Israel toward her Arab neighbors." Helmer's group has connections with resistance fighter organizations in Israel.

Asked how GDR teachers deal with Zionism in their classes, Education Ministry official Doris Wetterhahn (also a "Communist of Jewish descent") said: "Zionism is not taught as racism, but as a bourgeois ideology that developed at the time when British imperialism ruled in Palestine. This was the root of the developments we see today in Israel. No one has anything against a peaceful Israel that lives on an equal basis with her Arab neighbors," she explained. "We teach the students that progressive people in Israel and in the Arab countries fight together against imperialism."