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CIVIL RIGHTS GROUP EXPELS MEMBER FOR DEFENDING 'RACIST' HISTORIAN

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- The leftwing civil right organization, "Movement Against Racism, anti-Semitism and for Peace" (MRAP), has expelled one of its veteran members, Yvon Chautard, who agreed to act as defense attorney for Robert Faurisson, a French historian who has written a book in which he claims that reports about the Holocaust are "grossly exaggerated" and that genocide was not a policy fundamental to Nazism.

The expulsion decision was taken yesterday by the MRAP's executive committee meeting. The organization's general assembly will have to approve this decision. Faurisson has been sued by several organizations of former deportees and resistance fighters for spreading "racist theories" and Chautard was due to represent him in court.

Chautard said after the MRAP executive meeting that he does not share Faurisson's views but believes that he is entitled to legal defense. Chautard, who is himself a leftwing anti-racist activist, said that as far as he could ascertain from several meetings with Faurisson the historian is "not a racist but sincerely believes in the findings of his research".

An MRAP communique stressed that one cannot actively participate in its campaign for civil rights and against racism and defend a person like Faurisson who "tries to whitewash the Nazi regime."

Noam Chomsky, the American writer who is famous for his works on linguistics, has written a foreword to Faurisson's book explaining that he does not share his ideas but believes in "Everybody's right to freedom of opinion and the right to express it."

MEXICAN DELEGATION IN ISRAEL TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF KFIR

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Mexico's Defense Minister, Gen. Felix Lopez, arrived in Israel yesterday at the head of a 16-member delegation including the deputy chief of staff and senior army officers, as guests of Premier Menachem Begin. During his six days here Lopez will be discussing with Defense Ministry officials the possible purchase of Israeli-designed and produced Kfir fighter planes.

Israel has for some years been seeking foreign buyers for the Kfir, already in service with the Israel Air Force for several years. But sales have long been blocked by American refusal to grant licenses for the use of the U.S.-made jet engines which power the aircraft. Agreement to allow their sale as part of the Kfir to Mexico and other countries was granted some months ago.

Australia was at one time interested in the Kfir but withdrew, reportedly under Arab pressure and the urging of the U.S. aircraft manufacturers.

Hints at a possible purchase by Mexico were seen in welcoming remarks by Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori and Lopez. Zipori hailed Mexico as a "great, free, democratic and

independent country, free from pressures by oil states and the great powers." Lopez replied that his visit had the full blessing of the Mexican President and should result in measures to the benefit of both countries.

Mexico has reportedly been interested in the Israeli-made plane for some time, as part of its program for re-equipping its air force. The Kfir is said to be competing with the American-made F-15E plane, for an order of 24 aircraft.

Mexico already has a number of Israeli-made aircraft and equipment, including the Arava and Westwind planes and electronic equipment.

Lopez is due to inspect the Kfir production line at the Israel Aircraft Industries factory Wednesday. His visit to Israel comes less than two weeks after that of Colombian Defense Minister Luis Carlos Camacho Levy, who also headed a delegation which came to inspect the Kfir fighter and discuss possible purchases.

BEGIN AMENABLE TO EARLY ELECTIONS BUT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT RESIGN

Date For Elections Has To Be Set

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin has apparently decided to call for early elections but his government will not resign as a result of the crisis precipitated by the resignation from the Cabinet yesterday of Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz. Begin broke a long silence on the subject following a special session of the Cabinet this morning.

He told reporters that a majority of the ministers now favor early elections and he was inclined to agree, but none of the ministers had suggested that the government resign. Under law, it must initiate a bill dissolving the present Knesset and specifying the date for elections.

Begin said no definite decisions were made today. He stressed that the need for early elections arose from the new parliamentary situation. Hurwitz, whose resignation takes effect tomorrow, is expected to pull his three-man Rafi faction out of the Likud-led coalition. That will leave the coalition with less than a majority in the Knesset unless Begin can bring one or more splinter factions into his Cabinet.

Begin Opting For June Elections

Begin is said to be opposed to governing under such circumstances which, among other things, would increase the risk of defeat in the Knesset on a no-confidence motion. He indicated that early elections are a virtual certainty leaving only the date to be settled. He said that would be determined in a consultation with the coalition factions today and tomorrow. Most observers believe Begin wants the elections in June. The opposition Labor Party has already submitted a motion calling for elections in April.

Only three ministers opposed early elections at today's Cabinet meeting: Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, Absorption Minister David Levy and Minister of Commerce and Industry Gideon Patt all urged the government to serve out its full term which expires in November.

Begin is scheduled to meet with the Likud Knesset faction at noon tomorrow to set a date for early elections. But last ditch efforts are being made to avoid elections before November. Justice Minister Moshe Nissim and the Likud floor managers in the Knesset were trying desperately today to patch together a viable majority that would enable the Begin government to remain in office through next summer and fall.

One focus of these efforts is Shafiq Assad, a member of the three-member Ahva faction which split some time ago from the Democratic Movement. He was reportedly under pressure to join Likud as his colleague, Akiva Nof, has already done. But the consensus among observers is that no reliable majority can be put together to replace Rafi and the coalition parties themselves would dissolve the Knesset and call elections for late June.

Labor, meanwhile, is trying to line up majority support for its proposed election date, April 28. But observers believe that if the coalition decides on a June date, the Labor bid would be defeated.

Coalition Majority Whittled Down

Begin's coalition has survived more than 20 no-confidence votes in the Knesset since its victory over the Labor Party in May, 1977. But its Knesset majority has been steadily whittled down by defections of individual ministers and entire factions. In November, it defeated a no-confidence motion on the issue of inflation by a mere three votes, its slimmest margin to date and the consensus in political circles is that it could not withstand another challenge on economic issues.

Hurwitz's departure was precipitated by such an issue -- a pay raise for teachers which he opposed as inflationary but which was supported by a Cabinet majority yesterday. It was the second time Hurwitz quit Begin's Cabinet. He resigned as Minister of Commerce and Industry late in 1978 in protest against the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty that requires Israel to return Sinai to Egypt. But he was back in the government in November, 1979 to take over the Treasury portfolio at Begin's request in order to wage a more effective war on inflation.

At the time, inflation was approaching an annual rate of 100 percent. Hurwitz, a conservative businessman with strong nationalist views, agreed to become Finance Minister only if he was given a free hand to slash the national budget, pare the civil service and sacrifice social benefits to build up industrial production.

Members of the Rafi Faction

Hurwitz belonged to the hard-line Laam faction, a component of Likud which split several years ago into the Independent Center headed by Health Minister Eliezer Shostak, and Rafi headed by Hurwitz. The Shostak group merged into Herut while Rafi retained its separate identity as a Likud component. In addition to Hurwitz, Rafi members are Zalman Shoval, a member of the original Rafi faction of the Labor Party headed by the late Premier David Ben-Gurion and subsequently by Moshe Dayan, and Yitzhak Peretz, former Mayor of Dimona who is chairman of the Zionist General Council.

SOVIET JEW ON TRIAL

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- The trial of long-time refusnik Alexander Magidovich began

last Thursday in Tula, it was reported here today by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. His friends have not been able to find out what official charges were lodged against the 49-year-old electrical engineer, but they have learned that all evidence is verbal.

According to the two Soviet Jewry groups, the prosecution has alleged that Magidovich, who first applied for an exit visa eight years ago, criticized the Soviet authorities for exiling Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov, that he admired bourgeois democracies and their constitutions as more democratic than the Soviet Union's, and that he expressed dissatisfaction at not being able to emigrate.

Magidovich had been interrogated by the KGB in 1977 in connection with the trial against Anatoly Shcharansky. In February, 1980 secret police searched his apartment and the following month he was forcibly placed for several months in the notorious Serbsky Psychiatric Institute, the two Soviet Jewry groups reported.

KNESSET UNIT RECOMMENDS STRIPPING ABU-HATZEIRA OF HIS IMMUNITY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- The Knesset's House Committee recommended today that Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira be stripped of his parliamentary immunity so that he may stand trial on charges of bribe-taking. The recommendation, which must be approved by the full Knesset, was taken on a vote of 14-4 with three abstentions.

The committee acted despite an impassioned speech by Abu-Hatzeira in which he claimed he could not receive a fair trial in an election year and charged that he was the victim of a political vendetta stemming in part from the fact that he is an Oriental Jew. Abu-Hatzeira, 42, was born in Morocco.

It was the Minister's second appearance before the House Committee since it began its deliberations last month. Abu-Hatzeira was indicted in November, based on information in a police dossier submitted to Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir. He accused the police of collusion with certain political figures to ruin his career and his reputation. He said he could not name the alleged conspirators now but would later "in a bomb shell."

He also accused an unidentified police official, "Mr. X," of slandering him and all Sephardic Jews in the course of convincing former Mayor Yisrael Gottlieb of B'nai Brak to testify against him. Gottlieb is said to be the prosecution's chief witness. According to Abu-Hatzeira "Mr. X" referred to him as a "frenk parech," a derogatory term for Jews of Oriental origin.

He criticized Zamir for indicting him without taking account of the political aspects of the case and asked that his trial be postponed until after the elections. Labor Alignment MK Moshe Shahal asked the Attorney General if that were possible. Zamir would say only that it was a very complicated issue.

HERTZBERG: PROBLEMS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE WHITE HOUSE WILL CONTINUE

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- A senior American Jewish leader said here that Israelis were "having pipe dreams" if they thought that the Reagan Administration was going to base its Middle East policy solely on a close security relationship with Israel.

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, vice president of the World Jewish Congress, told the Board of Deputies of British Jews yesterday that although President-elect Reagan had "tremendous goodwill" for Israel

and the Palestine Liberation Organization would be a "non-starter" once he was in office, it would be wrong to presume that there would be no more problems between the Jewish State and the White House.

Hertzberg, who stopped here en route to next week's World Jewish Congress assembly in Jerusalem, ridiculed Israeli commentators who had deduced from Reagan's election statements that Israel would now be regarded as a "first class strategic asset" by America's military thinkers.

Noting that Reagan had been given a mandate to be tough with the Russians, Hertzberg said Reagan was probably the only American President who could go to Moscow, to make a global agreement with the Soviet leadership. "At that moment I would worry about Israel," Hertzberg added.

In the meantime, Israel's friends in the United States would find that it would be "business as usual" with the incoming Administration and that they would have to "fight out the problems one by one," he said. Hertzberg also noted that the Reagan transition team was strongly opposed to setting up a "Jewish desk" in the White House like that under the Carter Administration.

KNESSET MEMBER SHOT DEAD

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Sheikh Hamad Abu Rabi'a, a Negev Bedouin leader who is a member of the Knesset on the Labor-affiliated United Arab List, was shot dead at close quarters tonight outside his West Jerusalem hotel.

He was shot several times at close quarters as he sat in his car outside the Holyland Hotel in the Bayit Vegan district, a favorite residence for Knesset members when Parliament is in session. Israel Radio said tonight that the Sheikh had recently warned that his political rivals sought to kill him and had said he would hire bodyguards to protect himself. First reports said his assailants fled in a jeep. (By David Landau)

LINOWITZ: CAMP DAVID PROCESS IS THE ONLY OPTION FOR PALESTINIANS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- President Carter's special Middle East Ambassador Sal Linowitz cautioned the Palestinian Arabs today that they have "no other course" except the Camp David process to give them full autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"There is nothing else that will give the Palestinians peacefully what we are achieving," Linowitz told the Women's Democratic Club in a farewell address as the chief U.S. negotiator for an Arab-Israeli peace. "To the Palestinians I say you are entitled to give us your support because you don't have an alternative."

He decried the attempts of "using the United Nations to intrude in the only process that has a prospect of success" in achieving peace and he urged sponsors of the actions in the UN that "they shouldn't do it."

Linowitz said that he will be leaving his post on Inauguration Day Jan. 20 but he pointed out that the Camp David process will continue with a session Wednesday in Israel and the pledge of President-elect Reagan of continuing the proceedings. He also said that he believes "if we continue to make progress towards full autonomy King Hussein (of Jordan) will not remain aloof." He pointed out that it is "a misconception to

consider the so-called Jordanian option as a substitute for Camp David" because the Camp David accords "always had an option for Jordan."

Chides West Europeans

Linowitz chided the West Europeans for their Declaration of Venice of last June that included association of the Palestine Liberation Organization with the peace process. He said that the "Europeans have dangled an alternative without saying how to get there." He pointed out that "Israel is not going to sit at the table with the PLO" and that "Egypt has not endorsed the European initiative."

Saying that Israeli Premier Menachem Begin is wrongly described as "intransigent" or "inflexible" Linowitz pointed out that it is Israel alone that is being asked to give up powers on the West Bank and Gaza. "Egypt isn't being asked to give up powers" and the "effort is being made to extract that from Israel" which fears that it must be certain that developments will not lead to a Palestinian state.

JEAN PIERRE-BLOCH APPOINTED 'GRAND OFFICER' IN LEGION OF HONOR

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- French Jewish leader Jean Pierre-Bloch has been appointed a "Grand Officer in the Legion of Honor," one of the highest ranks in France's prestigious order. President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing personally pinned the medal on Pierre-Bloch at a ceremony at the Elysee Palace.

Pierre-Bloch, 75, is the president of the International League Against Anti-Semitism and Racism and president of the French federation of B'nai B'rith lodges. A former minister in Gen. Charles de Gaulle's wartime government, he played an active role in the anti-Nazi resistance movement during the occupation of France and at one time headed a branch of the free French operations.

He has played a leading role in Jewish demands for more energetic government measures in the fight against anti-Semitism and was one of the main organizers of the mass demonstrations which followed the Rue Copernic synagogue bombing last October.

It is generally believed that Pierre-Bloch's promotion to one of the highest ranks in the Legion of Honor is partially due to the government's attempt to improve its relations with the traditional Jewish establishment and to defuse the tension in their relations.

5.4 PERCENT OF ISRAEL'S LABOR FORCE IS UNEMPLOYED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Israel's unemployment rate now stands at 5.4 percent of the work force, with 72,000 men and women out of work. Aharon Harel, chairman of Histadrut, said yesterday this was an increase of nearly 70 percent over the 36,000 figure at the end of 1979. About 60 percent of women workers were without jobs, he said.

But while 72,000 persons are out of work, only 36,000 are registered with labor exchanges as seeking employment. Others are between jobs or living on savings while they seek work privately.

Another 20,000 people employed in the defense establishment are expected to lose their jobs under budget cuts. They will include 4,000 civilian employees of the army, 3,000 employed directly in military industries and about 5,500 regular army personnel. Others are employed by the Israel Aircraft Industries and other military-associated industries, but their dismissal or continued employment depends on export orders, including the Kfir fighter aircraft now being examined by the Mexican Defense Minister presently visiting Israel.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**KLUTZNICK: GOING 'HOME'
TO CHICAGO AND DO NOTHING**

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (JTA) — Secretary of Commerce Philip Klutznick, after administering for almost 14 months one of the Federal Government's most diversified and complex departments, is going "home" to Chicago soon and never take a job again.

Now past 73, the oldest member of President Carter's Cabinet, Klutznick will leave Washington when his friend, the President, departs on Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, to "spend a little time doing nothing" and later to do "some writing."

"When the boss leaves, I leave," he said. "I am going home — which I never really left," he said in an interview in his office. "I'll take a few months thinking about my future. No one has offered me the responsibility of heading a major company and I wouldn't accept if anyone had. Not at 73 and one-half. Perhaps I'll go into competition with you fellows and write. I'll try an original idea. After being president (of a junior Jewish club in Kansas City) and chairman of a board or both since I was 14 years old, I'd like to spend a little time doing nothing. I won't take a job — voluntary or involuntary. I want to spend time with my grandchildren and do what I want to do for the first time in my life."

Will Teach For A Few Weeks

Actually, Klutznick will do something immediately upon retiring from the Carter Cabinet. He will teach for "a couple of weeks" at the Wayne Morse Institute of Law and Politics at the University of Oregon in Eugene, but he has not made other commitments besides some speeches.

Before he was sworn in as Secretary of Commerce Dec. 19, 1979, he took a leave of absence as president of the World Jewish Congress. He said that on or about Jan. 16, when the WJC meets in Jerusalem, Edgar Bronfman of New York will be nominated president. "At the moment, I'm president on leave and he's acting president," Klutznick said.

Klutznick said he is writing a report for the WJC Congress to be delivered by someone else since at the time of its meeting he must remain in Washington to wind up his affairs as Commerce Secretary. "I remain concerned with the Congress as with B'nai B'rith and other organizations but I am not committed to day-to-day work," he said. He then added, smiling, "I probably will attend meetings of the Jewish Federation in Chicago again."

Position of the Jewish People

Discussing Jewish matters, Klutznick said "It is lacking in objectivity to think things are the same as 30 years ago. The position of our people has deteriorated in recent years due in the main to changes in forces internationally. One can say he won't exchange Jewish blood for oil but the fact is the oil-producing countries are powerful. I regret Israel is not one of them."

"There's been a complete shift in economic influence and at least in their perception in political influence in the world. It's not as deep as some think but you cannot cure it by strong words. This has influence on minorities wherever

they may be. We've blinded ourselves in a way and we have some catching up to do."

In discussing the rise of religious feeling here and abroad among Christians, Moslems and Jews, Klutznick said "we ought to worry less about anti-Semitism and more in what we — as a community — are doing. Getting frightened by anti-Semitism is going to happen from time to time but we must consider what our own community is doing. Is Israel as forthcoming as it should be? Is our Jewish community living in the 1980s rather than in the 1960s? Some leaders ought to retire and let younger people take over. They might have better ideas. We've got a big job ahead of us. We are facing a crisis of greatest proportions because we haven't caught up with it."

Developments Under Klutznick's Aegis

Among Klutznick's responsibilities is enforcement of the U.S. laws against the Arab League's boycott of American businesses that trade with Israel. Under his aegis, U. S. activity against American firms that held the boycott has increased. "It's an operating Department," he said. "Nobody is complaining except those who are charged."

A Department official later told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that in the year that ended Sept. 30 (more than 9 of the 12 months under Klutznick), the Department handled 33 enforcement cases and 12 resulted in fines and compliance actions while 21 companies received warning letters. In 76 cases, activity ended after no violations were established and about 126 warning letters were issued for late reporting on possible violations. In the last quarter of the year, under Klutznick, seven enforcement actions were taken.

Coincidentally, Klutznick is being succeeded as Secretary by the son of an old friend in Omaha, Malcolm Baldrige, his successor, is the son of Malcolm Baldrige Sr., who is now 93. The elder Baldrige was Klutznick's Congressman and maintained his law office three floors above Klutznick's in an Omaha building.

Asked to state his proudest accomplishment as Secretary, Klutznick replied with characteristic wit — "I'm still here." Told that his was a good response, he shot back — "It's a Washington answer." After that he spoke proudly of the "somewhat unique" relationship between businesses, labor and government during his time as Secretary. "I hope it carries on," he said. He and Labor Secretary Ray Marshall "behaved like twins" and "most business groups with whom we had to work in delicate situations were completely supportive as indeed were labor groups."

RABIN CUTS SHORT U.S. VISIT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (JTA) — Former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin is cutting short his current visit to the United States, apparently because of the government crisis in Israel. Rabin, on a speaking tour on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, said here that he is returning to Israel tonight.

"My vote might be missed" in the Knesset, he told an audience attending the foreign policy symposium of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. "I'm the only member of the Knesset who is out of the country." The Knesset is expected to vote this week on a motion to dissolve itself and set a date for early elections. Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency if he had met with officials of either the Carter Administration or the incoming Reagan Administration, Rabin, a leader of the opposition Labor Party in Israel, replied, "I didn't come here to negotiate."