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LAST DITCH EFFORTS UNDER WAY TO AVOID EARLY ELECTIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Members of Premier Menachem Begin's government were making last ditch efforts today to engineer a Cabinet reshuffle that would enable the Likud-led coalition to avoid early elections and serve out its term in office which expires in November. The deadline for a decision was set back unexpectedly by the murder last night of Bedouin Knesset member Hamad Abu Rabia. (See separate story.)

The crucial meeting that was to have been held at noon today between Begin, his Cabinet ministers and the Likud Knesset faction to set a date for early elections has been postponed until Friday because of Abu Rabia's funeral.

Meanwhile, Housing and Absorption Minister David Levy has proposed certain Cabinet changes and is trying to hearten coalition MKs who want to remain in office but were resigned to early elections because of the government crisis.

Minister Outlines A Plan

According to Levy's plan, Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon would become Defense Minister, a portfolio held by Begin since Ezer Weizman's resignation last year. He would be replaced by either Eliezer Aftabbi, a National Religious Party MK or Pessach Gruper, of Likud's Liberal Party wing. Likud MK Yoram Aridor would become Finance Minister, replacing Yigal Hurwitz whose resignation Sunday triggered the crisis.

In addition, Levy is urging Begin to persuade the three-man Ahva faction to join his coalition to balance the loss of Hurwitz's Rafi faction and preserve its slim majority in the Knesset. Ahva leader Shlomo Eliahu might be offered a Cabinet seat as Minister-Without-Portfolio.

It was not immediately clear how much support Levy's scheme would engender among other ministers. Sharon, the Cabinet's most outspoken hawk, was bitterly opposed by the Liberal Party and the Democratic Movement when Begin proposed him for the defense portfolio last year. With respect to Ahva, Begin and other key ministers, including Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Interior Minister Yosef Burg, have expressed reluctance to govern with a Knesset majority dependent upon a splinter faction that is considered neither solid nor reliable.

Begin, who was described yesterday as determined to call for elections, appeared undecided today. He was quoted as telling a visiting American Congressional delegation that it was still uncertain whether the elections would be advanced.

Meanwhile, the opposition Labor Party has submitted a bill calling for dissolution of the Knesset and elections to be held in April. It is expected to be debated next Monday. Labor floor managers claimed today that they could muster 61 votes for the measure if the coalition does not present a similar bill of its own.

KNESSET VOTES 63-33 TO LIFT ABU-HATZEIRA'S IMMUNITY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The Knesset voted 63-33 tonight to lift the immunity of Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira who has been indicted for alleged bribe-taking. There were five abstentions. Legal circles said he would go on trial within a few weeks.

The vote was conducted in a sombre atmosphere. It was the first time in Israel's history that a Cabinet Minister was stripped of his immunity, although some rank-and-file MKs have been so treated in the past. The outcome was a foregone conclusion inasmuch as the Knesset's House Committee recommended it yesterday by a 14-4 majority.

But surprise was expressed over the large number of negative votes cast, especially since Abu-Hatzeira himself had said he welcomed a trial because it would clear his name. Opposition to removing his immunity was seen as reflecting a lack of confidence in the government's case which rests largely on the testimony of one man, former Mayor Yisrael Gottlieb of B'nai Brak.

Abu-Hatzeira, 42, a member of the National Religious Party, did not exercise his right to address the Knesset. He made an impassioned speech in his defense before the House Committee yesterday in which he charged that he was the victim of a political conspiracy to ruin his career and his reputation, partly because he is of Oriental origin.

FOUR DRUZE ARRESTED AS SUSPECTS IN THE MURDER OF KNESSET MEMBER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Police have arrested four suspects, all Druze, in the murder last night of Bedouin Shiekh Hamad Abu Rabia, 51, a Knesset member for the United Arab List which is affiliated with the opposition Labor Party. Abu Rabia, shot to death outside of his Jerusalem hotel, was the first MK assassinated in Israel and the killing has shocked the country.

Thousands of Bedouins and representatives of the Arab and Druze communities were joined by government leaders and Jewish friends at his funeral today. Abu Rabia was buried in the Bedouin cemetery at Kefeifa, the home of his tribe in the Negev between Beersheba and Arad. Attending were President Yitzhak Navon, Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich and Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Berman.

Premier Menachem Begin called the killing a "shocking event" and praised Abu Rabia as a "good man and a faithful citizen of Israel." Begin's adviser on Arab affairs, Benzion Gur-Arye, described him as a "proud Bedouin and a loyal citizen" who sought to bring the Bedouin and Jewish communities closer for their mutual advantage.

Eye-witnesses said Abu Rabia was shot twice at close range as he parked his car in front of the Holy Land Hotel where he usually stayed while the Knesset is in session. A bell boy at the hotel told police the assailants sped away in a jeep. Two

of the suspects were arrested when their jeep was stopped at an army roadblock near Nablus a few hours after the killing. One was reported to be wearing an army uniform.

The other two were picked up some time later in the Druze village of Yerka in western Galilee, apparently as a result of the interrogation of the first suspects. Police said they were investigating several angles and checking out reports that Abu Rabia had been involved in a number of disputes and that he told friends he feared assassination.

Recently he was in a legal battle with Druze Shiekh Jaber Muadi of Yerka who was second to him on the United Arab List election slate. Muadi claimed that Abu Rabia had promised to step down and allow him a turn in the Knesset. But a district court ruled that agreements to rotate Knesset seats were illegal and Abu Rabia continued to represent his faction.

Bedouin sources also said that Abu Rabia was blamed by some of his own tribesmen for having been too accommodating with the Israeli authorities on the issue of the government's seizure of Bedouin lands for the new military airfields in the Negev. In recent months, Abu Rabia had been trying to formulate a new platform for his party which he hoped would attract young Israeli Arabs away from the Communist Party.

In an interview on the Israel Radio Arabic program two hours before his murder, Abu Rabia expressed hope that the Labor Alignment would be returned to office in the next elections because it might be able to lead Israel into peace agreements with Arab countries. Arab affairs experts said they hoped the police would find the killers quickly, if only to avoid a blood feud involving innocent people. Such internecine battles are frequent among Bedouins when one of their number is murdered.

SOVIET ENVOY SNUBS BRITISH SOLO ON THE CASE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG

LONDON, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The Soviet Ambassador to London, Viktor Popov, today refused to receive a former British Foreign Office minister who asked to see him about the case of missing Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. An official came to the gates of the Embassy to tell Conservative Member of Parliament Peter Thomas that the Ambassador was "a very busy man" and had no time to see him.

Thomas and Labor MP Greville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, had sought the meeting on the eve of tomorrow's international hearing on the Wallenberg case in Stockholm. Wallenberg, who saved thousands of Jews in war-time Hungary, is believed by his family to be a political prisoner in the Soviet Union despite Moscow's claims that he died there in 1947.

Thomas told journalists that the Ambassador, who has only recently arrived, was guilty of "gross discourtesy" in refusing to see a delegation of the Wallenberg Committee led by him and Janner.

Petition Also Refused

The Embassy also refused to accept a petition bearing nearly 15,000 signatures asking Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev to reopen inquiries into the fate of Wallenberg who, if alive, would now be 68 years old.

However it did accept two letters. One was addressed to Brezhnev from the Wallenberg Committee of which Janner is co-chairman with Winston Churchill MP, grandson of Britain's war-time Prime Minister. The other, addressed to the Soviet Ambassador, was from Lord Fenner Rockway, a leading Socialist member of the Upper House.

The delegation also included Hungarian Jews whom Wallenberg had saved from the death camps and Leonard Goss, a director of the British Council of Christians and Jews, which helped to organize the petition.

In Stockholm tomorrow, Janner will be joined by Maurice Samuelson, a member of the International Working Group for Raoul Wallenberg, as well as war crimes investigator Simon Wiesenthal, former Israeli Attorney General Gideon Hausner, and Ellie Wiesel, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. Ingrid Gaerde Widemar, a member of Sweden's Supreme Court, will preside at the three-day hearing.

MRS. NAVON, IN CANADA, LAUNCHES PROJECT CONDUCTED FOR CHILDREN IN ISRAEL BY HADASSAH-WIZO

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Ophira Navon, wife of President Yitzhak Navon of Israel, launched "Project Enrichment" here last night, in support of the many educational activities conducted for children in Israel by the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO.

The festive occasion at the Four Seasons Hotel was attended by many prominent Canadians, including Corinne Levesque, wife of Premier Rene Levesque of Quebec, and Maureen McTeer, wife of the former Prime Minister of Canada, Joe Clark, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, local political figures and members of the Hadassah-WIZO national executive.

Mrs. Navon, in Canada for the first time, observed that Israel is a small country lacking many natural resources and must invest in its most precious resource, the future of its children. Israel's First Lady is a child psychologist by training and holds a degree from Columbia University in New York.

"To strengthen the roots of children in their native land, milk and honey is not enough," she said. She stressed what Israel has accomplished in its 32 years of independence by welding together people from 102 countries. "To create a conscious citizenry and prepare future leaders, we must invest in children's education," she said.

Muriel Small, national president of the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, who introduced Mrs. Navon, said every child in Israel deserves an education. She said that a contribution of \$10,000 per child over a period of five years would make this possible. As a token of gratitude to Mrs. Navon, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO announced that 18 youth scholarships have been created in her name for the year 1981.

DIFFERING VIEWS PRESENTED ON EXTREMIST CHRISTIAN GROUPS

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Two prominent scholars gave differing views on the political extremism of Evangelical and other religious groups to 400 American Jewish leaders here attending the 37th annual plenary session of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC).

Dr. Franklin Littell, Professor of Religion at Temple University in Philadelphia, and a United Methodist minister, presented a mainline Christian view of the Evangelicals' political activism. Dr. William Sanford LaSor, Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena,

California and a leading fundamentalist theologian, defended the Evangelicals' position on this issue.

"Whatever our differences with the political action of the so-called 'Moral Majority,' and with some of us those differences are substantial, we should argue them out openly in the public forum," Littell said. "This is true as long as they debate honestly, and avoid violence or terrorism — which they do."

LaSor disagreed with a phrase in the proposed NJCRC position paper which called certain political activism by Church groups "profoundly violative" of the spirit of the Constitution. He argued that, for more than a century, liberals have dominated Church thinking in America, and for most of this century, they have dominated the political scene as well. "Is it any wonder that conservatives are beginning to feel that they are the ones whose Constitutional rights are being violated?" LaSor asked.

Terrorists, Freedom Fighters Differentiated

Littell elaborated upon his distinction between "terrorists" and "freedom fighters." "Terrorists assassinate unarmed pilgrims, women and children, and freedom fighters are irregulars engaged in attacks on military targets," he explained.

"The King David Hotel, attacked by Menachem Begin and his fellow freedom fighters (during the British Mandate in Palestine) was a military target. The PLO attacks children at Ma'alot, pilgrims at Ben-Gurion Airport, athletes at Munich, and Arab moderates wherever they are. These acts are not part of the public discussion; they should be suppressed by law, and so should the organizations responsible for them."

LaSor said that homosexuality and unmarried couples living together are proscribed by the Bible, "yet are now being taught as alternatives and equally acceptable — life styles, in our public schools." Such situations, LaSor said, give justification to the Evangelicals' recent determination to get involved in the political process.

Littell stressed that Jews and Christians should work together for mutual political and social goals. He said that Jews tend to "revert to a ghetto mentality" of banding together to the exclusion of other religious groups in times of crisis. "We should be working together," he said. "When swastikas are painted on synagogue walls, the next day's headlines should not say, 'Jews Appalled at Desecration' — they should say, 'Jews and Christians Appalled at Desecration.'"

NO PERSONNEL CHANGES SEEN IN STATE DEPARTMENT'S MIDEAST BUREAU AFTER REAGAN TAKES OFFICE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Present personnel of the State Department's Middle East Bureau, headed by Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders, will continue to formulate U.S. policy in affairs concerning the area from Morocco to India including the Arab-Israeli dispute after the Reagan Administration takes office, it was indicated here today.

Secretary of State-designate Alexander Haig reportedly has selected most of his senior aides and while Saunders is apparently not one of them, neither has Haig indicated his replacement. "The

simple reason may be that Haig has not yet settled on Saunders' successor," a knowledgeable State Department source told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Saunders, 50, and well known as "even-handed" on Arab-Israeli affairs, has been Assistant Secretary since April, 1978. He succeeded Alfred Atherton, presently the U.S. Ambassador in Cairo. He was promoted from Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Middle East to Assistant Secretary for Research and Development in 1975 by then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

In the latter post, he set forth before Congress a shift in U.S. policy toward Palestinian Arabs and their "legitimate rights." Kissinger dismissed it as academic. However, the tilt toward Arab perceptions of a possible solution to the Arab-Israeli impasse continued to prevail. Saunders' presentation to Congress appears in retrospect to be considered U.S. policy approved by the Ford Administration and not altered by the Carter Administration.

George Sherman, the chief information officer of the State Department on Middle East affairs, has been designated U.S. Consul General in Calcutta but is not expected to take up that post until late spring at the earliest. Sherman, a former diplomatic correspondent of the Washington Star, has been closely associated with Saunders and other top officials at both the State Department and the White House and has travelled with Secretaries of State on Middle East journeys.

Haig: Would Have Favored Planes to Saudi

Meanwhile, Haig's confirmation hearings proceeded before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today with the principal emphasis still on his association with the Nixon White House. However, in response to Senators' questions yesterday, Haig said that if he had been in authority in 1978 he would have favored the sale of 60 F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia.

That transfer was presented to Congress by the Carter Administration as a package deal that included the provision of military equipment for Israel and Egypt. It was seen at the time as an Administration maneuver to avert probable rejection by Congress of the aircraft for Saudi Arabia if they had been presented separately.

In other response yesterday, Haig said that the U.S. should attempt to "develop a consensus" with Western Europe and Japan about protection of Persian Gulf oil "but must be prepared to act even unilaterally to secure our access to those vital resources." He said he favored continuing and expanding the Carter Administration's recent efforts to develop an American military presence near the Persian Gulf but would not indicate specific sites for U.S. forces.

22.4 PERCENT RISE IN EXPORTS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Israeli exports rose by 22.4 percent in 1980, reaching \$5.326 billion, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced. The main increase was in industrial exports which rose by 30 percent (to \$3.299 billion) followed by diamonds by 15 percent (to \$1.4 billion) agricultural exports rose only four percent, to \$576 million.

About half of the increase in value was due to dollar inflation, as industrial exports by volume rose by only 14 percent without diamonds, which rose in volume by eight percent to 2,326 million carats. Agricultural exports fell in volume by 10 percent.

PARIS (JTA) — Anti-Semitic slogans were daubed on gravestones in the Jewish sector of a Paris area cemetery Sunday night.

REPORT MENGELE WORKING FOR GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY AS ADVISOR ON HOW TO TORTURE PRISONERS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Joseph Mengele, who was the chief physician in Auschwitz where he conducted experiments on camp inmates, is now working for the government of Uruguay as an advisor on how to torture inmates, especially Jewish inmates, in the notorious "Freedom Prison," the main detention center for political prisoners in Uruguay.

This was reported last weekend in Maariv by columnist Jacobo Timerman who based his story on Agence France Presse (AFP) reports from Brazil. One wire dispatch from Rio de Janeiro quoted a "reliable source," who asked to remain anonymous, about the work Mengele was doing. Four days earlier, a man identified as Daniel Rey Pisma, a deserter from Uruguay's navy, told an AFP reporter in Sao Paulo that Uruguay's government is engaged in torturing political prisoners.

Timerman, the former editor of La Opinion in Buenos Aires, who himself was a political prisoner in Argentina, noted that given the close timing of the two AFP reports, it is reasonable to assume that the reliable source in the Rio dispatch was Pisma. Timerman wrote that "Pisma has good reason to be acquainted with the 'Freedom Prison'. For three years, from 1976 to 1979, he worked for the construction service of the Uruguayan army. He carries with him many photos showing instances of torture in which officers wearing uniforms of the Paraguayan army are taking part, and also provided exact data about refugees from Argentina who were tortured and murdered by the Uruguayan officers. This is the information he provided (the AFP) without anonymity."

Mengele Met With Prison Officials

The AFP report which cited a reliable source said this source reported that last Oct. 20 Mengele was seen in the "Freedom Prison" and that he participated, under the name of Willy Karp, in a meeting with the heads of the prison, Fausto Gonzales and Mario Merinio, Timerman wrote.

Continuing, Timerman noted the AFP report stated that Mengele described to the prison officials several scientific methods for carrying out torture, using special methods with the Jewish inmates in the prison. The source said the Jewish prisoners include Gavriel Mendelzweig, Luis Polakof and Jacob Schneider. During this meeting between Mengele and the prison officials, the chief physician of the prison also participated.

Timerman noted that the reports about Mengele appeared to be authentic in view of a report given by Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal in Jerusalem last month that Mengele is now based in Uruguay, one of the countries he moves in freely in addition to Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. Wiesenthal also said at the same time that Mengele may be ready to surrender to West German authorities or to commit suicide.

EX-NAZI COLLABORATOR ARRESTED

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Jan Bulder, a 68-year-old former Nazi collaborator who rounded up Dutch Jews for deportation to Auschwitz, was arrested at Schiphol Airport last Thursday as he returned from a vacation in Spain. He is expected to stand trial for war crimes committed in 1944 when Bulder was employed by the

"Judenreferat 4-B", the agency charged with deporting Jews from Nazi-occupied Holland. Bulder's job was to hunt them down in their hiding places.

He was charged specifically after World War II with having arrested at least 20 Jews in The Hague, including children and many others in different localities. All were sent to Auschwitz where only one survived. Bulder also served for a time with the Waffen SS on the Eastern front and collaborated with the Germans in other capacities.

High on the wanted list of war criminal and collaborators when the war ended, Bulder was arrested but escaped before his trial and fled to South Africa in December, 1945 with a false passport. He returned to Holland in 1969 under an assumed name but later reverted to his real name. According to State Prosecutor Louis de Beaufort, Bulder thought he was safe because of the statute of limitations on the prosecution of war criminals. He was apparently unaware that an amendment to the law in 1971 extended the period.

Bulder had been living alone in The Hague but was under surveillance and his arrest was planned for some time. De Beaufort said he expected to find prosecution witnesses among Bulder's former colleagues in the "Judenreferat," all of whom served sentences of 15-20 years.

ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR IJIA 'SUPER SUNDAY' PHONE-A-THON

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Thousands of volunteers in some 125 communities are poised to start telephones ringing all over America on Jan. 18, "Super Sunday '81," in a mammoth one-day fundraising event to kick off this year's United Jewish Appeal/Federation Campaign. Callers will be dialing friends and neighbors to raise dollars for urgently needed humanitarian programs and services for Jews in Israel, in 25 other countries around the world and here at home.

Jerome Dick, Super Sunday national chairman, predicts, "More people will be reached and more money will be raised in a single day than ever before. In fact, we'll try to reach every Jewish household in America."

Participating in this national event are representatives of government, show business and sports, including Mayors Kevin White of Boston and William Green of Philadelphia, New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne, Sen. Arlen Specter (R. Pa.), William Shatner of "Star Trek," Mike Schmidt of the Philadelphia Phillies and cowboys from a local rodeo in Denver.

Radio and television stations in Dallas, Denver, and Worcester, Mass. are donating air time and facilities. The phone companies in Baltimore and Buffalo are contributing equipment and services. Many communities will award door prizes to their volunteers; others will provide kosher lunches and ice cream "super sundae." In Washington, D. C., Jews who have recently come from the Soviet Union will be calling, in Russian, other newly-arrived Jews.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Alexander Mogidovich, a long-time refusenik whose trial began last Thursday in Tula, was sentenced last Saturday to two-and-a-half years in a labor camp, it was reported here Tuesday by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. The charges against the 49-year-old electrical engineer are still not known. (See Jan. 13 Bulletin for background report.)

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The autonomy talks are to resume here Wednesday after a gap of over two months. Observers do not expect any real progress in this round.