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CAMPAIGN BEGUN TO OPPOSE GERMAN MILITARY SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Several outspoken friends of Israel have launched a campaign here opposed to arms sales to Saudi Arabia by the West German government. They include Bundestag Vice President Anne-Marie Rengor, a leading member of the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD), and a small group of parliamentarians from the Free Democratic Party, the SPD's coalition partner.

Under fire is the recently adopted position by Bonn that Saudi Arabia is not an "area of tension" and therefore may be removed from the government's self-imposed ban on selling weapons to countries in such areas which are not members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). That position, recently enunciated by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, was seen as part of a campaign to prepare public opinion for the sale of 300 highly sophisticated Leopard II tanks to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Pressure On Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and key Cabinet ministers were reported to be strongly in favor of the arms deal, negotiated by Schmidt with the Saudi rulers when he visited that country last year. According to German newspapers, the Saudis are putting pressure on Bonn to go through with the arms sale. They are reminding West German leaders of their oil shipments and of the 8 billion Mark credit they advanced to the West German government last year to tide it over a fiscal crunch.

Should the deal go through, observers here say it would be tantamount to military cooperation between the two countries leading to a "special relationship." Schmidt himself publicly praised the Saudi leaders on several occasions and spoke of close political cooperation with the Saudi Royal Family.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry has denied rumors in the foreign media that the West German army has sent instructors to Saudi Arabia to train Saudi soldiers to operate the Leopard II tanks.

EI AL GROUNDED BY GENERAL STRIKE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- El Al, Israel's national air line, was paralyzed by a general strike today and may be wound up as a company in its present form. The carrier's board of directors, headed by chairman Avraham Shavit, was discussing that possibility at a marathon meeting that is expected to last late into the night. Management personnel, meanwhile, were busy arranging the transfer of passengers to other air lines.

All El Al flights out of Israel were cancelled. (An El Al spokesman in New York told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that today's flight out of JFK Airport was cancelled and service suspended until further notice. The same applied in Miami and Montreal, the only other North American cities served by the Israeli air line.)

The general strike of all El Al employees was called after Shavit refused to rescind the dismiss-

sal notices sent to six members of the maintenance workers committee. They were fired for conducting a four-hour work stoppage Tuesday. The strike could have far-reaching national repercussions inasmuch as 13 major trade unions have threatened a sympathy walk-out if Shavit does not reinstate the maintenance men. Such an action would paralyze the entire economy.

A decision by the El Al Board to shut down the airline is expected to be supported by the Cabinet. The government-owned carrier has been losing heavily in recent years, due in large measure to labor strife but also because of the steeply rising cost of fuel and the world-wide recession. Airline officials expect the government would reorganize El Al on a tighter basis and eliminate the multiplicity of workers committees which have been responsible for numerous strikes and job actions in the past.

El Al came close to dissolution about a year ago because of its huge deficits. Shavit, a tough-talking businessman who heads the Israel Manufacturers Association, was put in charge to rescue the carrier by means of drastic cost-cutting. One of his first acts was to get a no-strike pledge from El Al employees who feared the airline might go under.

Union representatives said today that the prospect of El Al closing down worried them but they were prepared to "strike to the end" because management could not be allowed to fire workers arbitrarily. They said Shavit's abrupt dismissal of the maintenance workers was unprecedented in the context of labor relations in Israel.

Union lawyers said his action might be illegal because it punished six employees for a work stoppage in which many participated. They also pointed out that under existing contracts, employees involved in a strike can be dismissed only after prior consultation with Histadrut which was not done in this case.

Other strikes broke out today, unrelated to El Al. Broadcasting Authority employees suspended the hour-long radio news program although hourly news bulletins were not affected. Laboratory assistants failed to report for work in government-run medical institutions. Employees of the Israel Electric Corp. threatened to strike next week if their salary demands are not met.

POPE: MIDEAST CRISIS 'UNSOLVABLE'

BECAUSE IDEALS OF JUSTICE ARE

NOT PROPERLY INTERPRETED

By Lisa Palmieri Billig

ROME, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II referred to the Middle East as a "typical" crisis that appears to be "chronic" or "unsolvable" because the ideals of justice are being improperly interpreted. The pontiff made the reference in a sermon delivered yesterday to world diplomatic representatives accredited to the Vatican.

He quoted from his recent Encyclical, "Dives in Misericordia" (On the Mercy of God), which dealt with the errors or "distortions" of justice by mankind in these times. Expanding on that theme in his address to the assembled diplomats, the Pope ended his quotation just short of a paragraph in the Encyclical that drew protests from some Jewish circles because of its reference to the "Old Testament attitude ... manifested in the words 'an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth'."

The Encyclical intimated regret that "today's forms of justice continued to be modelled on" the "form of justice at that (Old Testament) time." A letter was sent by Rabbi Henry Siegan, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, to Father Jorge Mejias, Secretary of the Vatican's Commission on Religious Relations with the Jews, asking for clarification. So far there has been no reply.

In his discourse yesterday, the Pope said, "How can we, in effect, think of establishing a stable peace without taking into equal consideration the requirements of all the people's concerned, of their existence and their security, creating the possibility of building a basis for future cooperation?"

"It is obvious here, that by expecting the absolute fulfillment of one's rights, peace will never be achieved because this expectation presupposes the negation or the excessive reduction of the rights of others. Thus, only equity, or the ability to balance advantages and sacrifices by all parties can open the path to a global accord for living together. This means, as I said in the Encyclical, there is no justice without completion by love."

See Veiled Reference To Palestinian Problem

Observers here believe the Pope's remarks were a veiled reference to the Palestinian problem. The paragraph from the Encyclical that he quoted said that in contemporary man there is an "abuse of the idea of justice" and a "practical distortion."

It continued: "Very often, programs which start from the idea of justice and which ought to assist its fulfillment among individuals, groups and human societies, in practice suffer from distortions. Although they continue to appeal to the idea of justice, nevertheless, experience shows that other negative forces have gained the upper hand over justice, such as spite, hatred and even cruelty. In such cases, the desire to annihilate the enemy, limit his freedom, or even force him into total dependence, becomes the fundamental motive for action, and this contrasts with the essence of justice, which by its nature tends to establish equality and harmony between the parties in conflict."

FOCUS ON ISSUES

NATIONAL NETWORK ESTABLISHED TO COMBAT MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- The Task Force on Missionary Activity of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), formed to combat efforts of cults in the New York area to recruit Jewish youth as members, has developed into a national resource, according to Laurence Tisch, JCRC president, and Dr. Seymour Lachman, Task Force chairperson.

The two JCRC officials said Task Force activities were being headed by the Task Force's full-time coordinator, Dr. Martin Dann, a former American history professor with a record of "broad and diversified experience in youth and communal work." Dann is coordinating the anti-missionary activities of the more than 40 participating JCRC agencies and "developing with them programs of benefit to all members of our community," they said.

Malcolm Hoenlein, JCRC executive director, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that as the

work of the Task Force became known, requests for information began coming in not only from the metropolitan area and New York State, but also from around the country and from abroad, "indicating the dire need for such services."

He reported that "an informal network has been established," which includes JCRCs and similar agencies in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Miami, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, and Miami; and Montreal and Toronto in Canada. He said the Los Angeles Federation-Council had named Jan Kuris as a full-time coordinator of the Task Force on Missionary Activity of the Federation's Community Relations Committee.

Other Task Force Programs

Lachman also reported task force development of seminars and workshops for professionals in anti-cult work; continuation and expansion of a speakers bureau through the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Service (JBFCFS), and implementing a special 24-hour hotline for Jews needing advice and other help.

He said the Task Force also was "launching a public education campaign, including preparation of new materials to counteract missionary and cult propaganda." He said that under Task Force auspices, experts in many fields "are joining together in a concerted effort to combat the critical problems" and that volunteers were sought "to help us make this program as creative and effective as possible."

Lachman said a special grant from the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies had made it possible for the Task Force "to initiate the full-scale effort" needed to combat "the scores" of missionary and cult groups "preying" on the metropolitan area Jewish community. He said the Task Force would seek to "maximize existing programs and assist member organizations in undertaking new vitally needed projects" to combat cult efforts.

Hoenlein said that the Federation grant of \$45,000 was divided between the JCRC, which received \$25,000, and the JBFCFS, which received \$20,000. The grants were provided with the condition that the recipients match them, Hoenlein said, adding that the JCRC has done so.

Missionary Groups Identified

Lachman said that Jewish bookstores, schools and synagogues throughout metropolitan New York had been alerted to a wide range of literature, calendars, records and cassettes which bear "deceptive" Hebrew names, Jewish symbols and content, but which are produced by Christian missionary groups. He said the Task Force had been told that such items have appeared in stores specializing in Jewish items, organizational giftshops and at Jewish-sponsored fairs around the United States.

He urged Jewish agencies to publicize such materials, in addition to bringing them to the attention of rabbis, educators and neighborhood merchants. He cited records and cassettes by "The Liberated Walling Wall," "Jerusalem Players," "Star of David Singers," "The Israelites," "Israel's Hope," "The House of David," and "Shalom Singers."

Lachman also cited organizations he said were not easily recognizable as Christian missionary groups, listing Beth Shalom, also known as American Board of Missions to the Jews; Hebrew Witness, Inc.; V'kol Shofar; Peace for Israel; Shalom Center; Jewish Voice Broadcast; Beit Yehoshua; North American Jewish Ministries; Friends of Israel; the Tel Aviv Quartet; and Judaism in Service to the World, and the Jewish Friendship League, the latter two being frat organizations for the Unification Church, according to Lachman.

Significant Number of Jews Involved

Hoenlein said that while "hard statistics" were hard to get, the JCRC was certain that "a disproportionate number of Jews were involved in the growing number of cult and missionary groups" in the New York metropolitan area, and that the number was significant.

He added that, since the initial studies of the problem were made, "we have identified more than 100 groups in the metropolitan area alone whose primary, or exclusive, purpose is proselytization in the Jewish community," operating in every part of the metropolitan area.

Hoenlein said also that, initially, their emphasis was on Long Island and on college campuses but that "it now appears to have shifted to the city and includes the high schools as well." He added that while "the major target population" is 13 to 35 years of age, the groups even have programs "for three and four-year-olds, as well as senior citizens."

Hoenlein said that the JCRC noted two years ago "the increasing politization of many of these movements and that they sought to develop national political organizations whose purpose it was to support born-again Christians and like-minded individuals" for public office. He added that "while we recognize their First Amendment rights, we see their activities as a threat to our pluralistic society."

NEO-NAZI RALLY FIZZLES

BUFFALO, N.Y., Jan. 15 (JTA) -- The hopes of a local neo-Nazi group for widespread publicity from a planned anti-Black demonstration here on the commemoration of the 52nd birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., fizzled today when only the neo-Nazi organizer, Karl Hand, showed up for the event. Some 150 spectators came to the rally in Niagara Square, most of them white and most of them out of curiosity.

Gail Kaplan, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, praised the cooperation of city and county police who kept Hand completely surrounded until he was hustled into a police car and taken away from his botched "White Rights Rally." According to some media reports here, when reporters asked Hand where his supporters were, Hand replied: "They are here. I just can't find them."

There was no fighting or any other violence during the brief period of the neo-Nazi rally. Hand, who had been arrested yesterday by federal marshalls on a weapons possession charge, was released on bail. The charge stemmed from an incident last Feb. 16 in Barnegat, N.J. in which two gunshots were fired into a Black man's home. Several Buffalo Blacks have been killed in assaults in Buffalo in recent weeks.

Hand held a sign, "Whites Have Rights," and stretched out an arm a couple times in a Nazi-style salute. Most of the spectators, few of them Black, merely watched, but a few jeered the Nazi.

The Federation and the city-wide Black Leadership Forum had issued statements urging Jews and Blacks to boycott the Niagara Square event and, instead, attend a city-wide rally today at Lafayette Square. Several thousand Jews and Blacks came to Lafayette Square rally. Speakers included Mayor James Griffin, Rep. Jack Kemp (R., N.Y.), former Federation president Milton Zeckhauser, and Mrs. Kaplan.

A joint proclamation was read at the Lafayette rally, lauding the career of King. Asked for comment on the Nazi fiasco at Niagara

Square, Mrs. Kaplan said that "we are pleased to see the complete cooperation of all segments of our community, Black, Hispanic and white in this united effort to demonstrate our solidarity."

WALDHEIM APPOINTS BOARD OF INQUIRY TO PROBE CHARGES OF MUTILATION OF ARAB TERRORISTS BY ISRAELI TROOPS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Secretary General Kurt Waldheim today appointed a three-member military board to investigate charges that Israeli troops mutilated the bodies of five Palestinian terrorists who were killed in south Lebanon Dec. 25, a UN spokesman announced here.

Israel, according to the Israeli spokesman at the UN, consented to the setting up of the board and is going to be "cooperative" in the course of the investigation.

According to Waldheim's spokesman, the Secretary General decided to appoint the board of inquiry for the sake of "maximum objectivity" in clarifying the controversy between Israel and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) over the incident.

The three members of the board of inquiry appointed by Waldheim are Brig. Gen. Stig Waldenström of Sweden, Col. Osmo Karanka of Finland and Lt. Col. Brian Hanly of Canada.

Israel rejected from the start the charges regarding the mutilation of the bodies of the five terrorists. At the beginning of this week Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Blum, sent a sharply worded letter to Waldheim rejecting UNIFIL's version of the incident and sharply criticizing the way the UN handled the whole affair. Sources here pointed out that Waldheim's decision to appoint the board of inquiry followed Blum's letter.

HAIG ON ISRAEL AND THE PLO

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Gen. Alexander Haig, approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today by a vote of 15-2 as President-elect Reagan's choice to be Secretary of State, said he has always viewed Israel as a strategic asset of the United States. He also clarified his views on the Palestine Liberation Organization and expressed support for American assistance to Egypt.

In the course of questioning on the final day of his confirmation hearings, Haig was asked by Sen. Alan Cranston (D., Calif.) how he would "characterize our relationship with Israel in a nutshell. You view it as a strategic asset?" Haig replied, "I always have and I have always described it as that. And I combine that with our long standing obligation of the post-World War II creation of the State" of Israel.

Regarding the PLO, Sen. Christopher Dodd (D., Conn.) pointed out that in an interview in the New York Times Dec. 18, Haig was quoted as saying in part, "One must be careful in the use of the term PLO. The PLO is an organization made up of elements with various interests. Some are just and reasonable while others are obviously dominated by the East, financially as well as ideologically..."

Haig told Dodd he did not recall an interview in the Times. He added, "But I have said in the past that when people refer to the Palestinians at large they are talking about a number of factions and geographic sources and attitudes ranging from the most benign to some who are clearly under the wing and sponsorship of the Soviet Union. And I think, that is, I hope that is how the confusion got generated -- the Palestinians per se and the other, the PLO and the peace process." Full Senate confirmation is a virtual certainty next Tuesday, Inauguration Day.

U.S. JEWS URGED TO STRUGGLE FOR CONDITIONS THAT WILL ASSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY IN AMERICA

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 15 (JTA) — The dedication American Jews give to the struggle for the security of Israel and Soviet Jews "must be given also to the struggle for conditions that will assure domestic tranquility in this country," Albert Chernin, executive vice chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), told 400 delegates to that organization's plenum, its highest policy-making body.

Chernin asserted that "the Bill of Rights is alive and well," and added that "we in the Jewish community relations field can justifiably claim our share of the credit for contributing to this unfolding expression of American liberalism." But he admitted that there are "chilling elements of truth" in the views of groups who see the Bill of Rights as "destroying the American family, sapping American values and leading to the disintegration of American society."

He warned the audience, however, that an understanding of these views "should not lead us to disregard the liberal agenda -- the basic protection that every American is entitled to by the Constitution."

Regarding the progressive programs supported by American Jews in past decades, Chernin said: "We see boldness, brilliance, compassion and wisdom in them. Where would we have been without social security, welfare, SSI, aid to dependent children, food stamps? But none of these programs came from Sinai nor were they intended for eternity."

Mandate for the 1980s

He recommended "massive governmental action" as a cure for the present ills afflicting the United States and reminded the group that previous liberal goals took years to achieve. "So, let's brace ourselves for the long struggle," he urged.

Chernin named the rising level of violence in America as one issue calling for imbuing in the American people -- those who live in the ghettos, those who live in the suburbs, those who are Black and those who are white -- a sense that their fate is intertwined and that we share a common destiny.

He concluded: "Our earlier vision of our need for a strong, vital, open society has not changed. What has changed is our dedication to the realization of this vision. What is required of us is the same kind of vigor that characterized Jewish community relations in the 1940s and '50s. That struggle for social equality and economic justice should be the mandate for the Jewish community relations field in the 1980s."

POLICE PROBING THEFTS FROM PHILADELPHIA AREA SYNAGOGUES

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 15 (JTA) — Police are investigating two burglaries and thefts of silver Torah ornaments from two area synagogues, Temple Adath Israel of the Main Line in Merion and Temple Shalom in the city's Northeast, within the last three weeks, according to Associate Editor Robert Cohen in tomorrow's issue of the Jewish Exponent.

A third apparent burglary attempt was foiled at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in Wynnewood when intruders set off an alarm and fled. Police responding to the alarm apprehended a man in a

car who police believe was the pick-up man for the burglary team, according to a police source. The rash of break-ins follow a long string of similar events here in late summer.

Silver Torah crowns, breastplates and pointers were reported stolen in the early morning hours of Dec. 29 from Temple Adath Israel. According to police, the burglary was discovered by a maintenance man who found a basement window pried open, apparently where entrance to the building had been gained.

One week later, on the morning of Jan. 6, silver Torah ornaments were stolen from the ark of Temple Shalom. The theft was discovered at about 6:45 a.m. by the congregation's rabbi and cantor. We found that the ark had been opened and silver taken," said Rabbi Pinchos Chazin. "Three Torahs were on the floor, undamaged but stripped of silver."

Burglary Tools Found in Car

At 3:42 a.m., on Jan. 7, police responded to an alarm set off at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El. Sgt. George Clement, of the Lower Merion Township Police Department, driving to the scene, noticed a car making a U-turn away from the synagogue and became suspicious. He stopped the vehicle and found the driver to have a variety of "burglary tools spread out on the car seat," according to a police source at the Lower Merion Township Police Dept.

The man, a white male, was identified as Albert Joseph Faust, 21, of Upper Darby. Under questioning from the police, Faust said that he "was just out for a ride," according to the police source. The source added, "He wouldn't tell you the time of day."

Faust has cleared the \$5,000 bail set for him and is scheduled to appear at a hearing before District Judge Seymour Green.

"We feel that he (Faust) was planning to pick up two other guys, but he saw police activity and tried to flee back to Philadelphia," said the police source. The source explained that at least two accomplices were suspected because "footprints of at least two people were found in the snow."

The synagogue alarm was set off and the burglars fled, police believe, when a small window in a door was broken. Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El officials refused to comment. The temple had been burglarized previously on September 26, when silver Torah ornaments were reported stolen. That incident was one of seven synagogue thefts which occurred along the Main Line and in the Philadelphia area during an eight-week period from mid-August to October.

REPORT BRAILOVSKY SERIOUSLY ILL

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA) — Viktor Brailovsky, held in Moscow's Butyrka Prison, is seriously ill, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Brailovsky, a leading activist of the Jewish emigration movement, and editor of the journal, *Jews in the USSR*, was arrested Nov. 13 on charges of "defaming the Soviet state and public order."

According to his wife, Irina, the interrogation has been suspended temporarily because of his serious medical condition. She reported that this latest news contrasts sharply with the information she had previously received from prison authorities, assuring her that her husband was receiving appropriate medicine and was well. Efforts to ascertain the nature of Brailovsky's illness have been unsuccessful.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The consumer price index rose by six percent during December, according to official statistics released Thursday. This is the lowest figure for several months.