

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## WEST GERMANY MOVES CLOSER TO LARGE-SCALE ARMS SALES TO SAUDIS

By David Kantor

APR 7 (JTA) -- West German moves toward closer economic relations with the Arab oil-producing countries is clearing the way for large-scale arms sales to Saudi Arabia, government sources have indicated. Bonn, acting in concert with France, is expected to borrow large sums from the oil-rich states as part of an economic deal that would include major German-made weapons systems and jointly manufactured Franco-German weaponry for the Saudis.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who is scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia and possibly other Persian Gulf oil producing nations beginning April 27, is strongly in favor of the plan, the sources said.

Consultations on the projected borrowings and on other forms of cooperation with Saudi Arabia will be held here this week. The sources confirmed reports that the Arab loans would amount to 20 billion Marks. These funds would be used to finance unemployment programs and other government projects rather than to meet budgetary deficits.

Observers believe that the borrowing plan is a severe setback for opponents of arms sales to the Saudis in the Bundestag and within Schmidt's Social Democratic Party (SPD). Schmidt himself has made clear that the cooperation with France in this matter would broaden the basis of support for the arms package.

## NEO-NAZI TEENAGER FINED AND JAILED FOR ASSAULTING A JEW

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 7 (JTA) -- A 19-year-old neo-Nazi was sentenced today to two years' imprisonment for assault against a Jewish man wearing a yamulka. A Paris criminal court found no mitigating circumstances in favor of Nicolas Gillet who was given an additional one-year suspended sentence and a five-year term of probation.

The victim, 40-year-old Paul Blanzi, was awarded 20,000 francs (\$4,000) for immediate medical expenses and 5,800 francs (\$1,200) in damages. It is one of the severest sentences imposed in recent years by a French court on a first offender for this type of offense.

The victim was driving by the Paris Assas Law School when he was attacked by a score of men armed with steel bars, sticks and chains. Gillet is a former member in a neo-Nazi organization, The Youth Front.

## ITALIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA SUED FOR DISSEMINATING RACIST SLANDER IN ITS DEFINITION OF JEWS

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, April 7 (JTA) -- Edith Bruck, a well-known Italian Jewish writer and former concentration camp inmate, has sued the "Enciclopedia Curcio" for disseminating racist slander in its definition of Jews. The publication defines a Jew as "A person who is stingy, greedy, sordid and usurious."

Bruck, who is of Hungarian origin, took legal action after reading a letter in the Rome daily La Repubblica from a group of Italian Jews who accused the Enciclopedia Curcio of slandering the Jewish people. The offensive definition includes an invented verb, "Jewishize" (Ebraizzare) which it says means "To infuse principles, sentiments and ways of life that are typical of the Jewish race."

Bruck objected to the word "race" instead of "people", as a familiar feature of "an anti-Semitic cultural tradition." The encyclopedia also lists "Zionism" as a synonym for "Judaism" which, according to Bruck, perpetrates an "historical falsehood which has been used mostly to mask new forms of anti-Semitism."

Bruck observed that these definitions are of serious import because an encyclopedia is normally regarded as an "instrument for the diffusion of culture and correct information."

## 400 AMERICAN LEBANESE CHRISTIANS RALLY OUTSIDE UN TO DEMAND SYRIAN TROOPS WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 7 (JTA) -- At least 400 American Lebanese Christians and their supporters demonstrated in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza outside the United Nations today to demand the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon, while inside the Security Council chamber 10-12 other Lebanese Christians staged a one-hour sit-in. Several of them reportedly were from the Christian village of Zahle in Lebanon which has been under siege by the Syrians.

The latter group, which entered the UN building as visitors, protested against the military action by Syrian forces and the Palestine Liberation Organization against the Christian population of Lebanon. They refused to leave the Security Council chamber until a UN official met with them to receive their protest. They were met by Virenda Dayal, director of the Office of Undersecretaries General for special political affairs. After the meeting, the group was escorted from the building by security guards.

Observers at the UN today noted the contrast between these events and a similar demonstration a few months ago by two Palestinian mayors, Fahd Kawasme of Hebron and Mohammed Milhim of Halhoul, who staged a sit-in at the Security Council to protest their deportation from the West Bank by Israeli authorities. At that time, UN security guards invited the media to interview the mayors, ensuring maximum exposure for their cause. But today the press was barred from talking to the Christian Lebanese while they staged their sit-in.

## 'Help Stop The Massacre'

The demonstration outside was sponsored by the "American Lebanese Committee to Save Lebanon." They circulated a statement saying: "Help stop the massacre, help save Lebanon. Once again the savage slaughtering of Lebanese Christians is taking place while the entire world idly watches. Syrians, Palestinians and Communists are murdering innocent civilians in east Beirut and Zahle."

The demonstrators also passed out leaflets accusing the Syrians and Palestinians of attempting to annihilate Christians in Lebanon. They demanded that Syrian forces leave Lebanon and urged Americans to appeal to President Reagan to help end the "holocaust."

#### CEAUSCESCU CONDEMNS ANTI-SEMITISM; SAYS MANIFESTATIONS MUST BE FOUGHT

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA) — President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania twice condemned anti-Semitism this month, first at a meeting in Bucharest April 2 with Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York, chairman of the World Jewish Congress American Section, and again yesterday in an address to the Rumanian Worker Conference, the WJC reported here. On both occasions, his remarks were widely reported on Rumanian television and radio and in the press.

Schneier, who is also president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, met with Ceausescu at the offices of the Communist Party Central Committee in Bucharest. They reviewed current problems on the international scene which, Ceausescu stressed, required supreme efforts for peaceful resolution of conflicts. In that connection, he underlined the need to combat neo-fascist, terrorist and racist activities and deplored the new anti-Semitic manifestations in various parts of the world, the WJC reported.

In his address yesterday, the Rumanian President returned to the theme of vigilance against fascism, racism and anti-Semitism. "We must combat decisively retrograde conceptions, mysticism and superstition as well as any nationalism, chauvinist, racist or anti-Semitic manifestations which were and are foreign to the revolutionary workers ideals. Such manifestations have always served the oppressor class to divide working men in order to exploit them more easily."

Continuing, Ceausescu said, "In conditions of a worsening international situation of an economic crisis ... we are now observing the intensification of a policy of creating animosity and disunity of the masses; the intensification of fascist organizations to end democratic liberty, acts of terrorism, international enmity and recrudescence of racism and anti-Semitism."

Schneier also had a two-hour meeting with Rumanian Foreign Minister Stephen Andrei at which they discussed international issues of specific concern to the American Jewish community. In addition, he met with Rumania's Minister of Religious Affairs Ion Roseanu, accompanied by Chief Rabbi Moshe Rosen of Rumania.

#### BEGIN AGREES TO HALT LIKUD ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR ONE DAY TO MARK OPENING OF WORLD GATHERING OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin has agreed to halt Likud election campaign activities for one day on June 15, to mark the opening of the "World Gathering of Holocaust Survivors" in Jerusalem. The committee arranging the gathering said it would approach other parties to make the same gesture.

To date, some 2500 Holocaust survivors and members of their families from various parts of the world have registered to take part in the gathering, the committee said this week. The committee is chaired by Ernest Michel of New York.

The three joint honorary chairman are European Parliament President Simone Veil, author Elie Wiesel, and Stefan Grayek, chairman of the Jewish Partisans Organization.

The aims of the gathering, defined by the organizing committee, are "to emphasize the significance and lessons of the Holocaust; to serve notice to the entire world that the Holocaust must never be forgotten and never be repeated against any other nation; to affirm the continuity and survival of the Jewish people as a whole and the State of Israel as their focal point; to bear personal witness, on a worldwide scale, to the Holocaust experience and to transmit a testament from all the Jewish Holocaust survivors to the next generation."

#### WEEK-LONG SERIES OF FILMS ON WNET/13 TO DEAL WITH THE HOLOCAUST

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA) — A week-long series of programming, "Days of Remembrance of the Holocaust," has been scheduled by WNET/Thirteen from April 23-28, it was announced here today.

The series of films will begin with the airing of "Seven Beauties," Lina Wertmuller's depiction about one man's struggle against adversity and for honor and survival in a World War II POW camp, April 23 at 8:30 pm (local time) and will be re-broadcast April 24 at 11:40 pm.

"The Sorrow and the Pity," Marcel Ophul's documentary about anti-Semitism and the Nazi occupation of France during the Vichy regime in World War II will be shown April 25 at 9 pm.

"Man Alive; Hero Missing," which examines the 35-year-old mystery of the disappearance of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, will be aired April 27 at 9 pm. On March 26, Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.) and 260 co-sponsors introduced a bill in the House of Representatives that would bestow honorary American citizenship on Wallenberg for his unprecedented acts of courage in saving some 100,000 Jews in Hungary from Nazi death camps.

#### Other Films Listed

Following "Man Alive" there will be an encore presentation at 10 pm of "In Dark Places; Remembering the Holocaust" which examines Holocaust survivors and their children and how they have tried to come to terms with that tragedy. It also includes a portion of a performance of "Survivor," written and acted by the New Artek Players, as well as a discussion by author Susan Sontag. The film was produced and directed by Gina Blumenfeld, whose parents were the only Holocaust survivors of their entire families.

"Tomorrow Came Much Later" will be aired April 28 at 11:40 pm. Narrated by TV and motion pictures actor Ed Asner, it chronicles the experiences of 19 students from Cleveland Heights High School as they traveled through five countries in Eastern Europe and to Israel as the final part of a semester of study on the Holocaust. The film examines their reactions while visiting the sites of the former concentration camps and relates their experiences while traveling. The film was produced and written by Dr. Alan Stephenson.

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WASHINGTON (JTA) — The House of Representatives passed by voice vote Tuesday a resolution urging the Soviet Union to provide medical attention for imprisoned Soviet Jewish scientist and dissident Viktor Brailovsky, who is reported to be in failing health, and to permit him and his family to emigrate to Israel.

## SOME 1.5 MILLION HISTADRUT MEMBERS VOTING IN THE UNION'S ELECTIONS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 7 (JTA) — About 1.5 million Histadrut members, nearly two-thirds of the eligible voting population of Israel, went to the polls today to cast ballots in the internal elections of Israel's giant labor federation, the largest, most powerful non-governmental institution in the Jewish State. The polls opened at 6 a.m. and will close at 11 p.m.

Preliminary results are expected to be known shortly afterwards from key districts and according to experts they will be the most accurate indicator to date of how the June 30 Knesset elections will turn out.

The voting proceeded more slowly today than in the last Histadrut elections four years ago. The reason is that the labor federation decided against declaring a national holiday, as it has done in the past. The big rush to the polls is expected this evening, after workers leave their factories and offices.

The Israel Manufacturers Association (IMA) welcomed Histadrut's "wise decision," observing that the country cannot afford to lose even one day's productivity. Avraham Shavit, head of the IMA, said he hoped the government would make the same decision for Knesset election day.

### 11 Lists Vying For Seats

There are 3600 polling stations all over the country, including mobile units visiting outlying districts. The voters are casting two ballots. On one they indicate their choice among the 11 lists vying for seats at the 1501-seat 14th Histadrut Conference. On the other they select members for one of the 72 district labor councils. Women members are also voting for delegates to the Na'amat Working Womens Association.

The Histadrut Conference, established in 1920, meets every four years to draft Histadrut's national policy and elect from its ranks a 501 member council which meets every eight months. The council in turn elects an executive committee that meets weekly under the chairmanship of the Histadrut Secretary General. Incumbent Secretary General Yehoram Meshel of the Labor Party is running for reelection. His opponent for the office of Secretary General is Labor Minister David Levy of Likud.

Labor has always dominated Histadrut and the trade union federation is a basic component of Labor Party support. Although it is expected to win today's elections, its margin of victory is seen by experts as an indication of how Labor will fare against Likud in the Knesset elections.

In the 1977 Histadrut elections, the Labor Party margin fell to 55.3 percent from 58.3 percent in 1973 and 66.2 percent in 1969. Likud polled 28.2 percent of the vote, up from 22.7 percent in 1973 and 22.6 percent in 1969. In May, 1977, Likud won an upset landslide victory over Labor in the Knesset elections.

Political observers say that if Likud can maintain or increase its 1977 margin in Histadrut it has a good chance of defeating Labor on June 30. Public opinion polls to date have predicted a Labor victory in June but the Labor margin has been reduced in each successive poll during the past three months.

## FEW EAST JERUSALEM ARAB WORKERS VOTE IN THE HISTADRUT ELECTIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA) — Only a handful of East Jerusalem Arabs turned out this morning to vote in the Histadrut elections, the only non-citizens of Israel to participate. By noon, no more than 1500, or 12 percent of the eligible voters in the Arab community, had cast ballots. But the small turnout was attributed to cold, windy weather and Histadrut leaders expressed hope that a much larger number of Arabs will have voted by the time the polls close at 11 p.m.

There are 120,000 Arabs in East Jerusalem and the vast majority of them opted against Israeli citizenship. Many work for large Jewish firms, including the Municipality which employs some 1500 Arab workers. There are about 3500 Arab women members of Histadrut in East Jerusalem but as of midday very few of them had bothered to vote. The Arab workers in general do not seem to have been deterred from voting by anti-Israel propaganda in the Arabic media.

Asked at the polls if they had any misgivings, inasmuch as Histadrut is closely identified with the Israeli establishment, the stock answer was, "When it comes to labor there is no difference between Jew and Arab." But many experts believe Histadrut could have done more to establish roots in the Arab community during the 14 years of Israeli sovereignty in East Jerusalem.

They noted that Histadrut's most important public service, the Kupat Holim (sick-fund), only recently opened a second clinic in the eastern part of the city. If the health insurance system were more developed, Histadrut would have many more members in East Jerusalem.

### GREENE GETS JERUSALEM PRIZE

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA) — Graham Greene, the noted British author, received the prestigious Jerusalem Prize for literature yesterday from Mayor Teddy Kollek. The prize, which is awarded once every two years, was this year awarded in conjunction with the 10th International Book Fair which opened here yesterday. The previous recipient of the award was Sir Isaiah Berlin.

Greene, in accepting the award, warned against political and religious dogmas. "Heresy is only another word for freedom of thought," he said in an outline of his view on the writer's role in society. He recalled visiting Jerusalem 14 years ago, following the Six-Day War, and found the city suffering from "physical and spiritual scars."

Now, Greene said, "Jerusalem is a smiling and friendly city." He said he had met Arabs living in Jerusalem and found that they are fearless and speak openly, "thus implanting their freedom of the individual."

PARIS (JTA) — John Wilberforce, Britain's chief delegate to the European security review conference taking place in Madrid, Tuesday denounced the Soviet Union for manipulating the rate at which Jews were allowed to emigrate from the USSR for political purposes, according to press reports from Madrid. Wilberforce said that sudden increase in applications granted in February "as a security precaution in advance of the recent (Communist Party) congress" was followed by a slump to below last year's level. Meanwhile, the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration based in Geneva reported Tuesday that 1250 Jews left the USSR last month. Of this number, 217 emigrated to Israel.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF FLORIDA

By James Rice

MIAMI, April 7 (JTA) — The massive increase in the Jewish population of Florida is creating a major population center essentially comparable to the other major centers in the Northeast, Midwest and West Coast.

Current estimates indicate that the ever-increasing southern Florida area now includes a Jewish population of at least 500,000. This means that southern Florida is already approximately equal to the Jewish population of Los Angeles, and is apparently growing at a much faster pace.

On a recent visit, this writer observed directly the boom in condominium developments throughout southern Florida which include tremendous numbers of Jews of every age bracket, although of course, those in the retirement category, including both the affluent and those with limited means, continue to be a significant part. Fort Lauderdale, for example, has a Jewish population of about 75,000 and is, therefore, already comparable in size to the Jewish communities of Detroit or Cleveland.

### Role Of Cuban Jews

Two recent events in different parts of Florida reflect some unique aspects of the changes taking place. Last month, the Comité Hebreo Cubano (The Cuban Hebrew Committee of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation) sponsored its annual banquet under the auspices of the Cuban Hebrew Congregation, Cuban Sephardic Hebrew Congregation, B'nai Brith Miami Chapter, Interamerican Chapter of Hadassah, and the Cuban branch of the Farband — a consortium which could almost certainly not be duplicated in Federation drives anywhere else in the country.

Commenting on this event, Myron Brodie, executive vice president of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, said that the Cuban Jewish community in Miami has been supportive of Federation for the past several years.

An article last month in the Miami News quotes Reba Friedman, former director of Temple Menorah, as saying that in the early 1960s, Cuban Jews arrived "broke and disoriented with no place to go. They were taken in. We have since been rewarded. They are now one-third of the congregation." Another local leader, Nance Lieberman, president of Miami Beach Senior High School PTA told the Miami News that the Cuban Jews have increased property values tremendously.

### Other Developments State-Wide

Perhaps more surprising than these developments in southern Florida, are changes on a similar, if somewhat smaller scale, all over the state. Recently, in north central Florida, the Gainesville Sun devoted the entire first page of its weekend religious section to the dedication of a library of Judaica at the University of Florida honoring a Jacksonville, Florida family who gave the university \$400,000 to support the collection. Real Estate developers Eric and Samuel Price gave the endowment in honor of their mother, Rae, and their late father, Isser.

"Giving money to the library fits into our goals in life and reflects our Jewish beliefs, which encourage charity and learning," said Jack Price, a 1951 graduate of the University of

Florida College of Architecture. Samuel Price, a 1950 University of Florida graduate, said endowing the library "goes back to roots. The library reflects our heritage and our culture."

In addition to the gift of the Price family, the National Endowment for the Humanities gave a grant of \$101,000 to help set up the library, which is already open for use, although it is said that it will take at least 10 more years to complete the cataloging.

According to Dr. Barry Mesch, a University of Florida religion professor who heads and helped found the university's seven-year old Center for Jewish Studies, the new library put together with state, federal and private funds, is the largest in the south-east, and second largest in the nation among state-supported universities. Six faculty members teach courses to 625 students in Hebrew, Jewish literature, philosophy and history.

The library now includes a 40,000-volume collection gathered by Rabbi Leonard Mishkin of Chicago, who is the former head of the Associated Talmud Torahs of Chicago and professor at the Theological College in Skokie, Ill. Mishkin informed this reporter that there are over 3700 Jewish students at the University. Many Jewish faculty are holding major posts as deans of the departments and in various policy-making positions.

### Anti-Jewish, Anti-Israel Elements Present

On the other hand, Mishkin explained that, like campuses in other areas of the country, anti-Jewish and anti-Israel elements are present on the campus. The week before the library dedication, there was a Palestine Liberation Organization rally sponsored by Arab students whose effects were largely counter-balanced by actions of non-Jewish members of the student body.

A less obvious, but more significant, factor in the transfer of the Mishkin Library from Chicago to the University of Florida in Gainesville, is that along with a continuing outflow of the Jewish population from older communities of the Northeast and Midwest, Jewish learning and culture are following the path to the Sun Belt.

### UFT URGES N.Y.C. SCHOOLS TO INCLUDE LESSONS ON THE KKK AND NEO-NAZIS

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y., April 7 (JTA) — New York City school children, and possibly pupils in the rest of the state, will soon be learning about the nature and dangers posed by such extremist hate groups as the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party. The 250,000-member-New York State United Federation of Teachers (UFT), spearheaded by the New York City branch of the UFT, decided at its convention here to include lessons on the Klan and the neo-Nazis in their social studies projects.

The teachers view it as a way of combatting the dangerous growth of racist groups in the country. They noted the establishment of para-military training camps by the Klan and other extremist groups in several southern states and also in Connecticut and Illinois. The teachers also cited the epidemic cross burnings and daubings of swastikas on schools and synagogues around the country.

UFT president Albert Shanker said his union thought even small children should be made familiar with the history and background of racist groups as an antidote to their poisonous propaganda.

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BRUSSELS (JTA) — Antwerp police raided a local printing establishment and seized a large quantity of anti-Semitic stickers and neo-Nazi propaganda tracts.