MK FOUND GUILTY OF RESORTING TO BRIBES IN LAST KNESSET ELECTIONS: SENTENCING DUE IN A FEW DAYS

by Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) — Independent MK Samuel Flatto-Sharon was found guilty today of resorting to bribery in the last Knesset elections and will be sentenced in the next few days. One of his aides, Jack Benouville, was convicted on the same charge but the magistrate court here acquitted another aide, Flatto's campaign manager, Yaron Hafon.

Aides to Flatto said he would appeal the verdict and meanwhile continue his campaign for re-election on June 30. The court found that Flatto's offer of cheap apartment rentals to voters before the 1977 elections constituted bribery despite defense claims that it was a normal business deal. The millionnaire MK was also found guilty of bribing a local party list in the immigrant development town of Dimona. His defense contended that he was only doing what all political parties did in election campaigns.

Flatto was stripped of his Knesset immunity more than a year ago after MK Shulamit Aloni of the Civil Rights Movement drew attention to his 1977 campaign activities. His election to the Knesset that year blocked efforts by the French government to obtain his extradition to stand trial in France for alleged embezzlement and mismanagement of funds. Flatto had sought refuge in Israel several years earlier to escape arrest in France. The Paris authorities still want him back.

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER DENIES NUCLEAR MATERIAL FRANCE SOLD IRAQ COULD BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES

by Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 15 (JTA) — Prof. Alfred Kastler, a Nobel Prize winner and one of Israel's best friends in France, denied today that the nuclear reactor and enriched uranium France had sold Iraq could be used for military purposes. Kastler, in a letter to Le Monde, said he had studied the question of French nuclear deliveries to Iraq at the request of Jewish Renewal, a militant group, and had also discussed the issue with other international scientists.

His conclusion is that "it seems out of the question that France's deliveries (of a nuclear reactor and 12 kg of uranium) could be used for military purposes."

The Nobel Prize winners warned, however, that the delivery of a nuclear pile enables the recipient state to develop its technology and scientific personnel and eventually, should it want to do so, could obtain the know-how to develop nuclear weapons on its own.

Kastler added that "since 30 research reactors have been exported by various other states and especially by the United States to countries which did not have previous nuclear experience but have accepted international control."

Kastler's declaration created a small sensation in French political and Zionist circles as the Nobel Prize winning nuclear scientist is active on behalf of Israeli projects and Franco-Israeli scientific cooperation.

C.O.L. UP ONLY 4.8% IN MARCH LOWEST FOR MARCH IN PAST 3 YEARS

TEL AVIV, April 15 (JTA) — The cost of living Index rose by only 4.8 percent in March, the lowest figure for March in the past three years, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced today.

March is a traditionally low month for C.O.L. Index increases. The figure was 5.1 percent last year and 5.6 percent two years ago. At the rate of increase since the beginning of the year — 24.4 percent inflation is presently running at a rate of only 11 percent a year, compared with 1980's over 130 percent figure.

But Bureau spokesman David Neuman pointed out that the wholesale price index, which forecasts future rates and was fairly low last month, included clothing price increases of between 30 and 50 percent which would be mirrored in next month's consumer index. Municipal rates will also rise by about 200 percent next month, and the some 20 percent C.O.L. increase payments will also affect costs.

A NATIVE PAPUAN IS A REGULAR WORSHIPPER AT THE HAGUE SYNAGOGUE

by Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, April 15 (JTA) — Damianus Barnun is a regular worshipper at the synagogue in The Hague. He is the only worshipper who is a Papuan, a native of New Guinea, the easternmost island of the former Netherlands East Indies which is now known as West Irian and is part of the Republic of Indonesia.

How Barnun came to discover his Jewishness was the subject of an article in the Dutch weekly Nieuwe Gezondheid which did not, however, disclose the name of his mother or other relatives who still live in Indonesia although, according to the writer, they are distinctively Jewish.

The story began during World War II when Dr. Samuel Abas, a Jewish physician from Amsterdam, escaped from Holland just as the Nazis invaded the country and made his way to New Guinea. He worked at the hospital in Biok where Barnun was a medical orderly. When the doctor informed him that his family name was Jewish, Barnun was surprised. He showed Abas a photograph that he possessed written in Chinese characters which, he believed, were Chinese. Abas told him it was Hebrew.

Barnun's father died in a Japanese concentration camp during the war and the son was baptized a Protestant. He came to Holland some 15 years later and joined a Protestant congregation. But he did not feel at home there, he said, and subsequently joined The Hague synagogue and formally converted to the Jewish faith.

FORMER MK AND REHOVOT MAYOR RELEASED FROM JAIL AFTER BEING GRANTED A PARDON BY NAVON

by Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 15 (JTA) — Former Knesset member and Mayor of Rehovot, Samuel Rechman, was released from prison today, two months earlier than the due date, after being granted a pardon by President Yitzhak Navon yesterday.

Rechman, sentenced for accepting bribes while Mayor and sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison, was pardoned because of ill health.
on the advice of the Health Minister, Navon said in the pardon he was also taking into consideration Rechman's exemplary behavior while in prison, teaching other prisoners and helping to train them for a life outside.

Rechman was warmly greeted when he returned to Rehovot. Many residents said they would vote for him again as mayor. "He did a good job," they said. "He earned the penalty," residents noted. Rechman still insists he was not guilty of accepting a bribe in the form of an apartment from a builder to whom he granted a special building license.

JORDAN'S UN ENVOY WARNS AGAINST ISRAEL'S DECISION TO CONSTRUCT MEDITERRANEAN-DEAD SEA CANAL.

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 15 (JTA) -- Hazan Nuseibeh, the Jordanian Ambassador to the United Nations, has warned that Israel's decision to proceed with the construction of a 67 mile-long canal to link the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea, will have "far-reaching political, economic, sociological, agricultural and military" consequences for the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, the rights of the Palestinians and the entire Middle East region.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, which was circulated here yesterday, the Jordanian envoy charged that the proposed canal is an "aggression" by Israel.

He said that, among other things, the project will "inundate ancient Christian monasteries and holy places along the banks of the river Jordan in addition to inundating at whim the entire region of the Dead Sea" by raising the water level of the Dead Sea to a height which would breach its banks and inundate the irrigated area in the Jordan valley and the tourist resorts as well as the vast industrial chemical projects which are nearing completion along the southern tip of the Dead Sea.

CAMPAIGN GOES UP IN SMOKE

By Hugh Ojog

TEL AVIV, April 15 (JTA) -- Despite a massive press and radio campaign, "Smokeless Day," organized by the Israel Cancer Society, today was a failure to be envied.

Against a background of radio interviews with doctors describing the dangers of cigarette smoking, habitual smokers in cafes and places where radios were switched on could be seen still with a burning cigarette in their mouth or hand. Tobaccoists reported that some of their regular customers purchased their packs with an apology that they "just couldn't kick the habit."

The Society will be announcing later if there has been any increase in the number of people registering this week for "anti-smoking clinics" which reported a 70 percent success rate among those who joined.

Those registering for the clinics pay for the privilege of learning how to stop smoking. The Society said people who pay for something usually have more respect for what they buy than they would for something they get for free. The Society expressed concern at the growing number of smokers in Israel, especially pregnant women.

SOME 250 PUBLIC TV AFFILIATES TO BROADCAST DOCUMENTARY ON PASSOVER.

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- More than 250 public television affiliates throughout the nation will broadcast, starting tomorrow through April 26, a 30-minute documentary entitled "Passover," starring Ed Asner, star of motion picture and TV. A feature of the TV show will be films of various groups in Israel celebrating the seder as well as an American model seder using "A Passover Haggadah," the New Union Haggadah prepared in 1974 by the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the rabbinic group of the Reform movement of Judaism.

Producer of the television show is the Mississippi Center for Educational TV of Jackson, Mississippi, which has "one of the top reputations in the country for instructional television," according to television sources.

It was also announced that Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman, Professor of Liturgy at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City, and chairman of the Liturgy Committee of the CCAR, served as content advisor. Hoffman, who is considered an expert on the Haggadah, wrote the introduction to the CCAR Haggadah.

Another highlight of the nation-wide TV documentary will be the display of ancient and rare Haggadahs, as well as photographs of Sinai, Masada, and the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The film also shows Falasha Jews conducting a seder outside the house; a Yemenite seder program reciting the Exodus from Egypt, and an excerpt from a Georgian (Russian) seder showing the entrance to the Promised Land. The co-producers are Edward Cohen of Jackson, Miss., who is also writer of the production, and Edward Van Cleef of Dayton, Ohio.

Among the cities where the documentary will be shown are: New York, April 16, 10:30 pm and April 23, 2:30 pm; San Francisco, April 16, 6:30 pm; Buffalo, April 14, 6:30 pm; Sacramento, April 17, 1 pm and April 18, 3 pm; Los Angeles, April 19, 1 pm; Minneapolis, April 22, 10:30 pm and April 26, 10:30 am; Connecticut, April 26, 3 pm.

JDC SENDS MATZOH TO AFGHANISTAN

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- The 17 remaining Jewish families in Afghanistan comprising 66 individuals in the cities of Kabul and Herat were air freighted a shipment of 288 pounds of matzoh for the Passover season, it was announced here today by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

The shipment was part of the extensive program of the JDC which this year shipped over 400,000 pounds of matzoh and other Passover supplies. Other countries receiving the supplies were Rumania, Poland, Egypt, Spain and Portugal, Italy, Yugoslavia, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Ethiopia.

An emergency in Turkey was narrowly averted when the Jewish community there, which suffered a breakdown in the ovens used to bake its matzoh was able to fix them in time. The JDC, according to a spokesman here, had been standing by to air express tons of matzoh in the event the ovens could not be repaired.

U.S. CONTINUES TO WAFFLE ON ITS VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 15 (JTA) -- The State Department denied today that U.S. policy in Lebanon was aimed at getting the Syrian army to withdraw from that war-torn country. At the same time, however, Department spokesman Dean Fischer stressed that the U.S. wanted the Lebanese army to eventually take over "security functions" in the entire country.

This apparent contradiction came after Fischer refused to comment on a call by Sen. Edward Kennedy...
NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held here Friday for Lillie Shultz, a leading member of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in the United States and a close colleague of the Jewish Agency delegation to the UN, who died last Monday at the age of 77.

Ms. Shultz was a member of the staff of the American Friends of the Weizmann Institute of Science and collaborated in the preparation of the memoirs of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first President. She was a director of the Nation Associates, publishers of Nation magazine, and a member of its editorial staff. She also served as director of the American Jewish Congress and was a staff member in the 1930s of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENTS, FACULTY DENOUNCE ULTRA-RIGHT GROUP FOR DENYING EXISTENCE OF HOLOCAUST

ANN ARBOR, Mich., April 15 (JTA) -- University of Michigan students and faculty organized a campus protest against solicitation letters sent to the community within the last two weeks by the "Legion for the Survival of Freedom" and the "Institute for Historical Review" in California. The letters insist that the Holocaust never took place and offered a book order form for such titles as "Six Million Lost and Found," "The Kangaroo Court of Nuremberg" and "Anne Frank's Diary--A Hoax."

University of Michigan groups formed Students Concerned: About Racocurrence (SCAR) in response to the letters. SCAR published a full-page advertisement in the campus newspaper, the Michigan Daily, held a forum on "Hate Groups in the 80s," and held an outdoor campus memorial service for the victims of the Holocaust.

The advertisement published in the Michigan Daily April 1 was signed by more than 300 Jewish and non-Jewish students and faculty, as well as 14 organizations. Entitled "An Open Letter to the University Community," the advertisement was also posted at various campus locations. The advertisement stated:

"Recently, many students here at the university have received an afirnunt to their intelligence and moral sensibilities in the form of a letter. The envelope of this letter displayed the return address of the Legion for the Survival of Freedom but the letter inside identified the sender as the Institute for Historical Review, a West Coast-based organization devoted to rewriting the history of the Second World War.

Expression Of Outrage

"We are outraged that they deny the existence of anti-Semitism in Nazi German...claim Anne Frank's diary is a forgery...claim the Nazi furnaces are part of an ancient Jewish fantasy...claim that a 'Zionist-controlled' read 'Jewish-controlled' and 'anti-Semitic' government of Lebanon under President Elias Sarkis 'throughout the country' and part of that goal is working toward having the Lebanese armed forces assume security functions throughout the country."

The letter went on to say:

"Asked if that didn't mean that the Lebanese army would be taking over security functions from the Syrian army, Fischer said he preferred to state it in the way that he had.

LILLIE SHULTZ DEAD AT 77

TEL AVIV, April 15 (JTA) -- Israeli officials and joint committee of Moslem and Christian Arabs and Democrats were trying to prevent a blood feud between two neighboring villages in western Galilee, arising out of a brawl at the football match which led to the death of one man on Saturday and two other retaliatory killings yesterday.

The brawl started when supporters of the Hapoel soccer teams ran riot after a match at Julis, during which a handgrenade was thrown, killing a Julis villager. Yesterday, Julis villagers, who are mainly Druze, drove into predominantly Christian Kfar Yasif village, shooting up the place, throwing handgrenades and setting houses ablaze. A 33-year-old resident and a visiting 17-year-old student were killed in the rioting.

The danger of a blood feud is especially dangerous in this case because of the differing religious backgrounds of the two villages, only a few miles apart.

Village notables have accused the police of not taking sufficient care to avoid a retaliatory raid after the football incident. But police spokesmen said several dozen policemen were on hand but the Julis villagers entered Kfar Yasif through back roads and were already running wild before the police realized what was happening.

FEAR BLOOD FEUD IN WESTERN GALILEE

TORONTO (JTA) -- A Canadian Jewish Congress delegation met with the Polish Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Stanislaw Pawlak, to convey the Canadian Jewish community's "sense of outrage" at anti-Semitic events in Warsaw.
education. Such groups are illegal, according to a reliable source. Not one there any independent Jewish leader to serve as a rallying point for Hungary's Jewish youth. The community leadership is paid by the state.

In a Communist atheist country dedicated to the ultimate disappearance of all religion, it is of no advantage to belong to any religious group -- especially a small minority such as Judaism. While Hungary tolerates all religions, there is subtle pressure away from religious affiliation. Many Jews in Hungary today are not part of the Jewish community, and consider themselves "Communists of Jewish descent." MIOK and JDC claim there are 80,000 to 100,000 Jews in Hungary, but the number of practicing Jews is probably closer to 15,000.

Co-Opting Religion

"The government has come to the conclusion that religion can be co-opted into their plan, so that religion will die naturally over a long period of time," an expert on Hungary explained. "If the churches are deprived of real political power, they are not dangerous. The government uses a strategy of co-opting the churches, while allowing freedom of religion."

This theory seemed borne out by the fact that no member of the Jewish community is a high government official. Jews who are not members of the community, however, do hold such positions. (The exception is Chief Rabbi Laszlo Salgo, who is a member of Parliament. His dual capacity seems to benefit the state as much as it does the Jewish community.)

Will the Jewish children of Hungary choose to remain in the community, or is the future of Hungarian-Jewry doomed? MIOK officials spoke of the future gloomily, but knowledgeable individuals admitted privately that the future is grim.

WEEK OF APRIL 26-MAY 3 PROCLAIMED YOM HASHOAH IN N.Y., STATE AND N.Y.C.

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- The week of April 26-May 3 has been proclaimed "Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust" throughout New York State by Governor Hugh Carey and in New York City by the City Council.

Noting that April 30 had been designated "pursuant to the Act of Congress and internationally as a day of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust, known as Yom Hashoah," Carey said in his proclamation, "The people of the State of New York should always remember the atrocities committed by the Nazis so that such horrors never be repeated... It is appropriate for the people of the State of New York to join in the international commemoration."

The City Council proclaimed the Days of Remembrance in a special ceremony yesterday at City Hall where prominent members of the Council, leaders of the Jewish community and Holocaust survivors participated in a candle-lighting ceremony in memory of the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust.

** TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Hatikva and Ezra slum quarters of Tel Aviv were quiet Wednesday after rioting there Tuesday night following municipal attempts to tear down four structures which had been built without a license. The rioters, mainly teen-agers, set fire to a bus and burned garbage collection centers and broke windows of shops. Police arrested a number of the rioters.