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## AFRICAN NATIONS AT W. H. O. CONCLUDE RALLY BEHIND ISRAEL AGAINST ARAB EFFORTS TO BAR ISRAEL FROM MEETING

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, May 7 (JTA) -- African nations attending the World Health Organization (WHO) annual conference which opened here yesterday have unexpectedly rallied behind Israel against a coordinated attempt by the Arab states and their allies to have Israel barred from the conference and eventually expelled from the WHO.

The Arabs got a rude surprise when the African states, led by Nigeria, informed the credentials committee that they opposed a proposal by Bahrain and Sudan to ban Israel because of its alleged violations of international law. The Arabs apparently were not prepared for this stance. The Arab strategy aimed at excluding Israel from all international conferences and forums of United Nations agencies was based on an agreement reached at the conference of non-aligned nations in New Delhi last January.

The Arabs had a first try at implementing that policy at a conference on African refugees held here last month but failed because of American pressure. It was understood that the U.S. planned to walk out of the WHO conference if Israel was excluded.

### Tired Of Being Used

But it was the Africans who frustrated the Arabs' plans. The delegations from Nigeria and Kenya, led by the Health Ministers of those countries, told the Israeli delegation, headed by Health Minister Eliezer Shostack, that they were fed up with Arab political manipulations.

They reportedly said they have realized that they were being used by the Arab states which promised financial aid to African countries that never materialized while Israel had helped them in the past in many fields. The African delegates also reportedly spoke of the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel by their respective countries.

The Arab states are also running into difficulties in their efforts to shift the WHO's Middle Eastern regional headquarters from Alexandria to another capital because of their objections to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. The Arab delegates have been unable to agree on a new location. Amman, Jordan, was proposed but rejected because it lacks the required administrative facilities. The WHO as a whole is opposed to the transfer because it would have to pay the costs.

## HEAD OF RIGHTWING CALIFORNIA-BASED INSTITUTE IDENTIFIED AS FORMER MEMBER OF BRITISH NEO-FASCIST GROUP

LOS ANGELES, May 7 (JTA) -- The head of a rightwing "think tank" disseminating what it calls "scholarly evidence" that the Holocaust was a Jewish myth is a former British neo-fascist who edited anti-Semitic and racist publications in England before becoming a resident alien in the U.S. in 1978.

Lewis Brandon, 29, director of the Institute for Historical Review in the Los Angeles suburb of Torrance, was identified by the Board of Deputies of British Jews as William David McCalden, a former member of Britain's neo-fascist National Front.

The Board of Deputies, which represents the Jewish community in the United Kingdom, provided documentary evidence of McCalden's identity and activities to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at that agency's request, according to Russell Chandler, Religion Writer of the Los Angeles Times. The present whereabouts of McCalden, alias Brandon, are unknown, Chandler reported.

He left the state apparently to avoid a law suit by Mel Mermelstein, 54, a Los Angeles businessman and Holocaust survivor. Mermelstein, who saw his mother and two sisters taken to the gas chambers at Auschwitz in 1944, is suing the Institute for Historical Review for the \$50,000 it offered recently to anyone who could prove that at least one Jew was put to death in the gas chambers during World War II, and for \$17 million in damages.

### Activities In Racist Organizations

Material provided by the Board of Deputies of British Jews showed that McCalden was born in Belfast and was a writer and editor of anti-Semitic and white supremacist tracts. He defected from the National Front in 1975 to help form the National Party which espouses "British racial nationalism." He is married to a U.S. citizen. Russell reported that it was not known exactly when McCalden came to southern California and became associated with the Institute for Historical Review where he was paid \$22,000 a year.

The Institute is directly associated with the far right-wing rabidly anti-Semitic and racist Liberty Lobby, a Washington-based pressure group headed by Willis Carto. Carto's German-born wife, Elisabeth, is treasurer of the Legion for the Survival of Freedom, the holding corporation for the Institute for Historical Review and Noontide Press.

The latter is a Carto publishing enterprise which puts out ultra-conservative and anti-Semitic books. Liberty Lobby also publishes Spotlight, a weekly that has carried sensationalized articles claiming that the Holocaust was a hoax.

## SCHMIDT REAFFIRMS MIDEAST POLICY, ALSO CITES SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BONN AND JERUSALEM

By David Kantor

BONN, May 7 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has made it clear that he is standing by his positions on the Middle East, including self-determination for the Palestinian people and association of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Mideast peace process, notwithstanding an official protest from Israel and a bitter personal attack on him by Premier Menachem Begin.

However, in a lengthy policy statement to the Bundestag today, Schmidt seemed to take a conciliatory approach to Israel and to acknowledge the special relationship existing between Bonn and Jerusalem which Begin accused the Chancellor of forgetting. He said he would not respond directly to Begin's

charges "precisely because I am aware of the special moral and historical quality of German-Israeli relations."

Nevertheless, at meetings with the parliamentary factions of his Social Democratic (SPD) and Free Democratic (FDP) coalition parties in the Bundestag and with his Cabinet, Schmidt defended his view that the Palestinians deserve self-determination and the right to establish their own state if they wish.

He insisted that the PLO should be a party to Western initiated peace moves in the Middle East to keep it from falling into Russian hands. He deplored the fact that the Palestinians and Israelis have each refused to recognize the other.

#### Defends Special Commitment To Palestinians

Schmidt also defended his remark that West Germany has a special commitment to the Palestinians driven from their homes on the West Bank, an assertion that infuriated Begin. According to observers here it is based on a theory gaining ground in Bonn circles that since the Third Reich was in a way responsible for the creation of the State of Israel, it also had a responsibility for the "Palestinian tragedy" which its successor had a duty to help mitigate.

Referring to his recent visit to the Middle East in his Bundestag statement, Schmidt said that he and the Arab leaders he met agreed on the need for a comprehensive peace settlement from which "Israel was not excluded." He noted that Israel is celebrating the 33rd anniversary of its independence today and said he continued to hope for a comprehensive, just peace and that in this he spoke for all Germans.

Schmidt did not refer directly to the accusations hurled at him by Begin earlier in the week that he had lost sight of Germany's slaughter of European Jewry and was now making common cause with those who wanted to finish the Holocaust. Begin also implied that Schmidt may have been a Nazi and claimed that in any event, as a Wehrmacht officer in World War II, he had never abandoned his oath of loyalty to Hitler. Begin claimed the German nation "applauded" the slaughter of Jews when Germany was victorious.

#### Schmidt's Remarks Assailed By Navon, Shamir

Schmidt's remarks on the Palestinians and the PLO were also sharply criticized by President Yitzhak Navon of Israel and by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir but in more temperate language. Schmidt's only reply today was to caution his critics to "beware of getting excited. Let us beware of exaggerated polemics but let us also beware of dangerous simplifications," he said.

Bonn government spokesman Kurt Becker refused to comment on the remarks by Israeli leaders today, saying that West Germany does not want a further escalation of the dispute. Yesterday, the Israeli Ambassador, Yochanan Meroz paid a long scheduled visit to the Bonn Foreign Ministry where he discussed the situation with a senior official. Although Israel has lodged a formal protest against Schmidt's remarks, Bonn refrained from taking similar action over the attacks by Begin.

Meanwhile, the West German State Radio and the German press continued to defend Schmidt and focused largely on Begin's "undiplomatic" language. But some newspapers suggested that the Chancellor had failed to appreciate fully the effects his pro-Arab policies would have on Israeli public opinion and failed to show restraint and good sense in that connection.

Schmidt was also criticized in some quarters for his failure to respond to a long standing invitation to visit Israel, extended by previous governments and renewed by the Begin government.

#### Jewish Community Attacks Chancellor

Schmidt also came under attack from the Jewish community in West Germany which ordinarily refrains from criticizing government actions. Werner Nachman, chairman of the community, warned against endangering relations with Israel and reminded the government of what he termed a basic consensus of all democratic parties in the country that the partners in Middle East peace talks can only be those which do not question the Jewish State's right to exist.

At the same time, Helmut Kohl, leader of the opposition Christian Democratic Union (CDU) who had criticized Schmidt's handling of relations with Israel, said today that there was no excuse for the tone of Begin's attack on the Chancellor.

#### WEST GERMAN COURT CONSIDERING THE FATE OF A FORMER NAZI

BONN, May 7 (JTA) -- A court in Duesseldorf is considering the fate of a former New York resident accused of mass murder while she was a Nazi concentration camp guard. The case involves Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan, 61, who has been identified by former inmates of Maidanek as having participated in the execution of women and children and the selection of prisoners for the gas chambers at the camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Mrs. Ryan, who married an American after World War II and was extradited from the U.S. almost eight years ago, is accused with eight other former SS guards in what has become the longest Nazi war crimes trial. It has lasted for five-and-a-half years.

A defense lawyer asked the court this week to free Mrs. Ryan, claiming that witnesses had not proved that she had taken part in the alleged atrocities and could not make a positive identification. The lawyer also tried to get her acquitted on grounds that she was being tried twice for the same crime.

Mrs. Ryan was sentenced to three years in prison by a court in Vienna in 1946 on charges which included torture and mistreatment of prisoners in Maidanek and in the Ravensbrueck concentration camp where she had worked since 1939 before being transferred to Maidanek.

However, the prosecution claimed that the Vienna court case and the present case involve different charges. The prosecution has asked for life imprisonment for Mrs. Ryan for being directly involved in the murder of 100 children and the selection of 1,080 prisoners in Maidanek to be gassed in 1943.

#### EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN SOUTHERN ITALY AIDED BY JEWISH GROUPS

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

\* ROME, May 7 (JTA) -- A ceremony was held this week in Potenza to inaugurate the first Red Cross day-care center for children in that earthquake stricken town in southern Italy. About one-third of the finances that was contributed for the center came from Jewish organizations.

The American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which sponsored the project, contributed \$30,000. Other organizations, such as HIAS, the Jewish Agency, ORT and Jewish philanthropic organizations in the United States contributed the rest to reach a \$100,000 goal. Funds were also supplied by the

European Economic Community (EEC). A total of 32 social welfare centers for children and the aged, including medical assistance, will be constructed by the Red Cross in areas devastated by the recent earthquake. The program is financed by the EEC and the Red Cross societies of Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Great Britain, France, Sweden, Canada, Belgium and Poland.

The ceremony this week drew a large number of Red Cross officials, government officials and Loni Meyer, the Rome director of the JDC who represented the American JDC. A telegram sent by the JDC president Henry Taub and executive vice president Ralph Goldman, which was read at the ceremony, stated:

"The American Joint Distribution Committee, on behalf of the entire American Jewish community, extends its best wishes on the dedication of the community center in Potenza. Our hearts are with you and with all those who suffered in the earthquake of November 1980. We thank you for allowing us this opportunity to be of service."

#### Jews Were Aided During WW II

Mrs. Meyers said at the ceremony that the JDC contribution was given also in recognition of the help Jews had received in the area during the difficult wartime years. A little boy from the village presented her with an orchid. Mrs. Meyer told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and she in turn kissed him.

She said several people talked to her later of their wartime memories and of Jewish friends who had been interned in towns in the area. The representative of the Bishop of Potenza said his family had hosted several Jewish refugees in their homes and he had saved the many letters he subsequently received from refugees after they reached freedom.

Potenza, which has a population of 56,000, has a section of Jewish graves in the communal cemetery dating back to the period of forced internments during the war. The councillor of the town's Red Cross told Mrs. Meyer that he has been in charge of caring for the Jewish graves.

#### U.S. SEES NO CONTRADICTION IN ITS ACTIONS TOWARD LIBYANS AND THE PLO

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA) -- The State Department saw no contradiction today in the United States order closing the Libyan diplomatic mission here for misconduct, "including support of international terrorism" while continuing to allow the Palestine Liberation Organization to have an information office here.

The State Department announced yesterday that all 27 Libyan diplomatic personnel and their families had been ordered to leave the United States by midnight May 13. The Department accused Libya of "provocation and misconduct, including support of international terrorism."

Department spokesman Dean Fischer said at the time that the U.S. has "been concerned by a general pattern of unacceptable conduct" by the Libyan Embassy in Washington "which is contrary to internationally accepted behavior." Reagan Administration officials listed alleged efforts by the Libyans to murder opponents of the country's leader, Muammar Qaddafi, and Libyan activities against the governments of Chad, Egypt and Sudan.

Fischer reminded today that President Reagan has frequently publicly labeled the PLO as "terrorist," refused to comment on whether the U.S. considers the Libyans more terrorist than the PLO. Instead, Fischer said, the PLO information office

was a different matter. He said it was registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent. As long as the PLO office complies with all U.S. laws and is staffed by Americans or resident aliens, it has the protection of the First Amendment, Fischer said. He said he did not know whether the Libyans would be allowed to open a similar office in Washington.

#### HOUSE UNIT APPROVES PORTION OF LOAN MONEY TO ISRAEL FOR MILITARY AID AT REDUCED RATE OF INTEREST

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA) -- The House Financial Aid Committee, for the first time, has approved providing a portion of the loan money to Israel for military aid at a reduced rate of interest.

An amendment, steered through the committee by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. N.Y.), would lend Israel \$50 million of the foreign military aid for fiscal year 1982, beginning Oct. 1, on "concessional terms" at 3 percent interest. The remainder of the \$900 million loan for military aid would be provided at the rate of 14 percent.

In addition to the loan, the committee voted to grant Israel \$500 million in military aid and \$785 million in economic assistance. Solarz said that the committee's actions "represent Congressional recognition of Israel's extraordinary contribution to the peace process and the heavy financial burden it has assumed by withdrawal from the oil fields in Sinai and the redeployment of its forces in the Negev."

#### INDEPENDENCE DAY ACTIVITIES

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- President Anwar Sadat of Egypt sent an Independence Day message Thursday to President Yitzhak Navon assuring Israel that Egypt remains "firmly determined" to pursue the policy of peace for all the peoples of the region. Among messages from other heads of state was one from President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing wishing Israel "a happy future."

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- Several hundred people attended an Israel Independence Day reception Thursday given by the Israel Mission to the United Nations at the Consulate General of Israel in New York. Among those attending were UN delegates from many of the European, Asian and African countries, including Egypt. Others in attendance at the reception, which was billed as "a coupe de champagne," was Mayor Edward Koch, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor of Israel, former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and leaders of Jewish organizations.

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PARIS (JTA) -- Some 1,200 people attended an Israel Independence Day reception Thursday at the Israel Embassy. The main topic of conversation was Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's attacks on President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany. Some of the top government officials and representatives of government and opposition parties present felt that Begin was moved by the elections in France May 10 and in Israel June 30.

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CHICAGO (JTA) -- Mayor Jane Byrne has proclaimed the period ending May 12 as "Israel's 33rd anniversary week in Chicago." The proclamation, which was presented to Israel's Consul General Moshe Gilboa and the Chicago Zionist Federation representative Miriam Soboroff, paid tribute to Israel.

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA AN UNPRECEDENTED ENCOUNTER

By Adena Berkowitz

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) — The Columbia University chapter of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) was the scene of an unprecedented encounter when Leonid Verenikin, Counselor to the United Nations Mission of the Soviet Union, and Oleg Sosnovskiy, Third Secretary to the Mission, addressed a group of students, many of whom are active in the Soviet Jewry movement, on the topic of "Soviet Treatment of Minorities."

This event was designed by SSSJ officials as an experiment to enable students to hear firsthand the anti-Jewish propaganda of the Soviet government.

The evening commenced in a conciliatory manner when Verenikin began his address by speaking of the suffering which Soviet Jewry had undergone during World War II. Yet, while Verenikin made mention of the fact that 70,000 Jews had been massacred by the Nazis at Babi Yar, he did so within the context of remarks regarding the suffering of all the Soviet people.

After outlining the contributions which Jews had made and continue to make to Soviet society in such areas as politics, literature, education, science and the arts, Verenikin moved into a discussion of the religious "freedom" which Jews enjoy in the USSR.

### Figures Don't Add Up

Verenikin stated that according to a recent survey, only 2 percent of all Soviet Jews consider themselves religious. He stated that this amounted to about 16,000 people. This percentage and numerical figure directly conflicts with the actual amount of Soviet Jews presently in the USSR. While the Soviets contend that there are only 1.8 million Jews in the Soviet Union and base their statistics on this figure, Jewish officials place the true amount as closer to 2.5 million.

Verenikin tried to present a positive picture of the help which the Soviet government provides to the Jewish community. He stated that at present there are "92 synagogues in the USSR, 80 of which are in state-owned buildings provided free of charge for 'believers.'" The rest, he said, are rented. This was discounted by Glen Richter, head of the SSSJ, who estimated that the figure was closer to 55.

Verenikin claimed that the Moscow Choral Synagogue is a center for a yeshiva which trains "rabbis, cantors, Torah readers, and ritual slaughterers." Verenikin maintained that in spite of the fact that "students receive daily kosher meals and double the amount of student stipends" which the government provides for other students, the school still has difficulty in attracting students.

Richter disagreed, asserting that in truth the yeshiva at the synagogue consists of a room located in the women's section where three or four middle age men study and where no rabbinic ordination is issued.

### Challenged On Immigration Situation

With regard to what he called the "truth of immigration to Israel," Verenikin held that there is "no social basis for immigration." He contended that Jews don't suffer from unemployment; that their social rights are guaranteed and their life-

style is improving. Verenikin cited statistics which were designed to show that only 1.6 percent of all Jews who ask to leave the USSR are denied permission. He claimed that the reason for refusal to grant permission was due to the fact that these people had recently undergone military training, had access to classified material or had financial claims against them that, once resolved, would enable them to leave.

According to SSSJ, the more accurate rejection rate of Soviet Jews stands closer to 20-25 percent. In addition, the Soviet government has been using for the past five years this same statistic of 1.6 percent. With regard to the financial claims that prevent Soviet Jews from leaving, there is a truth to the fact that often these claims do exist. However, often a relative such as a parent who has to give permission to enable their child to leave will use this as an excuse to prevent their relative from being allowed to leave.

### Denounces 'Zionist Elite'

Verenikin then went on to attack what he called the "anti-Soviet policy" of the "Zionist elite." He maintained that "Zionist circles tried to arouse the passions by saying that artificial barriers were raised by the Soviet Union" with regard to Jewish immigration.

Quoting statements which disgruntled Soviet Jews had made at a 1976 press conference in Moscow upon their return back from Israel, Verenikin spoke harshly of the "Israeli propagandists" who, he said, wanted Soviet Jews to settle on land occupied by Israel since the Six-Day War, on what he called the "frontier," to serve "as a buffer in case of attack."

Verenikin concluded his remarks by claiming that many Jews who never even considered immigrating received letters furnished by the "Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs" which purported to show that these people had blood ties in Israel and therefore should apply for exit visas.

### A Denunciation And a Lapse Of Memory

Perhaps the most interesting part of the evening came at the second half when Sosnovskiy added some additional comments and then took questions from the floor. Sosnovskiy asserted that since 1967, Israel was "interested in young blood to defend the state" and therefore, "an appeal was made to the Soviet Union" for immigration because of its large Jewish population.

During the question and answer period that followed, one person raised the issue of Anatoly Shcharansky and Maria Tiemkin. Sosnovskiy called Shcharansky a traitor and declared "traitors should be punished." He denied ever hearing about Maria Tiemkin, the 21-year-old woman kidnapped by the KGB eight years ago and still in detention.

After the evening was over, one of the students pressed Sosnovskiy with regard to the Tiemkin affair, showing a brochure which carefully outlined the case. At this point, Sosnovskiy admitted hearing about Tiemkin. When asked how he had changed his mind, when moments before he denied any knowledge with regard to the case, he replied that he had seen it on a poster on the street before he arrived. The only problem with his answer was that he had arrived by private car.

The meeting was not constructed as a debate, but rather as an opportunity for these students to hear the methodology which Soviet officials utilize in this area. Students with whom I spoke were not "taken in" by the Soviet officials' remarks but expressed greater awareness of how far Soviet officials will go to slant and distort the truth.