

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. LIX - 64th Year

Monday, May 11, 1981

MAY 14 1981

No. 89

ANTI-ISRAEL SENTIMENT IN WEST GERMANY FOLLOWS BEGIN'S SHARP ATTACK ON CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT

By David Kantor

BONN, May 10 (JTA) -- The dramatic deterioration of relations between West Germany and Israel during the past week had repercussions today when Jewish students and other pro-Israel activists drew hostile reactions as they offered passers-by flowers, balloons and pamphlets in connection with the 33rd anniversary of Israel's independence. Angry confrontations were reported in 10 cities where pro-Israel groups had erected street platforms. But no incidents of violence were reported.

In Duesseldorf and Siegen, Jewish groups cancelled outdoor Independence Day celebrations for fear of possible attacks. The head of the German-Israel Friendship Association warned several days ago of a wave of anti-Israel sentiment in the Federal Republic, sparked by Premier Menachem Begin's sharp verbal attack on Chancellor Helmut Schmidt for his pro-Arab policies.

In Cologne today, neo-Nazis and members of a group calling for the release of war criminal Rudolf Hess hurled epithets at Jewish students marking Israel's independence. In Aachen, a small group of Arab students paraded under anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist slogans. But a reception organized in Bonn to mark the publication of a book on Jerusalem written by President Yitzhak Navon of Israel generated considerable interest and good will. About 200 persons attended.

Israeli Envoy Explains The Situation

The Jewish community in Duesseldorf organized a major Independence Day celebration this evening attended by the Israeli Ambassador, Yochanan Meroz. Earlier, the envoy appeared on national television to explain the situation. He said Israeli public opinion shared a profound concern over Bonn's further shift toward the Arab camp.

He noted that Schmidt, during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia and upon his return, angered Israelis by speaking of the need to create a Palestinian state and his reference to the Palestine Liberation Organization as a liberation movement. Schmidt offered additional offense when, in a remark about the victims of Auschwitz, he failed to mention the Jewish victims on the very day that Israel was observing its annual memorial for those who perished in the Holocaust, the Ambassador said. Nevertheless, both Bonn and Jerusalem appear to be trying to calm tempers and end the confrontation.

Shamir Sees Incident Closed

(Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on a radio interview yesterday that "we should consider the incident closed. I see no point in carrying on the discussion without end." He said he hoped the sharp exchange between Israel and West Germany "will result in benefits to both sides -- that after the storm passes there will be greater understanding, both in West Germany and in other parts of Europe to the dangers inherent in the arms

race to supply weapons to the Middle East." He said he saw signs in fact that Europe was beginning to reconsider its arms supply policy.)

REPERCUSSIONS IN ENGLAND OVER BEGIN'S ATTACK ON SCHMIDT By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, May 10 (JTA) -- Anglo-Jewish leaders, assembled here to mark Israel's Independence Day, deliberately withheld comment on Premier Menachem Begin's controversial attacks on West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, even though many of them are privately appalled about the damage this has done to Israel's already tattered image in the British press.

Instead, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, at a special Independence Day session, warmly applauded a defiant speech by Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov who said that Begin was entitled to "express dismay" at Schmidt's attempt to put his country's debt to the Palestinian Arabs on the same level as its debt to the Jewish people.

Schmidt's remarks, Argov said, were "part of an attempt to call into question the legality of Israel and to promote an alleged settlement of the Middle East conflict that would be calamitous for the Jewish State."

Simon Wiesenthal, the Nazi-hunter, in an earlier speech to the Board, refused to be drawn into the Israeli-German controversy. He claimed that except for the Israeli Premier's personal attack on Schmidt, there was no difference between Begin and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres in their statements about West Germany's Middle East policy.

Healey Raps Begin

One reason why Begin's denunciation of Schmidt has gone down so badly here is that the Chancellor is one of the most popular foreign leaders in this country.

Denis Healey, the opposition Labor Party's foreign affairs spokesman, last week accused Begin of seeking votes through "the ruthless exploitation of greed, chauvinism, and racialism." Begin's behavior, he told Parliament, could only isolate Israel from the rest of the world.

CABINET TOLD THERE IS NO NEW DEPLOYMENT OF SYRIAN MISSILES By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA) -- The Cabinet was told today that there has been no new deployment of Syrian anti-aircraft missiles in Lebanon over the weekend and that reports to that effect may have been put out by the Syrians as a form of psychological pressure in the continuing crisis.

According to the State-owned Kol Israel Radio, that was the informed assessment given to the ministers at the weekly Cabinet session. Premier Menachem Begin had a terse "no comment" on leaving the meeting when he was asked if any progress has been made by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib in his efforts to defuse the situation.

Habib was in Damascus today and is due in Israel tomorrow. He is expected to meet with Begin in the Knesset building immediately after the Prime Minister opens Parliament's summer session with a

policy statement on the situation in Lebanon. Begin's reticence and the leaked report of what the Cabinet was told was seen here as a deliberate effort to keep a low profile while Habib pursues his mission. But Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other officials have displayed little optimism over Habib's chances of success and Israel has indicated that it reserves the right to take whatever action it sees fit, including military means to remove the Syrian SAM-6 missiles from the Bekaa valley in eastern Lebanon.

Before today's Cabinet session, Begin's office issued a statement denying a report published in a Washington Middle East newsletter late last week that the U.S. has given Israel a "green light" to attack the SAM-6 installations. The statement said that Israel, as a sovereign nation, does not require a "green light" from anyone to make decisions and implement them. Israel thereby kept alive the threat of force to destroy the missiles.

Shamir said on a radio interview yesterday that it was difficult to envision a peaceful outcome to the crisis and blamed Syrian intransigence. Asked if hostilities did break out, would they be limited or escalate into a general war, he would say only that Israel was taking all possibilities into account. He observed that the time available for negotiations was limited but declined to set a deadline for the success of Habib's mission.

Shamir stressed Israel's obligation to help the Christian forces in Lebanon but refused to say whether that help was confined to the Christian enclave along Israel's border with Lebanon or extended into the central and northern regions of that country where the fighting between the Christians and Syrians has occurred.

U.S. Can't Confirm Troop Movement

(The State Department said in Washington last Friday that it had nothing to substantiate reports of Syrian troop movements "either from within Lebanon or from Syria to Lebanon." According to some reports, Syria has moved some 4000 additional troops into Lebanon. Secretary of State Alexander Haig told reporters last Thursday that the Soviet Union has "assured us that they are doing the best they can" to influence the Syrians to exercise restraint but so far "there is no evidence that the efforts of anyone have achieved a real breakthrough."

(A Soviet representative, First Deputy Foreign Minister Georgi Korniyenko, is in Damascus. State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said Friday that he did not know if Habib would be meeting with him. Habib conferred with President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon in Beirut Friday before going to Damascus.)

According to reports from Damascus, Syrian radio broadcast a truculent message shortly after Habib's arrival. The official commentator warned that Syria "does not fear any threat and will not retreat or bargain since it knows the sources of its strength." This was seen as a signal to the American envoy that Syria will not withdraw its missiles under the threat of a military confrontation with Israel.

FEDERENKO DEPORTATION HEARINGS ARE POSTPONED FOR TWO WEEKS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 10 (JTA) -- Two days of deportation hearings on Fedor Federenko ended last week in New Haven, Conn. with a decision

to postpone further hearings for two weeks. Allan Ryan, head of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigation, said that if the court orders Federenko deported, he will have 30 days in which to decide which country he would like to go to.

Federenko reportedly has applied to the Soviet Union, where there are no charges pending against him, for permission to return to the USSR. He was born in the Ukraine, where his wife and two sons presently reside.

Federenko, who was a guard in the Treblinka Nazi death camp, was stripped of his citizenship last January on grounds that he had lied about his wartime activities when he applied for admission to the U.S. in 1949. He lost his citizenship after the Supreme Court rejected his appeal against a lower court's findings that he entered the U.S. under false pretenses. When he applied for an American visa under the Displaced Persons Act, he falsely stated that he had spent the war years as a farm and factory worker after his capture by the Germans in 1941.

URI ZVI GREENBERG DEAD AT 87

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA) -- Uri Zvi Greenberg, considered one of Israel's greatest poets and frequently compared to Chaim Nachman Bialik, was buried today on Mount Olives. He died last Friday in Tel Aviv at the age of 87. Greenberg had requested in his will that there be no state funeral nor any eulogies. He left behind him a rich legacy of fiery and passionate nationalist poetry.

Greenberg was born in Bialy Kamien in eastern Galicia on Jan. 10, 1894. He was a scion of the renowned Strelisk-Strelin Hasidic dynasty. In 1915 he published his first book in Yiddish, "Somewhere in the Field." In 1924, at the age of 30, he immigrated to Palestine and a year later, when the Histadrut newspaper, Davar, was founded, he became a regular contributor to its columns. Four years later, however, with the outbreak of Arab hostilities toward the Jews, he split from the labor movement and joined the Revisionists.

Regarded Himself As A Divine Messenger

Greenberg's differences with the labor movement intensified in later years. He firmly believed that the return to Zion was the fulfillment of the vision of the Prophets and he felt that he could not accept political compromises in the implementation of those visions. He later regarded himself as divine messenger to warn the Jews of Palestine of the visions which he believed they could not see themselves. Imbued with this zeal, Greenberg was often bitter and frustrated by his failure to reach the hearts and minds of his readers.

Until World War II he divided his time between Palestine and Poland. He published several volumes of poetry in which he sharply criticized the lack of action on the part of the Jews in Palestine in the face of Arab aggression and also predicted the European Holocaust. He also predicted the end of the British Mandate and the eventual takeover of the Temple Mount by Israeli soldiers.

Varied Political Activities

During the war Greenberg remained silent. Afterwards he published his book, "The Streets of the River," in which he dealt with the trauma of the Holocaust. He was a Herut member of the Israel's first Knesset but resigned from the parliament four years later. In subsequent years his relations with Menachem Begin, who until Likud's electoral victory in 1977 was in the opposition, cooled considerably des-

pite the fact that both men shared the views of Revisionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky and were both members of the Irgun.

Israel's victory in the Six-Day War in 1967 was interpreted by Greenberg as a fulfillment of his visions and prophecies. He was uncompromising in his nationalist views and rejected all suggestions of territorial compromises. He pleaded repeatedly for a national revival of Eretz Yisrael.

Greenberg frequently complained that people in Israel, particularly the younger generation, did not accept the historic challenges of the times. He was particularly critical of the political leadership of the Labor Party and often charged that democracy was tantamount to anarchy. He suggested that the Knesset be dissolved and that all political forces be united in a national emergency government.

TRADE WITH ISRAEL

MIAMI, May 10 (JTA) — The U.S. Department of Commerce and the Government of Israel Investment Authority are among the sponsors of a special business forum to be held here this week that is expected to attract some 150 business leaders considering opportunities for trade with and investment in Israel.

Speakers at the forum will include former Florida Governor Reuben Askew and David Rotlevy, Economic Minister of Israel to the U.S., along with Avraham Asheri, Deputy Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, who is currently visiting the United States.

The seminar, entitled "Discover the Land of International Business Opportunities," is one of a number of programs designed to provide information about Israeli investment opportunities to American companies. They are sponsored by the U.S. office of the Israel Investment Authority, headed by David Finkelman.

Some 150 U.S. companies are engaged in Israeli business ventures, according to Israeli trade officials here. Among them are 30 of the country's largest corporations, as rated in the "Fortune 500" list of the nation's largest industrial companies. They include: International Business Machines, General Telephone and Electronics, Control Data, International Paper, Revlon and American Can Co.

Among the most successful ventures is Motorola Israel, Ltd., which produces computerized irrigation equipment that automatically turns on the water and regulates the flow. Earlier this year the New York brokerage firm of E. F. Hutton announced an investment of \$25 million to commercialize scientific discoveries and other research now in the laboratory stage at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science.

ORTHODOX UNION PRESIDENT URGES UNIFIED PROTESTS AGAINST ARMS SALE

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) — Julius Berman, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, announced that the Union and its affiliated synagogues throughout the country "will do anything and everything" to assure that the Reagan Administration plans to sell arms to Saudi Arabia do not see the light of day.

"We will not cut corners in our opposition to such a dangerous proposal for fear of upsetting a relationship with a new administration," Berman declared. "Let Washington know that the entire Jewish community is at one on this matter."

Berman made his comments to 1000 Orthodox lay and rabbinic leaders attending the Orthodox Union's 83rd anniversary national dinner at the

New York Hilton Hotel. The Union president said that just as all Jews prayed as one for President Reagan's recovery after last month's assassination attempt, the entire Jewish community now unites in protesting the proposed sale of armaments.

"Being devoted to, and praying for the health and safety of our leader in Washington," Berman stated, "we are simultaneously ever mindful of the foreign policy of the new Administration and its prospective effect upon the safety and security of Israel."

"All of us are fully familiar with the patent dangers to Israel presented by the proposed supply of arms to Saudi Arabia," he continued. "Be it the new fuel tanks for the F-15's, tankers to allow in-air refueling, the new air-to-air missiles, and the most awesome plan, the proposed supply of AWACS — the Airborne Warning and Control Systems — few of us, no matter how we voted last November, expected this kind of development so soon from a new administration that promised a new chapter of friendship with Israel."

FIRST EDITIONS OF EARLY ZIONIST WORKS ON SALE FOR \$4,000

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) — Among the thousands of rare literary and historical works displayed for sale at the 1981 New York/Antiquarian Book Fair this weekend is a folio containing two slim books considered to be the founding works of political Zionism and the State of Israel.

They are, "Autoemancipation," written by Leo Pinsker in 1882, and "Der Judenstaat" ("The Jewish State"), written by Theodor Herzl in 1896. The first was published in Berlin, and the second in Leipzig. They are being offered for sale by San Francisco book-dealer Jeremy Norman, one of the more than 130 members of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America who will be setting up shop at the 7th Regiment Armory. The two books, in one slipcase, are being offered by Norman for \$4,000. Both books are First Editions and very rare.

2 DETAINED IN BOMBING OF SYRIAN AIRLINE OFFICE

PARIS, May 10 (JTA) — Two men described as "foreigners" were detained early this morning after a bomb explosion damaged the Syrian airline office here. Police who caught the two as they were running away from the blast refused to reveal their identities aside from saying that both held "foreign nationalities" passports.

The Syrian airline office was damaged last night by a bomb explosion and by two blasts of shotgun fire. An anonymous phone caller later told the French France Presse news agency that a group called "Pessach," Hebrew for Passover, had carried out the attack in reprisal for the mistreatment of the Jewish community in Syria.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Israel Army radio station raised just over \$3 million in a 24-hour marathon Independence Day fundraising appeal with songs, skits, talks and prizes last Thursday. The funds raised are to be used for special education projects for backward and underprivileged soldiers. It was the second major fundraising marathon conducted by Israel's electronic media in the past month. Israel television raised several million dollars for disabled children two weeks ago.

B'NAI B'RITH LEADER ASSESSES SITUATION OF JEWS IN POLAND, ROMANIA, HUNGARY, BULGARIA, TURKEY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 10 (JTA) — Jack Spitzer, president of B'nai B'rith International, who returned last Thursday night from a four-week visit to four countries in East Europe and Turkey, said here he found that Jews in those "isolated" communities feel it is important to have visits from American Jewish leaders.

Spitzer said he found "viable" Jewish communities in Hungary, with 100,000 Jews, in Rumania, with 33,600, and in Turkey with 18,000 to 20,000 Jews. But in Poland, where the number of Jews has dwindled to 6,000-7,000, and Bulgaria, with only 5,300 Jews, Spitzer said there are only "remnant" communities which may disappear in the next 25 years. But he said the governments of all four Communist countries were pledged to maintain the Jewish culture that had existed in these countries for centuries.

The most immediate problem discussed by Spitzer at a press conference last Friday at B'nai B'rith headquarters was the the most-favored-nation trade status for Rumania which the United States must renew annually. Foreign Minister Stefan Andre of Rumania is scheduled to come to Washington next year to discuss the MFN renewal with U.S. officials. The MFN status for Rumania is linked to the Jackson-Vanik amendment which requires proof of free emigration for Jews and others.

Hardship Cases In Rumania

Spitzer said that even before he left for Europe, he presented the Rumanians with a list of 897 "hardship cases" who are seeking to emigrate to Israel. He said that when he met with Andre in Bucharest, he found that some 500 on the list had already been given exit visas. The B'nai B'rith leader said he discussed many of the cases with Andre, who said he was willing to cooperate.

Spitzer, who has represented the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations before Congress on this issue for the last two years, said he could not say now whether the Presidents Conference would recommend MFN approval for Rumania. He noted that of the 400,000 Rumanian Jews who had survived the Holocaust, 350,000 had emigrated to Israel. He said 49 percent of Rumania's remaining Jews are over 60 years old.

In Poland, Spitzer said he received assurance from government officials that the Warsaw government is opposed to anti-Semitism despite the outbreak of some recent anti-Semitic incidents.

He said that, on a visit to Auschwitz, he viewed with pleasure the sight of school children being taken on a tour of the former death camp. But he said he noticed with "dismay" that they were not taken to the Jewish pavilion. He said he received a promise from Minister of Religion Jerzy Kubresky that from now on, the Jewish pavilion will be the first stop on tours given school children.

Urges Renewal Of Ties With Israel

Spitzer said that in Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria, he urged government leaders to consider renewing diplomatic ties with Israel as the Rumanians did. He said in Hungary he found a large Jewish library and the only seminary for rabbis

and cantors in Communist countries. Spitzer said he was interested to learn that although Bulgaria was occupied by the Germans in World War II, the Bulgarians did not turn over to the Nazis any of the 45,000 to 48,000 Bulgarian Jews.

In Turkey, Spitzer said he felt that the Jewish community had been given new life by the military takeover last September. He said most Jews thought it was a necessary step to prevent anarchy either from the left or the religious Moslem right. Spitzer said he felt that democracy would be restored soon to Turkey as it had been after previous military takeovers.

SOME 1,500 PEOPLE MARK ISRAEL'S 33rd ANNIVERSARY, WAR DEAD

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, May 10 (JTA) — An estimated 1500 people participated in Israel Independence Day celebrations at the Expo Theater in downtown Montreal last Thursday night and a memorial for Israel's war dead. Yitzhak Mayer, the Consul General of Israel, urged Jewish youth to settle in Israel.

"We are a people who has to learn to rejoice in our beautiful land and our duty is to make it stronger and more beautiful. We need every one of you," he told the audience. Before the festivities began, Cantor Yaakov Matzen of Congregation Shomrim Laboker chanted the El Mole Rahamin. A contingent of Montreal youth and veterans of the Brig. Kish Canadian Legion marched with flags and a wreath was laid in memory of fallen Israel war heroes.

The Independence Day program featured Israeli and Canadian entertainers. A reception was held for the diplomatic corps and Canadian political and public figures at the Israeli Consulate earlier in the day.

ANTI-SEMITIC YOUTH JAILED

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) — A Long Island teenager was sentenced to six months in jail by a District Court Judge in Hauppauge for having painted swastikas and the word "Jew" outside the home of a neighbor last summer. It is reportedly the first time in the history of Suffolk County, L.I., that a jail sentence was ordered for such an incident.

Police officer Howard Mandell, head of the county's police department's anti-Semitic task force, said that Thomas Benjamin, 18 was remanded to jail because a probation report stated that the youth "said he was anti-Semitic and would do it again." Benjamin pleaded guilty to criminal mischief on the home of Leonard Syden in Ronkonkoma on Aug. 26. Judge Alfred Tisch handed down the sentence last week.

GEORGE SALOMON DEAD AT 61

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) — George Salomon, a senior editor in the publication division of the American Jewish Committee, died last Friday of cancer at his home in Great Neck, L.I. He was 61 years old. Memorial services are being arranged.

During his 20 years at the AJCommittee, Salomon wrote and edited many of its major publications. An expert in translating research and statistical data for the general public, he edited "Education and Attitude Change," by Charles Herbert Stember, "Jews in the Mind of America," by Stember and others, and a number of other important monographs and papers that helped inform and educate Americans about the nature of prejudice.

Born in Germany, the son of Dr. Richard Salomon, a leading classics scholar, Salomon came to the United States as a teenager.