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SURVIVORS AND LIBERATORS BEAR WITNESS TO HOLOCAUST AT CONFERENCE OPENING

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Holocaust survivors and representatives of 14 countries whose armies liberated the Nazi concentration camps at the end of World War II are gathered here today and tomorrow to, as one survivor said, "share the most vivid, most personal, anguishing memories."

At the opening ceremony at the State Department last night of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council's first International Liberators Conference, Elie Wiesel, the writer and chairman of the Council, noted that there was a "vicious phenomena" existing which denied the Holocaust. He said that the survivors are not believed about what happened to them, "perhaps you (the liberators) will be heard."

Noting "explosions in Paris, bombs in Antwerp, murderous attacks in Vienna," Wiesel asked: "Is it conceivable that Nazism can dare come back into the open so soon -- while we are still alive, while we are still here to denounce its poisonous nature, as illustrated in Treblinka?"

Wiesel declared that those who were murdered in the Holocaust "must not be killed again" by forgetting them. He called on survivors and liberators to "dedicate ourselves not only to the memory of those who suffered but to the future of those who are suffering today."

Why Genocide Succeeded

The theme of the conference is a quotation from Wiesel: "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness." That theme of remembrance was also sounded by Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who welcomed the conference to the State Department. "We can bear the memory of the Holocaust only if we strive to prevent its recurrence," he said.

But Haig also issued a more pointed warning for today. "Genocide succeeded because the defenders of individual rights allowed themselves to be divided," he said, "because they sought refuge in an illusion, in weakness. They failed to fight for their own principles."

Haig noted his visit to Yad Vashem in Israel. "The Jewish people have not lost their hope in God, in themselves, in mankind," he said.

The ceremony opened last night, under the flags of the 14 nations participating in the conference. Israel was represented by veterans of the World War II Jewish Brigade. Three concentration camp survivors carried in a Nazi flag that flew over Dachau when it was liberated. Miles Lerman, coordinator of the conference, called it a "flag of evil" and ordered it folded and placed on the floor, "symbolically at the feet of the assembly."

Wiesel in his talk, stressed that the conference must demonstrate that war, the ultimate injustice, cannot "be considered as a solution to

any problem -- for war is the problem." Also stressed by Wiesel and others was the fact that the Nazis were defeated by a "unique alliance of nations, gigantic armies, transcending geopolitical and ideological borders." Wiesel noted that, by participating in the conference, the victims and their liberators, "rising above politics, above the usual recriminations between East and West," may get the world "to pay more attention to what hangs as threats to its very future."

Nations Represented

In addition to the United States and Israel, the countries represented are: Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Soviet Union, Britain and Yugoslavia.

Representatives of Britain, France and the USSR, who, with the United States, were the Big Four Allies of World War II, also spoke briefly last night. Both Brig. Michael Gray, military attache at the British Embassy here, and French Minister of Veterans Jean Laurain emphasized the need to educate youth about the Holocaust. Lt. Gen. Pavel Danilovich Gudzy, deputy head of the Soviet Union's Academy of Armed Forces, said the USSR has always been dedicated to peace and that disputes can be solved only through negotiations.

Today and tomorrow, the conference features workshops with descriptions by victims, historians, military and medical personnel, war correspondents, chaplains, and resistance fighters. There is also an exhibit of pictures of the Holocaust and a continuous showing of films.

EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS VISIT TO ISRAEL; STRESSES PROGRESS BUT NOTES 'DIFFERENCES REMAIN TO BE DISCUSSED'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon expressed satisfaction with the progress made during Ali's three-day visit to Israel. But at an airport press conference before the Egyptian delegation flew back to Cairo, neither sought to play down the differences still existing. "Friends may have differences which still remain to be discussed," Ali stressed.

He thanked Sharon and his Israeli hosts for the very warm reception accorded the Egyptians and the friendly atmosphere in which the talks had been held. "They were very constructive and we achieved much," Ali said. He added that stress should no longer be placed on "normalization" because relations between the two countries were already normal.

"We overcame many problems and reached agreement in the field of tourism, on aviation matters, roads, passes and agreed on certain facilities to be granted by both sides," he said. Autonomy would be discussed at a "limited ministerial level meeting in Cairo" next week, he said.

Camp David Most Practical Approach

Replying to a question about Egypt's attitude towards the Saudi Arabian peace initiative, Ali stressed that he regarded the Camp David accords as the only practical path to be followed to reach a satisfactory

solution to the Middle East problem. He noted that the Prince Fahd initiative was not the only solution proposed -- others had come from Rumania and the Soviet Union -- but all were not as practical as the Camp David approach.

Asked by an Egyptian correspondent about Israel's views on Jerusalem and West Bank settlements, Sharon said that "for generations, in the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Jews and Arabs lived side by side, for hundreds of years I know this country well, and I cannot see any line in the land of Israel on one side of which Jews should live, and Arabs on the other side of it."

"In the past, Jews and Arabs have lived here together, and they will continue to live here together for ever," Sharon added.

Ali however, repeated the Egyptian view that Arab Jerusalem was part of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, adding that "some Israeli officials" had said that the question of Jerusalem was negotiable. The questions of Jerusalem and of Jewish settlement were the most difficult of all questions under discussion, and debate on these points, should be left until later.

On Jerusalem, Ali recalled Anwar Sadat's proposals for two municipalities and a higher committee for Jerusalem, but added it was too early, and a press conference was not the place to debate this issue.

U.S. Role Praised, But Not Essential

Sharon noted the great assistance rendered by the United States in helping reach agreement in negotiations during the past three years but he expressed satisfaction that the agreements reached during Ali's three days in Israel proved that an American presence or mediation was not essential.

"We are both sovereign states, and can negotiate and reach agreement on our own," he said. He noted that American delegates would be attending future talks.

Communications Minister Mordechai Zippori noted today that Ali's visit helped both sides, after months of failure, to move forward on communications problems, including telephone services. Great advances were made and agreements reached, he said.

SHAMIR: ISRAEL WILL NEVER NEGOTIATE WITH PLO EVEN IF IT RECOGNIZES ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today that Israel would never negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization even if the PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist. He told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that there was no reason for Israel to change its policy.

Shamir's remark was an indirect response to President Reagan's recent comment that the U.S. would negotiate with the PLO only if it recognized Israel's right to exist. American officials have consistently reiterated that point and made U.S. contact with the PLO also conditional on its acceptance of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 which are the framework within which the Camp David agreements were reached.

Shamir also repeated his earlier contention that Jordan is the Palestinian state. "Things should be presented in this light so that the world will not regard the Palestinians as a homeless people," he said. According to Shamir the problem of the Palestinians is not a national problem but merely the problem of 1.25 million people "living in Judaea

and Samaria." He claimed that many countries were beginning to understand this line of argument. He did not name them.

Replying to Labor MK Yossi Sarid's urging that Israel suspend arms sales to Latin American "juntas", Shamir said Israel was careful to avoid involvement in civil wars in that region but there was no way to refrain entirely from the arms sales.

UN COMMITTEE DEMANDS ISRAEL CEASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS IN JERUSALEM

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- The Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly demanded yesterday that Israel desist from further archaeological excavations in Jerusalem which are allegedly transforming and endangering the historical, cultural and religious sites of the city. A resolution to that effect was adopted by a vote of 101-2 with 23 abstentions. Israel and the U.S. voted against the measure. Thirty other countries did not participate. The resolution must be endorsed by the General Assembly plenary to become effective.

Submitted by the Islamic countries last Friday, the draft resolution contended that "the excavations and transformations constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the provisions of the Geneva Convention" and urged the Security Council "to consider this situation in case Israel fails to implement this resolution." It called on the Secretary General of the UN to report to the General Assembly and the Security Council on Israel's compliance no later than November 23.

The resolution charged specifically that the excavations threatened the area "beneath and around the Moslem holy sanctuary of Al Aksa and the sacred dome of the Rock, the structure of which is in danger of collapse."

QUEEN DEDICATES MEMORIAL TO ROTTERDAM JEWS DEPORTED BY NAZIS

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- A memorial sculpture for the 10,000 Rotterdam Jews deported to Nazi death camps during World War II was unveiled by Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands today in the garden of the Rotterdam city hall. The artist is Louky Metz, a woman of Jewish origin, who was commissioned to do the sculpture 15 years ago by a group of non-Jewish citizens of Rotterdam.

The prolonged delay between completion of the work and its dedication arose because originally it was to have been placed on the outer wall of the Rotterdam synagogue. It was, in fact, unveiled there but Orthodox members of the Jewish community objected because the sculpture depicted human bodies--the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob -- and the statue was removed.

Metz instituted legal proceedings which, after many years, ended in an agreement to locate the sculpture at a "neutral" site. Representatives of the Orthodox as well as the Liberal Jewish community attended the unveiling.

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AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- The municipal executive of Eindhoven has refused to withdraw its commission to a Dutch former Nazi collaborator to compose a musical tribute to the town on the occasion of its 750th anniversary. The composer, Henk Badings, 74, was branded a Nazi collaborator by a Dutch de-Nazification court after World War II and his works were banned in The Netherlands for ten years. During the war he composed an anthem for the Dutch Nazi Party.

HABIB WILL RETURN TO MIDEAST NEXT MONTH, STATE DEPT. SAYS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Philip Habib, President Reagan's special envoy to the Middle East, is expected to return to the region in mid-November, although no date has been set for his departure, the State Department said today.

State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said the U.S. is "pleased" that the cease-fire that Habib helped establish across the Lebanese-Israeli border last July "is holding." Fischer was commenting on the recent trip to the area by Morris Draper, deputy assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs.

Draper went to Cairo for the funeral of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Afterwards, he visited Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Israel. The Department had said earlier that Draper's trip was paving the way for Habib to renew his mission.

Notes Saudi Help In Lebanon

Fischer indicated that Habib's return to the area will depend on the results of a ministerial follow-up conference by a special committee of the Arab League set up to deal with the situation in Lebanon. He pointedly noted that it was through this committee that Saudi Arabia was "helpful and constructive" in pressing progress toward "political reconciliation" in Lebanon and an "end to armed confrontation."

The Reagan Administration has been citing Saudi Arabia's help in achieving a cease-fire in Lebanon as one of its arguments in favor of the \$8.5 billion sale of AWACS and other sophisticated military equipment to the Arab kingdom.

The 61-year-old Habib, the former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, was called out of retirement by Reagan last May after Syria placed SAM-6 missiles in central Lebanon and Israel threatened to remove them by force. He was credited by Reagan with preventing a war from breaking out. In July, he was on his third trip to the region when the Israelis bombed Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters in Beirut. Reagan then ordered him to seek a cease-fire which he accomplished in late July. Since then, his mission has been extended to cover the entire Lebanese conflict.

MEHTA ATTACKED, DEFENDED OVER IPO PERFORMANCE OF WAGNER

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- The bitter running controversy over the performance of the works of Richard Wagner by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra has centered on Zubin Mehta, the IPO's conductor and musical director. Last week, Dov Shilansky, a Herut member and Deputy Minister for Special Functions attached to the Prime Minister's Office, demanded that Mehta, who is not an Israeli, leave the country.

But Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor, also a Likud member, came to Mehta's defense today, noting that the internationally famous conductor is a loyal and enthusiastic friend of Israel and has raised Israel's prestige in the international cultural community. Savidor told a group of visiting Columbia University lecturers that Mehta deserved an honored place in Israel's cultural life and that personal attacks against him should be rebuffed.

MK Mordechai Virshubsky of the Shinui faction, said today that he has proposed to Premier Menachem Begin that Mehta be awarded the Israel Prize, the nation's highest honor for achievement. He said he deserved it for his contributions to music in Israel and to the reputation of the IPO worldwide. Mehta is also conductor and musical director of the New York Philharmonic.

Meanwhile, the IPO management rejected Shilansky's attack on Mehta, noting that the decision to play Wagner was made by the orchestra as an institution. The performance of Wagner as an encore piece at a concert at Tel Aviv's Mann auditorium two weeks ago enraged many Israelis because of the composer's anti-Semitism and the association of his music with Nazi ideology. But many other Israelis maintained that it was the music that counted, not the composer and that those who wanted to hear Wagner had a right to. Mehta upheld that position.

HEALTH MINISTRY DECLINES TO CHECK WOMEN EXPOSED TO DES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- A committee of experts believes evidence that the drug diethyl stilboestol (DES) can cause cancer is inconclusive and has recommended that the Health Ministry not conduct massive checks among young women whose mothers were given the synthetic hormone 20 or 30 years ago to help them carry out their pregnancies. Accordingly, Health Minister Eliezer Shostak today rejected a Knesset member's request that nation-wide health checks be initiated.

Yair Tzaban, a Labor Alignment MK, charged last week that the Health Ministry acted in bad faith by failing to follow up possible effects of the drug on female children born in the 1950s and 1960s. He said the Ministry had information on the possible hazards of the drug for more than two years but took no proper action. It set up an experts committee only after the matter was raised in the press, he said.

But Prof. Yosef Shenkar who headed the committee, said at a press conference today that it has been established so far that the chances of cancer developing in the offspring of women given the drug are minimal. "Until 1979 there was only one case of a cancerous growth in a young woman whose mother probably was exposed to DES during pregnancy," he said.

However, the Director General of the Health Ministry, Baruch Modan, said the Ministry would establish a permanent body to follow up possible affects of the drug.

WEST EUROPEAN JEWISH LEADERS URGE WORLD PETITION FOR SOVIET JEWRY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders from 11 West European countries here called for a joint world petition to be underwritten by millions of private citizens and as many governments as possible on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

Over 150 West European Jewish leaders, who ended a two-day special meeting here yesterday to examine new developments in the Soviet Union, concluded that "never has (Soviet Jewry's situation) been as tragic as today. Exit visas are granted by the dozens while hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews are asking for the right to leave."

Simone Veil, President of the European Parliament, said that what is happening to Russia's Jews "is part and parcel of a world process, of a degradation of liberty and human rights and an increase of terrorism."

JEWES WARNED NOT TO EQUATE FUNDAMENTALIST RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT WITH FASCISM

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- A prominent sociologist has cautioned Jews against treating the evangelical/fundamentalist religious movement as being incipiently fascist because "their attitudes just do not warrant such a characterization."

Furthermore, according to Earl Raab, an author and executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, Marin County and the Peninsula, the evangelical population is not captive on general political and economic issues to the politicized preachers and their movements, such as the Moral Majority and the Christian Round Table, and Jews "should not impute more power to those preachers and movements than they have."

Raab made his remarks at the closing session of the four-day meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Addressing ADL leaders, Raab said Jews ought to be concerned "perhaps more than they are today" with conditions which might be fertile for the growth of extremist movements "rather than mistakenly scapegoat" evangelical/fundamentalist movements.

Ride Crest Of Conservative Mood

He said such movements did not create the conservative mood of the country "but rather had a free ride on its crest." He attributed the nation's mood change to "problems of inflation, a stagnant economy and dwindling American prestige."

"If anyone wants to redirect the political winds of this country," Raab declared, "he would be well advised to direct himself to those objective conditions, neither dismissing them nor ascribing our political direction to some group which has illicitly subverted the American consciousness."

Raab observed that Jews "have to watch for the growth of traditional extremist political movements with their over-simplified comprehensive solutions, their conspiracy phobias and their ethnic targeting," as well as their counterparts on the left. He added, however, that "the evangelical/religious political movements of today, offensive though they may be to some of us, are simply not on that track While the major evangelical/fundamentalist movements have adopted conservative stances, they have just not called for the breaches of democratic procedure which recall political extremism."

The concern with groups like the Moral Majority should be their trying to establish too precise guidelines of moral behavior in government law, and the political fight must be against that, Raab said. Jews should have a fundamental concern about attempts to Christianize America through government law or quasi-official societal practice. He cited as examples efforts to require prayers in public schools and campaigns to support candidates because they are Christian or because they espouse explicit Christian values.

BONN ASKS EXTRADITION OF NEO-NAZIS HELD IN BELGIUM

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- The Federal Prosecutor has asked Belgian authorities to extradite three West German neo-Nazis arrested in Belgium last week after a bomb blast outside an Antwerp

synagogue which claimed three lives and injured 100 persons. The suspects are believed to be members of the "Peoples Socialist Movement," described by security services here as one of the most dangerous of the extreme right-wing groups.

West German State Television last week linked the group to the synagogue bombing in Antwerp. The extradition request said the men are wanted for bank robbery, membership in a terrorist organization and illegal possession of arms. According to authorities here, the "Peoples Socialist Movement" finances its activities by robbing banks. Three of its members killed and two captured in a gun battle with police near Munich last Tuesday night, were believed to have been on their way to rob a bank.

POST-HOLOCAUST VICTIMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM MEMORIALIZED IN ROME

By Lisa Palmieri-Bilig

ROME, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- More than 5000 persons attended memorial services in the main synagogue here today for victims of anti-Semitic terrorism and violence since the end of World War II. Representatives of the national government, the Rome municipality and the major political parties were present.

An address by Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff of Rome was broadcast on national television which also carried an interview with him. The Chief Rabbi said, "A meeting to commemorate the innocent victims of senseless and criminal violence is no new matter in the history of the Jewish people." However, he observed, "After the Holocaust of six million Jews, after the definitive condemnation and fall of Nazism and fascism, we believed, or more precisely, we had the right to believe, that finally a new era had arisen in which the horrors of the past would not be repeated."

DR. YITZHAK ETZION, PIONEER EDUCATOR, DIES AT 96

JERUSALEM, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Dr. Yitzhak Raphael Etzion (Holzberg), considered one of Israel's great educators of modern times, has died here at the age of 96. Born in Kovno, Lithuania, where he received his religious education, he went on to study at the University of Kharkov from where he graduated with honors.

After World War I he returned to his native land to accept eventually, a call to what became a daring unheard of undertaking and challenging position. Rabbi Joseph Leib Bloch of Telz had a plan to develop a new system of higher education for Jewish young women, with the opening of a Jewish college where they could study religion and secular topics in Hebrew.

Etzion became the director of the Yavneh teachers training college and girls grammar school in Telz and later initiated similar schools for men and women in Lithuania. In addition to his educational activities, he was a member of the Lithuanian National Assembly. In 1933 he accepted the position as head of the Mizrahi school system in Palestine and eventually became one of the leading figures of Jewish education in Israel.

After World War II two schools based on his principles of education were established in the United States by his European co-workers and former students, Yavneh High School and Yavneh University for girls in Cleveland, Ohio, under the auspices of the Telzer Yeshiva.

Etzion was also the author of numerous works, including "A Collection of Commentaries to the Torah," "Axiomatics and Principles of Non-Euclidean Geometry," "The Existence of God as the Principle of Judaism," "The Great Universe in Which We Live," "The Study of Problems of Religion," and "The Theory of Evolution From the Standpoint of Modern Exact Science."