

BACKGROUND REPORT JEWS ARE BEING SCAPEGOATED IN POLAND AS OFFICIALS CRACK DOWN ON SOLIDARITY TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- There has been a steady increase in anti-Semitism in Poland since martial law was declared there a week ago, according to reports arriving here. Anti-Semitic incidents have been fanned by government circles in their campaign against Solidarity.

According to information reaching the American Jewish Committee's European office in Paris, anti-Semitic posters are now being put up in Warsaw and other cities. These, however, are being torn down by the Polish population almost as fast as they are put up, it was reported by the AJCommittee European representative, Nives Fox.

Refugees coming out of Poland on the Chopin Express in Vienna have brought with them pamphlets being handed out that charge Jews with buying up all the food in the country to sell on the black market. At the same time, there are reports that Jews are being turned away from bread lines.

Polish radio reports denouncing Jack Kuron, the leader of the liberal Polish organization KOR, have depicted him as being in contact with "Jewish emigres."

The Grunwald Union, described by the American Jewish Congress as an anti-Semitic organization, is disseminating the canard that the present struggle for freedom in Poland is the result of subversive efforts by "100,000 Jews disguised under Polish names."

Arrests And Denunciations

Early this week, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency carried other reports from Poland dealing with anti-Semitic developments.

A report from Warsaw quoted an article in the official government newspaper, Trybuna Ludu, attacking two prominent Solidarity advisers, Bronislaw Geremek and Adam Michnik, for their "Zionist sympathies."

Another report from Warsaw said that Dr. Marek Edelman, one of the last surviving leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, is among the thousands of Solidarity officials arrested by Polish authorities. Edelman was a commander of the underground Jewish resistance movement in Poland during World War II and is now one of the country's leading cardiologists.

Geremek, a leading advisor to Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, is a particular target for anti-Semitic attack in the media, tracts and posters. Particular emphasis is laid on Geremek's Jewish origin and his family name Lewartow. He is portrayed as a "cosmopolitan Zionist revisionist," according to accounts reaching the AJCommittee.

On December 15 a Professor Kossecki, described as a political scientist, delivered a vitriolic denunciation of Polish Jews during an hour-long interview on Warsaw TV and radio. His charges included that Jews had managed to take control of Polish industry and to set Catholic church and liberal Communist leaders on the wrong

road. He insisted that KOR members were former Stalinists, often of Jewish origin, who "wanted the death of Poland."

Urge End To Scapegoating

Leaders of the AJCommittee, AJCongress, B'nai B'rith International and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith yesterday called upon Premier Wojciech Jaruzelski of Poland to take immediate action to halt the scapegoating of the country's approximately 5,000 Jews.

Phil Baum, associate executive director of the AJCongress, declared: "This deliberate provocation of anti-Semitism is being spread widely in the media--despite universal recognition that there are no more than 4,000-5,000 Jews in all of Poland, most of whom are elderly and infirm. This is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Communist regime to exploit anti-Semitism in order to defeat and divert the mounting demand for democracy and liberty."

In a telegram to Jaruzelski, sent to the Polish Embassy in Washington, Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the ADL, said:

"The singling out of Jews in Solidarity and the arrest of Jewish intellectuals is reminiscent of Nazi tactics all too tragically familiar in Europe. Three million Polish Jews were killed in the Holocaust and thousands who survived were driven out of the country 13 years ago in a massive anti-Semitic campaign. And now the remnant of the Jewish community, mostly elderly, are again subjected to the nightmare of yet another anti-Semitic attack."

In a message brought to the Polish Embassy by representatives of the AJCommittee and B'nai B'rith International, Jaruzelski was urged to issue an "immediate rejection of irresponsible and dangerous anti-Semitic actions." The message, signed by Jack Spitzer, president of B'nai B'rith and Maynard Wishner, AJCommittee president, expressed "anguish" about "ugly charges against Jews so reminiscent of the scapegoating tactics of the Hitler period."

Embassy Officials Refuse Message

However, officials at the Embassy refused to accept the message or even acknowledge the presence of Warren Eisenberg, director of the International Council of B'nai B'rith, and Hyman Bookbinder, director of the AJCommittee Washington office, who sought to meet with an Embassy official.

The two representatives stated to the press gathered outside the Embassy that the concern of their organizations was not limited to Jews. "Our concern is for all Poles," Eisenberg said. "We object to violence and brutality in general."

Urges Release Of Edelman

The arrest of Edelman was assailed today by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. In a cable to Jaruzelski he noted that Edelman's personal prestige as an anti-Nazi partisan had protected him during earlier periods in Poland's troubled post-war history. "Now, however," Schindler said, "the Polish government does not hesitate to arrest even so prominent and patriotic a figure as Marek Edelman."

He urged Jaruzelski "to order his immediate release."

The American Reform leader, who recently completed a three-year term as president of the American Federation of Polish Jews, also deplored the arrest of Prof. Henryk Samsonowicz, rector of the University of Warsaw, with whom the UAHC signed a cultural exchange agreement last April in New York. The agreement made historical records, religious articles and artifacts documenting 1,000 years of Jewish life available to American scholars and researchers for the first time. Schindler called for Samsonowicz's immediate release.

GOVERNMENT COALITION DEFEATS NO CONFIDENCE MOTION BY 57-47 VOTE By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- The government easily defeated an opposition motion of no confidence in the Knesset today critical of Premier Menachem Begin's handling of relations with the United States in the aftermath of Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

The motion was swamped by a vote of 57-47, Begin's largest Knesset victory on a confidence motion since his reelection last June. His narrow coalition majority was expanded by the support of two minor opposition factions, the ultra-nationalist Tehiya and the late Moshe Dayan's Telem. Amnon Rubinstein of Shinui who introduced the motion was backed by the Labor Alignment.

The debate, focussing on Begin's harsh attack on the Reagan Administration last Sunday, was brief. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir defended Begin's position on grounds that the "punishment" of Israel by the U.S. was "unacceptable."

Says Future Of Golan Still Open

Washington suspended the memorandum of agreement on strategic cooperation with Israel last Friday to demonstrate its displeasure over Israel's Golan law. Although Begin vowed, in his rebuke to the U.S., that no force on earth could make Israel rescind its annexation of the Golan Heights, Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor indicated in Brussels yesterday that the future of the area was open to negotiations with Syria.

Speaking after meetings with representatives of the European Economic Community (EEC), Savidor told reporters that Israel's annexation of the Golan was not illegal and not irreversible. "This is not a fait accompli. It is open to negotiations. If the Syrians give up their intransigent stand and sit down with us, they will find that Israelis are open to negotiations," he said.

FAHD POSTPONES VISIT TO WASHINGTON By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- The visit by Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Fahd to the U.S. scheduled for February 19, has been postponed at Fahd's request and will be re-scheduled "at an early, mutually agreed upon time," the State Department announced today.

Department spokesman Dean Fischer said the decision to postpone the visit was taken "in the light of current developments in the Middle East in particular and in the world in general." He said Fahd "determined that these developments require his presence in Saudi Arabia." Replying to questions, Fischer said he "couldn't be more specific" about the reasons for postponement but gave some "non-reasons."

"I don't have any reason to believe that it has any connection with the Israeli move on the Golan Heights" or "because of any Saudi displeasure with the U.S. attitude toward Prince Fahd's peace plan," Fischer said. He added that the "discussions between our governments was not of a specific nature and I think the reasons cited by the Crown Prince were those that we have indicated in the statement."

Fischer denied that Fahd's decision was a form of pressure on the U.S. to take a tougher stance toward Israel. He said the decision to postpone Fahd's trip preceded Syrian President Hafez Assad's visit to Saudi Arabia this week. "I have no reason to believe there is any relationship between those two events," he said.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WITHHOLDS DEPORTATION OF EX-NAZI AFTER HE GIVES UP HIS U.S. CITIZENSHIP

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- The Justice Department agreed yesterday to withhold deportation proceedings for the time being against Otto Albrecht von Bolschwing, a former Gestapo official involved with Adolf Eichmann in the liquidation of Jews, who voluntarily gave up his U.S. citizenship, acquired illegally in 1959 by concealing his Gestapo connection.

Allan Ryan who heads the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), said deportation was waived for the present because von Bolschwing, 72, has a health problem which impairs his ability to assist in his defense. The agreement, filed in U.S. District Court in Sacramento, California, must be approved by the court to be final.

Von Bolschwing was one of 11 former Nazis residing in the U.S. against whom denaturalization proceedings were underway before he relinquished citizenship. In doing so, he admitted only to membership in the Nazi Party. But his Gestapo associations have been documented in "Nazi War Criminals in America: Facts ... Action" by Charles Allen Jr. and Rochelle Saidel-Wolk, published this year.

According to the writers, he worked as an agent for Eichmann's office in the SS subsection of the Reich Central Security Office, Jewish Affairs. He provided intelligence on Jewish organizations and their leaders to prepare for deportations in implementing the "Final Solution." Court papers filed against him last May stated that he participated in Nazi persecutions of Jews in the 1930s and 1940s, notably as the head of the Gestapo's intelligence section in Rumania.

Ryan said von Bolschwing claimed publicly that he became a U.S. intelligence agent after World War II but that such claims did not influence the Justice Department in suspending deportation proceedings.

ISRAEL CLAIMS ITS RETENTION OF GOLAN WAS TACITLY APPROVED BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- Israel claimed today that its retention of the Golan Heights had at least the tacit approval of a previous American Administration. Foreign Ministry sources said that Premier Menachem Begin had shown a note to that effect to President Carter from his predecessor, President Ford, to the then Israeli Premier, Yitzhak Rabin.

According to the sources, Ford said the U.S. would understand an Israeli refusal to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights.

Rabin, responding to questions today, would not confirm the details. But he said that both as Ambassador to Washington and as Prime Minister he had conversations with American officials to assure Israel greater freedom of action for political maneuver in talks on the future of the Golan Heights.

(In Washington today, State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said "We are looking into it" when asked to comment on the reported letter from Ford to Rabin.)

Rabin said the Americans obviously did not mean that Israel could hold on to the entire Golan area. He said the law adopted by the Knesset December 14, in effect annexing that territory, had not "helped the situation."

ISRAELI HIGH COURT REJECTS APPEAL AGAINST EXEMPTION OF RELIGIOUS PERSONS FROM MILITARY SERVICE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court today rejected an appeal against the coalition agreement between Likud and Agudat Israel which exempts religious persons from military service. The court held that the appellant, attorney Yehuda Ressler, failed to prove that not drafting religious persons prolonged his own military service.

Under the coalition agreement, the draft to which all Israelis are subjected to was waived for yeshiva students and teachers, Orthodox women and former secular persons who became Orthodox Jews. According to justices Yitzhak Kahan, Dov Levin and Yehuda Cohen, the burden of military service is not determined solely by the number of persons called to duty but by the specific function of every soldier.

UJA SAYS IT IS FACING GREATEST CASH COLLECTION CRISIS SINCE THE YOM KIPPUR WAR IN 1973

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- In what has become virtually a round-the-clock operation at its national headquarters here and at its eight regional offices throughout the country, the United Jewish Appeal is conducting an intensive eleventh-hour effort to meet what UJA leadership has termed "the greatest cash collection crisis since the Yom Kippur War."

"The Cash Count-Up program we inaugurated at the beginning of December is falling short of our minimum \$90 million goal for the month," UJA national chairman Herschel Blumberg stated. "There is a real, clear and present danger that every Jewish Agency human support program in Israel, as well as many Joint Distribution Committee relief services the world over, will be severely slashed if we default on providing the income we have pledged for this calendar year."

A daily flow of emergency mailgrams has been alerting federations throughout the country to the dimensions of the cash needs to be met by December 31. The year-end drive is aimed at maximum collections on accounts receivable from current and past campaigns, pre-payment of 1982 pledges, and utilization of available reserve and other discretionary funds in communities.

Among those joining Blumberg and UJA national cash chairman Edgar Cadden in the mobilization messages have been Council of Jewish Federations president Martin Citrin, United Israel Appeal president Jerold Hoffberger and JDC president Henry Taub.

A continuing cash shortfall in the remaining days of the year, these leaders indicated, could result in denial of youth aliya residential training to several thousand Israeli teenagers, stoppage in construction of pioneering Jewish Agency settlements in the Galilee and the Negev, and midwinter cutbacks in JDC firewood and food supplies to aging Jewish families in Eastern Europe.

"Failure to meet our year-end cash goal could undermine the record pledge totals achieved in our immediate past campaigns, and carryover receivables could seriously hamper the effectiveness of every remaining campaign of this decade," Blumberg declared.

"Our credibility is on the line," said Cadden. "With barely a week left, we're asking federations throughout the country to run hard. This is one race we have to win."

MEMORIAL MEETING HELD FOR SHARGIL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- Family, friends and colleagues of the late Yitzhak Shargil gathered at Beth Sokolov in Tel Aviv Monday night to recall his memory, on the first anniversary of his untimely death at the age of 52 a year ago. Shargil had been Tel Aviv correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency for many years, and was a senior editor of Yediot Achronot.

At the memorial meeting the first annual Shargil Prize for sports coverage was awarded by the prize committee to the sports sections of Israel Radio and Israel Television, for their coverage of the Maccabia sports meetings, with which Shargil had been closely connected during his lifetime. Among those present at the meeting were his widow, Dvora, his sons, Ofer and Yoav, and his brother, Dr. Avner Shargil.

Yediot editor in chief Noah Moses described the late Shargil as the "unknown soldier of the newspaper" whose name did not often appear but whose untiring work enabled the paper to appear every day, as one of its senior editors.

Ramat Gan Mayor Dr. Israel Peled, a member of the Shargil Prize committee, described Shargil's work on behalf of the Jewish people. He said that at a time when the term Zionism was sometimes referred to with cynicism, Shargil had striven "to put and keep Zionism on the world map."

Other speakers from many walks of life referred to Shargil's activities on behalf of many public causes, including Jewish sports and the Soldiers Welfare committee. "In these days of rampant materialism, Shargil was a fine example of the volunteer for Jewish causes," said Moshe Lerer, on behalf of the Israel Journalists Association.

FEW ISRAELIS ARRESTED IN THE U.S.

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- Israel's former police representative in the U.S., Deputy Inspector Michael Bochner, who has recently returned after four years service in America, said that "only" 230 Israelis had been apprehended in the U.S. for crimes committed there.

In an interview published in the current issue of the Israeli English-language "Newsview" weekly magazine, Bochner says that this is a relatively small number in view of the some quarter million Israeli yordim in America. "The difference is that they are Israelis (as compared to larger numbers from other national or ethnic groups) and for that reason alone are more conspicuous," he said.

Bochner said that much of the petty crime by Israelis is committed in New York, with more serious crimes occurring on the West Coast, where some 20-30 "professional criminals" forming the nucleus of the so-called "Israel Mafia" is located in Los Angeles. Around them are another some 50 former Israelis serving as contacts or agents.

FIRST ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK TO OPEN NEXT MONTH

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- The first Israeli film festival in New York will open next month, presenting American viewers with the latest achievements of the growing movie industry in Israel. From January 13-21, 12 feature films -- comedies, dramas and musicals -- will be shown at the Manhattan I Theater on the East Side and the Continental Theater in Forest Hills, Queens.

The organizers of the festival expect at least 25,000 viewers to participate in the event. The festival is sponsored by The Israel Trade Center in New York, the Israel Film Center in Jerusalem, and the Fund for Quality Films in Tel Aviv. The Festival is produced by International Film Festival Productions (IFFP).

"The main purpose of the festival is to create a steady market for Israeli films," according to Meir Fenigstein, executive director of IFFP. "We intend to make the festival a yearly event, to focus the attention of American audiences on the movie industry in Israel, which has produced in recent years a few films that any country in the world can be proud of," Fenigstein said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Film Industry Still Struggling

Fenigstein, who is well known throughout Israel as a member of the singing troupe, Puggi, said, however, that despite some impressive movies made recently in Israel the film industry there is still struggling, coping with numerous problems, some of them unique to Israel because of the limited domestic market. The festival is an effort to break into the American market, to broaden the prospects and future of Israeli movie directors, actors and other film professionals.

According to Amir Malin, who is the partner of Fenigstein, Israel produces every year eight to 10 films, most of them light comedies. "But recently, the trend in the Israeli movie industry is toward the small budgeted artistic drama," Malin contended, comparing the present state of the Israeli film industry to that of Australia five years ago.

Australia in the last two years, has become the producer of highly acclaimed movies which also were worldwide commercial successes. Malin said that the average budget of an Israeli feature film is between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

Highlight Of The Festival

According to Fenigstein and Malin, the highlight of the festival will be the New York Premiere of director Mira Recanat's drama, "A Thousand Little Kisses." Ms. Recanat, 31, who is regarded as Israel's most promising young film director, is expected to attend the opening of her film, the story of two generations of women and the way they react to the death of a husband and father. The film is currently under consideration for nomination in the best foreign film category for the 1981 Academy Awards.

Other new films, not shown previously in New York, are "An Intimate Story," by director Nadav Levitan, a drama about the breakup of a marriage; "Repeat Dive," directed by Shimon Dotan, the story of a naval commando mission; and the comedy "Lemon Popsicle (2)" directed by Boaz Davidson.

"The Thin Line," Michal Bat Adam's drama, and the "Troup," a musical comedy by Avi Nesher, which were recently shown here and were warmly received by critics and audiences alike, will also be shown during the festival. Organizers of the festival said they hoped to extend the Israeli film festival to other major cities across the United States.

DULZIN: SOME 50,000 JEWS TO JOIN ZIONIST MOVEMENT IN ARGENTINA

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- About 50,000 Jews will soon join the Zionist movement in Argentina according to Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive. He returned last weekend from a brief visit to Argentina on the occasion of the establishment of a new Zionist Federation there and the election of a new executive to the local Zionist organization.

Dulzin told the WZO Executive meeting here yesterday that the 50,000 new members would join the movement after the World Zionist Congress next year. He reported that for the first time the Zionist executive in Argentina included representatives of all factions. Membership is now on a personal basis, and not on an organizational basis, he said.

Large Number Of Olim Expected

During his stay in Argentina, Dulzin attended a meeting of some 400 candidates for aliya to Israel. He said the number of such immigrants is expected to double next year, possibly reaching as many as 2,500 from Argentina.

He noted that key positions in the new Argentine Zionist Federation -- the chairman, his deputy, the secretary general and the treasurer -- would be held by persons who are not associated with political parties. The Federation is headed by Yaacov Pieterman, 51, an engineer.

Dulzin said that despite the grave economic crisis which threatens Jewish education in Argentina, the WZO would make every possible effort to assist the community to prevent students from dropping out of the local Jewish education system.

Dr. Eli Tavin, head of the WZO diaspora education and culture department, informed the Executive that a new teachers seminar will be established in Mexico shortly, in cooperation with a local university and universities in Israel.

Tavin said there were presently several study programs for teachers in Latin America with the assistance of Israeli lecturers. Most of the 2,000 teachers in Jewish schools in Latin America are Latin American-born.

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TEL AVIV -- Raphael Kotlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency's aliya department, told reporters upon his return from a visit to Rumania that that country's Jewish community is disappearing, with almost no marriages or births and more deaths every day. He quoted Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen as saying the community now numbered only 33,000 -- less than usually thought. Kotlowitz said that most Rumanian Jews were now elderly and many are living on welfare. At one stop on his visit, at Tamishra, he learned that only two Jewish babies were born this year while 65 elderly Jews had died, out of a total Jewish population of 1,800.