

NEO-NAZI ON ELECTION LIST

BONN, April 7 (JTA) -- A leader of the Hamburg branch of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) has received a top spot on a new election list for the Hamburg state parliament. The list, which the NPD is trying to take over, according to the West German media, will campaign on the issue of stopping the flow of foreigners into the country. It is expected to gain at least one seat in the upcoming elections.

Public opinion is largely supportive of the measures it proposes, which include speeding the departure of foreigners already resident in West Germany. Most of them are laborers in low-paying jobs. Rightwing factions such as the NPD have been exploiting public sentiment against them.

ISRAEL APPROVES ECOLOGICAL TREATY TO PRESERVE ENDANGERED SPECIES AROUND MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, April 7 (JTA) -- Israel was among 16 nations around the Mediterranean basin to approve a treaty protecting the ecological integrity of the inland sea and sites of archaeological or historical nature on its shores or submerged.

Under the treaty, the fifth to be approved by the Mediterranean countries in the past six years, the participating governments will establish about 100 protected zones to preserve endangered species such as monk seals, sea turtles and pelicans. Others would serve as habitats for migratory birds or combine public beaches with nearby archaeological or historical sites.

Special protected zones will be created for underwater archaeological remnants such as sunken Phoenician ships and still others will be earmarked as breeding grounds for exploitable fish and shell fish. They would offer scientists research "sanctuaries" and protect "genetic diversity."

The Mediterranean, like most busy waterways bounded by heavily populated countries, has suffered pollution in recent decades. Scientists attending a conference held here in connection with the treaty said, "While it is too early to claim that the Mediterranean has been saved, it is not getting sicker and the prognosis is good." An Israeli delegation participated in the conference, alongside delegates from all of the Arab countries of the Mediterranean littoral.

DUTCH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' VIEW ON PLO

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, April 7 (JTA) -- The Netherlands Council of Churches, in reply to an appeal by the Council of Christian Churches in the Middle East, that the Palestine Liberation Organization be recognized, has stated that it will only do so if the PLO recognizes the political existence and the security of the State of Israel and that mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel should be achieved through negotiations.

In addition, the Dutch Council said, Israel must recognize the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and a political existence. The Council said it is aware that at the moment the PLO is the only organized voice of the Palestinian people

and seems to be the only body able to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians for a settlement.

It is precisely for this reason, the Council continued, that it is essential that the PLO recognize Israel's right to exist and to security. Deleting certain paragraphs from the PLO charter would be a step in this direction, the Council noted.

"It is with a feeling of shame and a sense of guilt that during the Second World War the majority of the Dutch people did too little or nothing at all to save Jewish lives," the Council wrote. "For this reason we remain sensitive to injustice caused to the Jews and violence to which they are still subjected."

TURKEY'S FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS HIS COUNTRY WON'T BREAK TIES WITH ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Turgut Ersoy of Turkey has told Turkish businessmen that his country is seeking to play the role of a bridge between the West and the Islamic countries and that the severance of diplomatic relations with Israel is not being considered.

Turkmen's remarks, monitored by sources of the World Jewish Congress from a broadcast of the Australia Agency in Istanbul earlier this week, came at a meeting with the Turkish Businessmen's Society, (Tusiad) at which he disclosed the intention of his government to apply for full membership in the European Economic Community "when the political atmosphere is right." Turkey, he added, did not have to turn its back on the West while strengthening relations in the Middle East.

Elaborating on this theme, Turkmen said that in formulating foreign policy, Turkey would take care to "keep all options open" and to distinguish clearly between short-term and long-term perspectives. He noted:

"We believe Turkey will gain in significance for her Western partners as an element of stability in the Middle East to the extent that she strengthens her relations with Islamic countries, and similarly for the Islamic world to the extent that she takes her place in the economic and political decision-making mechanism of the EEC."

Offers An Explanation

Asked by the president of Tusiad to comment on relations with Israel, the Turkish Foreign Minister said that a break in relations was not being envisaged and gave the following explanation: "There are certain sensitive balances in our foreign policy. We have to assess our external relations as a whole. Arab countries are understanding about the difficulties we would have in cutting off relations with Israel entirely."

Besides Egypt, Turkey was the only Islamic country which did not vote in favor of the recent U.N. General Assembly resolution condemning Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights and calling for Israel's total isolation from the international community.

Last month, Turkmen stated that while Turkey's basic policy of support for the Arab

cause at the UN remained unchanged, the UN resolution as formulated had "presented difficulties" for the "delicate balances" in Turkish foreign policy. Turkey had come under severe criticism and pressure from Arab quarters because of her abstention in the UN vote.

COALITION TO MARCH ON WASHINGTON

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA) -- A newly formed broad-based coalition of Jews and Christians, "The Coalition to Stop the Abandonment of Israel," is sponsoring a rally in Washington on Sunday, April 25 to express its concern with the present course of the Reagan Administration's Middle East policies, it was announced here by Peter Goldman, spokesman for the Coalition.

The rally, which will take place in Lafayette Park, opposite the White House, is expected to attract thousands of people from the Mid-Atlantic region, according to Goldman. He said there is great concern in this country among Christians and Jews that American Middle East policy is based on appeasement of the Arab nations at the expense of Israeli and American security.

"The rally is both a protest against the Administration's policies and an appeal to the President to reaffirm and implement his pledges and principles in support of the State of Israel," Goldman said. "While we are rallying for Israel, we are also rallying for the conscience of America. While we are marching for a secure Israel, we are also marching for a secure America, since these two concepts are inextricably linked."

Christian Appeal to Reagan

The Rev. Isaac Rottenberg, chairman of the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel, one of the sponsoring groups, said "the minds and hearts of many Christians are going out to the State of Israel as it continues to make many sacrifices for peace." He called upon Christians to appeal to President Reagan to "keep our word to our ally, Israel" and to refrain from applying pressure on Israel to take risks for peace "while delivering lethal weapons to its enemies."

Goldman said that more than 60 rabbis have formed a Rabbinic leadership conference and joined the Coalition. A statement issued by the co-chairmen of the Committee, which includes, according to Goldman, Rabbis Fabian Schoenfeld, Shlomo Riskin and Isaac Pupko, expressed "the strong feeling of unease in the Jewish community about American policy towards Israel."

Goldman said sponsoring organizations of the rally include: Jewish Community Council of Queens (NY); Zionist Organization of America, Washington chapter; American Forum for Jewish-Christian Cooperation; Americans for a Safe Israel; World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries; Christians United for Israel; Herut, Washington; Betar USA; B'nai Akiva; Concerned Jewish Youth; and Religious Organization of America, Forest Hills (NY).

EXHIBITION TO REFLECT NINE CENTURIES OF THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN POLAND

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA) -- An exhibition reflecting nine centuries of the Jewish experience in Poland will open at the Jewish Museum May 6 and run through August 15. The show, "Fragments of Greatness Discovered: A Loan Exhibition from Poland," consists of approximately 90 examples of rare Jewish art and artifacts as well as works containing Jewish subject matter by non-Jewish Polish artists.

Many of the objects, previously believed to have been destroyed by the Nazis during World War II, have just been recently rediscovered.

Among the objects on view will be the great illuminated Hebrew Bible known as the Kolonymus Codex, which was completed in 1238; a splendid red silk Torah curtain embroidered with precious gold and silver threads which has been painstakingly restored by the National Museum in Warsaw; 12th Century Polish coinage by Jewish minters; community record books from the 17th and 18th Centuries; printed books; 19th and 20th Century paintings of Jewish content; clothing; embroideries; and gold and silver ritual objects.

The exhibition's text panels will introduce and discuss such concepts as: the Yeshivot; great centers of learning; the Jew as genre subject in 19th Century Polish painting; anti-Semitism in the 19th Century; and the immigration of Jews to the United States; the Jew as artist and writer in Poland; and the Holocaust.

Exhibition Sponsored By UAHC

The exhibition is sponsored by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations under the terms of a special cultural exchange agreement with the University of Warsaw. Following its opening engagement at The Jewish Museum, the exhibition will travel to the Hebrew Union College Skirball Museum in Los Angeles and the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, after which it is scheduled to be returned for a special exhibition in Warsaw. Portions of the exhibition were seen in a preview exhibition at the Knoedler Gallery in New York City this past December.

Summing up the importance and scope of the exhibition, guest curator Cissy Grossman said, "This exhibition of material on loan from Poland dramatically illustrates the profound aesthetic and spiritual sensibilities of different communities and the range of their concerns, as well as the awesome longevity of the Jewish experience in Poland. The rediscovery of these objects and the opportunity to experience them has been an exciting one for us that we hope the visitor will share."

Lending institutions for this exhibition include: the National Museum, Warsaw; the Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw; the Library of the University of Wrocław; the Jewish Community of Cracow; and the Jewish Community of Wrocław. The exhibition installation is being designed for The Jewish Museum by Lynne Breslin and Dale Furman. The exhibition has been funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

GENEVA (JTA) -- Israel is participating in the 1982 Eurovision song contest, an annual event in which Israeli entries took first prize twice in recent years. The contest will be broadcast on April 24 from Harrogate, England on radio and via satellite to 37 television networks in 29 countries. It is produced this year by the BBC on behalf of the European Broadcasting Union. Eighteen European and Mediterranean area countries are competing. The order in which entries will be presented was determined by lottery. Israel drew 15th place.

CORRECTION: The late Dr. David Mirsky had recently assumed the chairmanship of the American Jewish Press Association Awards for Excellence in Journalism, not the AJPA as reported in the Bulletin April 1.

AJCONGRESS DEFENDS RIGHT OF JEWISH HOOPSTERS TO WEAR YARMULKAS WHILE PLAYING INTERSCHOLASTIC GAMES

CHICAGO, April 7 (JTA) -- Attorneys for the American Jewish Congress, Midwest Region, have filed a brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit Court to uphold the right of Orthodox Jewish basketball players to wear yarmulkes while playing interscholastic basketball.

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) appealed from the decision of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois which had ordered the IHSA to allow the basketball players to wear yarmulkes during interscholastic competition as required by the tenets of their religion. AJCongress attorneys Sylvia Neil, Shirley Dvorin and David Grossberg represent the Orthodox Jewish high school basketball players from the Hebrew Theological College Preparatory Division and Ida Crown Academy, their parents and the respective schools.

Facts Of The Case

The case arose when the IHSA announced that it would not allow the wearing of securely fastened yarmulkes claiming it violated its rule prohibiting the wearing of headgear on the basketball court and posed a safety hazard. On behalf of plaintiff students, AJCongress filed suit as a class action in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, seeking declaratory and injunctive relief.

The District Court entered an emergency restraining order in February 1981, temporarily enjoining the defendants from prohibiting the plaintiff-students' participation in the 1981 Illinois State Boys Basketball Regional Tournament while wearing yarmulkes as required by their religion.

In January 1981, Judge Milton Shadur granted judgment for the plaintiffs and permanently enjoined the defendants from enforcing the rule. He found that the total absence of proof of "real (safety) hazards" failed to represent a compelling state interest to overcome the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights. The Court stated: "On the uncontroverted facts the risks posed by yarmulkes and their appurtenances are totally speculative."

AJCongress Brief

In urging the Seventh Circuit to uphold the District Court's ruling under the First and Fourteenth Amendment, the AJCongress brief states: "The state may justify an infringement on the fundamental right to freely exercise one's religion only in the most limited circumstances ... The state must show that it is the least restrictive means of achieving some compelling interest Clearly, IHSA's mere assertion of safety based on hypothetical injury does not satisfy the compelling state interest required to overbalance plaintiff's right to the free exercise of religion."

The brief further argues: "By prohibiting the wearing of yarmulkes on the basketball court, the defendant IHSA unconstitutionally conditions the benefit of participation in interscholastic athletics on the plaintiff's abandonment of their religious beliefs. This result is wholly in conflict with the protection accorded First Amendment rights ... The conditioning of a public benefit on the abandonment of one's religious beliefs is precisely what is forbidden by (The United States Supreme Court)."

ADL RAPS UNESCO FOR PARTICIPATING IN A CELEBRATION WHICH FALSIFIES HISTORY OF ROLE OF JEWS IN KIEV

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today criticized UNESCO for participating in a celebration of the 1500th anniversary of the founding of the City of Kiev "which falsifies history by excluding the role of Jews in the city's past."

In a letter to Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Director General of UNESCO, Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director, charged that the use of UNESCO's Paris headquarters for the ceremonies provides "a veneer of approval" to distortion of the historical record.

The 10-day observances at UNESCO's headquarters which ends April 9, involve diplomatic receptions, speeches, photo and art exhibitions and the distribution of a brochure about the founding and evolution of Kiev.

Says UNESCO Was Duped

Foxman told the Director General that UNESCO has permitted itself to be "duped" by the Soviet Union into cooperating in a program that has been rendered "Judenrein." The ADL official said that the Soviets' "gap-ridden, unbalanced and skewed recall of the past makes no mention of Jewish contributions to Kiev where they were long resident."

He noted that the record presented by the Soviets makes no reference to "the persecution of Jews in the Ukraine ranging from Chmielnitsky's massacres in 1648 to Babi Yar and the collaboration of many Russians with Nazi murderers."

According to Foxman, UNESCO's action is comparable to the presentation last November at UN headquarters in New York City of the Soviet documentary film, "Babi Yar," which glossed over the martyrdom of Kiev's Jews, 100,000 of whom were the principal victims of the Nazi massacre.

Foxman made it clear that ADL has no objection to the anniversary celebration per se but was protesting as "reprehensible and not in keeping with the UN Charter" UNESCO's association with a program which distorts the past. "It is just such actions as these by which the UN besmirches itself."

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BONN (JTA) -- Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, urged West Germany to use its influence with the United States to apply pressure on Israel for concessions in the Middle East conflict. Addressing the German Foreign Policy Association, Yamani portrayed Israel as the principal power in the region. He said the establishment of the State of Israel was an outcome of Nazi persecution and the Arabs are "still suffering" as a result.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) has chosen Ricardo Barbouth of Argentina as president of its newly-formed South American Federation of Liberal Congregations, it was announced this week by Gerard Daniel, WUPJ president. Barbouth, a Buenos Aires businessman, is a vice president of that city's Temple Emanuel. He has long been active in Jewish communal life in Argentina and was instrumental in developing a successful Liberal Jewish youth camp there. The WUPJ recently launched a campaign to strengthen its ties to Reform synagogues in Argentina, Brazil and Chile through the establishment of a South American Federation of Liberal Congregations.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA HEBREW UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR SAYS HOLOCAUST WAS NOT GENOCIDE By James Rice

CHICAGO, April 7 -- Prof. Yehuda Bauer, director of Hebrew University's prestigious Institute of Contemporary Jewry, greatly admires Simon Wiesenthal's famed efforts to apprehend Nazi murderers, but he flatly rejects his view that, as Jews, we should remind the world that 11 million people were murdered by the Nazis, including five million non-Jewish Christians.

On the contrary, Bauer said in a wide-ranging presentation at a Northeastern Illinois University symposium on teaching the Holocaust, the number of non-Jews who were killed in the concentration camps was a maximum of 750,000. However, Bauer added, the Nazis actually annihilated 26 million to 28 million non-Jewish Europeans through mass murder, slave labor, starvation, and starvation-related disease.

This, he said, included practically all Polish intellectuals among the three million Polish non-Jews killed, Czechs, Byelo-Russians, and other Eastern Europeans. Byelo-Russians suspected as partisans were burned alive by the thousands in Russian Orthodox churches.

All such groups were regarded by Hitler as sub-humans, and their extermination or persecution, according to Bauer, was truly genocide. The Jews were not victims of such genocide, but were the first group in history -- so far -- to experience a Holocaust. Hitler's racial policy placed Jews not in the category of sub-humans (like Slavs), but as the non-human embodiment of complete evil, who were trying to take over the entire world through their satanic machinations.

To exterminate this evil was the "holy" mission of the German people, as leaders of the pure and exalted Aryan race. Thus it was possible for members of the SS to murder hundreds of Jews and come home at night as "Christian" husbands and fathers.

German People's Knowledge Of Fate Of The Jews

Bauer revealed information from a previously unknown 1942 survey of the German people on the still debated question: "Did the German people know what happened to the Jews?" A German anti-Nazi managed to ask this question of hundreds of his fellow-citizens.

While he travelled extensively throughout the country, he deliberately made acquaintances, and then casually asked what they had heard about the fate of Jews from their cities, towns or villages. Eighty percent responded that they had heard that Jews had been killed. Bauer asked: If 80 percent admitted they knew, didn't the other 20 percent have the same guilty knowledge?

How Europeans Jews Faced The Holocaust

Bauer addressed directly the agonizing issue of why and how Jews submitted to the Nazis. He rejected unequivocally the extreme positions that Jews went like sheep to the slaughter, or that they were all heroes and heroines.

He reminded his audience that Jews were small minorities in much larger communities, were not united, had no arms, no tradition of officer training, and were psychologically unprepared. Within months of the Nazis' entry into Poland, most of the Jewish population was starving, decimated by typhus, demoralized with no opportunity for

resistance. And yet, there was resistance -- and not just in Warsaw. In 44 other ghettos, there were armed groups. In 91 of the 110 Byelo-Russian towns and villages where Jews lived, they did resist. There were 25,000 Jewish partisans, most of whom perished. There were 6,000 Jews in Tito's army. In fact, the very first group Tito organized included 13 fighters from Macedonian Zionist groups.

Bauer did not spare his audience the other bitterly tragic side -- the Jewish traitors: the ghetto police; capos in the death camps; even Jewish hangmen. Among them were young and old; men and women; religious and non-religious; intellectuals and workers.

(This writer will never forget his shock in the summer of 1945 when, as a Joint Distribution Committee representative, he witnessed riots in the DP camps forcing U.S. military police to prevent lynching by the Jewish survivors of former capos whom they had discovered in the camp.)

Righteous Gentiles

Bauer stressed that despite all too frequent non-Jewish assistance to the Nazis in the occupied countries, there were many examples of true bravery. In Poland and in Germany itself, Jews were hidden by Christians throughout the war. The Archbishop of France asked every priest to save Jews. The Ursuline Sisters and Benedictine monks played a key role in rescuing Jews, as did priests and bishops in Italy.

The same could not be said of Pope Pius XII who never lifted his voice. Bauer stated that the Pope's failure to act was clearly due to his desire to preserve the Catholic Church at all costs from attacks by the Nazis.

Role Of American Jewish Community

Bauer praised the accomplishments of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in saving Jews during the Holocaust ... a fact deeply appreciated by Jews who had been under the Nazi yoke. Ironically, Bauer believes this is not known by most American Jews who still mistakenly assume that little or nothing was done by any American Jewish organization.

Bauer's latest book, "American Jewry and the Holocaust -- the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee 1939-1945," is a detailed presentation of JDC's global efforts.

The book, based on JDC's complete files of its wartime activities, reveals the problems created by all too limited funds and initial lack of understanding by JDC leaders of the depth and scope of Nazi plans, but has high praise for JDC's overseas American staff and its European staff -- most of whom were martyred by the Nazis.

It was the JDC that financed the revolt in the Warsaw ghetto and Raoul Wallenberg's rescue of Hungarian Jews. Few people are aware that the JDC constantly sent aid to Jews in all the occupied lands.

In the last months of the war, through its Swiss representative, Saly Mayer, JDC negotiated with top SS officers the Nazi ransom offer to save Hungarian Jews -- with approval and participation of the U.S. War Refugee Board, and which eventually did save the lives of thousands of Jews in Hungary and in the death camps.

ALBANY (JTA) -- Governor Hugh Carey has proclaimed April 25-May 2 Jewish Heritage Week.