

COSTA RICA DECIDES TO RETURN ITS EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA) — Costa Rica has decided to return its Embassy to Jerusalem. Formal word of this was released in San Jose. This action came within days of the inauguration of Costa Rica's new President, Luis Alberto Monge. Moving his nation's Embassy back to Jerusalem was one of the foreign policy planks in Monge's election campaign platform.

Costa Rica was among the countries which transferred their embassies from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv after the United Nations condemned Israel's 1981 Jerusalem Law which declared the city to be Israel's united capital.

Israel today officially welcomed Costa Rica's decision and expressed the hope that other friendly states will follow suit. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry pointed out that the move, "is not and cannot be interpreted as an unfriendly act toward Arab states." President Yitzhak Navon telephoned Monge last night to express Israel's appreciation of Costa Rica's move.

Milestone For Jews In Argentina: THREE RABBIS TO PROVIDE SPIRITUAL ASSISTANCE TO JEWISH SOLDIERS INVOLVED IN FALKLAND ISLANDS ACTION

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) — Dr. Mario Gorenstein, chairman of DAIA, the umbrella political representative institution of Argentine Jewry, reported that the armed forces in Argentina had authorized the presence of three rabbis in the south of the country for spiritual religious assistance to some 150 Jewish soldiers and marines involved in the action in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

In a phone conversation from Argentina, Gorenstein told Jacob Kovadloff, director of South American Affairs of the American Jewish Committee in New York, that one rabbi, Baruch Plovnik, left for Comodoro Rivadavia in south Argentina from where he will continue to the Falklands in an aircraft of the International Red Cross.

Two other rabbis, Miguel Grunblat and Enrique Pines, will follow soon to Comodoro Rivadavia and Rio Gallegos, where the major concentration of troops are located. All three rabbis are Conservative. They will wear military uniforms and iron helmets with Mogen David insignia, Gorenstein said.

Kovadloff, himself an Argentinean, residing in the United States, and who just returned after a two-week stay in Buenos Aires, declared that these appointments represent an historical milestone in Jewish life in Argentina, since never before had the armed forces admitted Jewish chaplains.

U.S. INSTRUMENTAL IN STOPPING W.H.O. FROM CONDEMNING ISRAEL

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, May 13 (JTA) — A threat by the United States to walk out of the World Health Organization (WHO) resulted in modification of a resolution condemning Israel for annexing East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and calling, in effect,

for sanctions against the Jewish State. The sanctions clause was deleted after the U.S. representative, John Bryant, branded the draft resolution "inaccurate and offensive" and warned that the U.S. would leave the organization for an indefinite period and review its financial and technical support for the United Nations agency.

The resolution, sponsored by 29 Arab and Third World countries was adopted by a committee of the WHO's annual Assembly here by a vote of 60-27 and 24 abstentions. The full Assembly is expected to adopt it later this week. The measure declared the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights "null and void" and requested "all specialized agencies of the United Nations system to abide" by it "in their relations with Israel." The U.S. considered that to be a call for sanctions.

The 12-point resolution, in addition, held Israel responsible for the "poor health and psychological conditions endured by the inhabitants of the territories" occupied by Israel.

GERMANY PRESSURED TO RECOGNIZE PLO

By David Kantor

BONN, May 13 (JTA) — The West German government is coming under increasing diplomatic pressure to emulate East Germany's recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization and threats of violence from Arab terrorists and German urban guerrilla groups if it does not, diplomats here said today.

Security measures have been tightened because it is feared that both elements might cooperate in terrorist attacks before or during President Reagan's visit to West Germany next month.

Last month the East German Democratic Republic extended recognition to the PLO on the ambassadorial level. The PLO has since launched a campaign to have Bonn reverse its long-standing policy of non-recognition as long as the PLO remains committed to Israel's destruction.

West German analysts say the opening of a PLO embassy in East Berlin has already created problems for Bonn. It finds itself lagging behind the East Germans diplomatically, especially in Third World countries. PLO representatives have been arguing here lately that Bonn's failure to recognize the PLO could have long-standing consequences for the Arab world's position toward "the German question."

SPECIAL INTERVIEW KOTLOWITZ HOPES HIAS WILL REVERSE ITS DECISION ON AIDING DROPOUTS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) — Raphael Kotlowitz, head of the immigration and absorption department of the Jewish Agency, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he hopes HIAS would reverse its decision of two weeks ago to end its experimental three-month agreement with the Jewish Agency to refrain from aiding Soviet Jewish dropouts unless they have first degree relatives in a Western country.

"I hope that HIAS' decision is not final and I hope that it would be reversed soon," Kotlowitz said in an interview here at the Jewish Agency

headquarters. He said that during his present U.S. tour he will meet with various Jewish leaders, among them HIAS officials, and discuss with them the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration and aliya to Israel in view of HIAS's decision.

HIAS, in its decision two weeks ago, noted that the experiment had failed in its objective of securing increased aliya to Israel. The HIAS board therefore decided to accept the recommendation of its executive committee to return to the traditional policy of aiding all Soviet Jews who upon arriving in Vienna opt to go to countries other than Israel.

Hopes Brussels Conference Will Turn The Tide

Kotlowitz noted that preparations are now underway for the Brussels Third International Conference on Soviet Jews -- scheduled to open October 24 in Paris -- where representatives of major Jewish and non-Jewish organizations will meet to discuss ways to aid Soviet Jews. He said that Premier Menachem Begin and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres also expected to attend the conclave.

Expressing the hope that the Brussels Conference's impact will result in increased Soviet Jewish emigration and aliya to Israel, Kotlowitz said: "We hope that HIAS would realize the importance of aliya and will be a positive participant in the Brussels Conference. It is important that at least until the Conference, the Jewish people and the government of Israel should be united on the issue of Soviet Jews, in order to achieve the highest number of Soviet Jewish immigrants and olim to Israel."

"My hope is," Kotlowitz continued, "that in the final analysis it will be the good of the Jewish people and Israel that would guide HIAS in reaching its final decision."

According to Kotlowitz, the Jewish Agency never agreed to a three-month trial period set by HIAS. "The least we can ask for now is that the trial period should continue up to and including the Brussels Conference. After the Conference the matter could be given a new meaningful consideration in the light of the experience gained."

Kotlowitz said that increased aliya by Soviet Jews will "bring in its wake the possibility that the gates of Russia would open again to Jewish emigration. Emigration from Russia and aliya really go together. They are interlocked."

ISRAEL TO RECEIVE REMAINING U.S. ECONOMIC AID FOR FISCAL YEAR 1982 By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 13 (JTA) -- The State Department has decided to release the remaining half of Israel's economic aid for the 1982 fiscal year, Sen. Arlen Specter (R., Pa.) announced today. Israel will now receive \$400 million due it.

An amendment to the Foreign Aid Appropriations bill, adopted last December, which was inserted by Specter, required Israel to get all the \$806 million "no later than 30 days" following enactment of the legislation. But the United States followed its normal pattern of disbursing only half the sum at that time.

Specter had written to James Buckley, Undersecretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology, on April 29, urging that the remaining money be disbursed. He charged, in the letter, that the State Department

had not given Israel all the money "in violation of a direct Congressional mandate" because of the Reagan Administration's objections to Israel's extension of its civilian law to the Golan Heights.

In his letter, Specter noted that "Israel's heroic action" in returning the Sinai to Egypt indicated "Israel's commitment to achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East" and should "provide sufficient evidence to compel the Administration to reconsider its decision."

Specter, who welcomed the State Department's decision, said he originally had insisted on the 30-day disbursement proviso so that Israel would not have to increase its short term borrowing at prohibitively high interest rates which could cost as much as \$30 million.

ANTI-SEMITISM CONTINUES TO BE MAJOR PROBLEM FOR U.S. JEWS

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitism continues to be a major problem for the American Jewish community, according to a group of experts. While overt anti-Semitism has been placed beyond the pale of decent conduct, there is no basis for complacency, they noted. In addition, a major factor in igniting the flame of anti-Semitism is the continual efforts in the United Nations to "delegitimize Israel."

These were some of the observations by members of the American Jewish Committee's national staff at a panel discussion of "Anti-Semitism and Other Threats to Jewish Interests" at the opening plenary session today of the AJCommittee's 76th annual meeting; which continues through Sunday at the Grand Hyatt Hotel here.

Hyman Bookbinder, reflecting the concerns of his position as AJC's representative in Washington, asserted that "although the fight against crude, vulgar, explicit anti-Semitism in America has been essentially won, the fight against the more subtle, insidious allegations against American Jews and their goals has only begun." He cautioned that "when Jewish advocacy of a public policy cannot be refuted by facts or logic, as in the AWACS debate last year, Jewish motives will be impugned and the ugly charge of dual loyalty will be raised."

Nevertheless, he declared, "we must reject the advice of those who ask us to desist from public debate or advocacy on controversial subjects lest that lead to anti-Semitism. To do so is to lose the battle against anti-Semitism even before we begin. Rather, with confidence, we must show how the Jewish interest and the American interest are not in conflict."

Concerned Over Actions In The UN

Theodore Ellenoff, chairman of the AJC's national executive council, who chaired the session, pointed out that "despite the fears of some Jews that there would be anti-Semitic repercussions following the AWACS debate, a Gallup poll commissioned by the AJC and conducted this past March indicated that there has been no significant change in American attitudes toward Jews or Israel."

From his personal point of view, Ellenoff said he was particularly concerned with "the effort to delegitimize the State of Israel in the halls of the United Nations and to characterize her as intransigent in pursuing peace. Such delegitimization and false characterization tend to resonate throughout the American public, to undercut American Jewish positions of support, and to inject in a less than subtle way anti-Semitic themes into discussions of American foreign policy," he said.

Irving Levine, director of the AJC's Institute on Pluralism and Group Identity, reported that there is an increasing incidence of teenage vandalism, especially against synagogues and Jewish cemeteries. He said that "we must take these acts seriously since they show the potential for the growth of a 'new bigotry,' especially among teenagers."

Encouraged By Efforts Of Churches

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, ACJ's national director of interreligious affairs, acknowledged that anti-Semitism "is far from dead." But he said he found encouragement in the fact that "major Christian churches have enlisted themselves in the continuing struggle against it."

In addition to condemning anti-Semitism, "major church groups have stressed the spiritual link between Judaism and Christianity," Tanenbaum noted. "They have also cautioned that religious instruction should be cleansed of hostile and distorted teachings about Jews and Judaism, and provided specific guidelines for achieving these goals."

Warns There Is No Basis For Complacency

Milton Ellerin, director of the AJC's trends analysis division, which monitors the activities of extremist groups in this country and abroad, reported that both the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party were "no longer a factor on the American scene." Both groups are fragmented, he said, and added that the Nazi movement "has failed to establish any base or potential here," while the Klan, "despite a spate of current activity in Georgia, has failed to sustain the growth in membership so apparent two years ago, and is utterly devoid of any political influence in today's America."

However, Ellerin warned, "while the current ambience in this country has placed overt anti-Semitism beyond the pale of decent conduct and labeled it as an unacceptable aberration of normal conduct, mores and standards can and do change. Despite today's seemingly favorable circumstances, there is no basis for complacency."

TASK OF SOVIET JEWRY GROUPS IN U.S. OUTLINED BY EXPERT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 13 (JTA) -- A Soviet Jewish emigre who is now a U.S. academic expert on the Soviet Union, said yesterday that Soviet Jewry groups in the U.S. must continuously let senior officials in the White House and the State Department know of their strong commitment in support of Soviet Jewish emigration.

Dimitri Simes, co-director of the Soviet and East European Research Program at Johns Hopkins University, explained that the U.S. cannot necessarily demand of the Soviet Union concessions in return for agreements on trade or disarmament. But he said, senior U.S. officials can stress to Soviet leaders that no agreements will be possible unless such concessions are made, because of domestic pressures on the Administration.

What has to be stressed to the Soviets is "not your indignation but how strong is your commitment," Simes told a Conference on Soviet Jewry and U.S.-Soviet Relations sponsored by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

More than 100 persons attended the day-long conference held on Capitol Hill.

Simes also said he supports "quiet diplomacy," but to be effective, quiet diplomacy should have public pressure behind it which he called "quiet diplomacy with teeth." Simes suggested that the UCSJ approach businessmen who deal with the Soviet Union, such as officials of the Pepsi Cola Co., to persuade them to urge the Soviets that it would be in their interests to increase emigration.

In addition, Simes noted that during this period of almost no emigration, telephone calls and personal visits by UCSJ members and other Americans to Soviet Jewish activists in the USSR are "crucial" to assure the activists that they have not been abandoned. Simes spoke on a panel on "The Search for Solutions to the Soviet Jewry Situation."

Need To Involve Christians

Sister Ann Gillen, executive director of the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, stressed the need to increase the participation of Christians in the Soviet Jewry movement, including having a large Christian presence at the next Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry to be held in Paris in October.

She also suggested opening bridges to the peace movement in the U.S. to convince them of the need to urge the Soviets to live up to their commitments and to stress justice as well as peace.

Rep. William Brodhead (D, Mich.) who hosted the conference, said Soviet Jews seem to be a "bargaining chip" which the Soviet Union is using to gain concessions from the U.S. But he said in this period of "bad relations" between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, there is no emigration and supporters of the cause must use the time to "educate ourselves," Congress and the American people on the situation.

Rep. Jack Kemp (R, NY) said that speaking up for Soviet Jews now is "analogous" to aiding the Jews under Nazi Germany, not when World War II had already begun but in 1933 when the "pogroms" first began. He promised to deliver to President Reagan a resolution adopted by the UCSJ members at the conference which called on the President to demand "strict reciprocity" in the form of emigration in return for any trade or other agreements negotiated with the Soviet Union.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir administered an oblique rebuke to the army and police this week by implying that the 40-day blockade imposed on four Druze villages on the Golan Heights earlier this year was an excessive measure to impede the Druze to accept Israeli identity cards. Zamir is investigating charges made by former Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohen's Association for Civil Rights in Israel that the army violated the civil rights of the Golan Druze.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An Orthodox rabbi was found guilty by a military court in Gaza Thursday of inciting Israeli soldiers to disobey orders to dismantle a road block erected outside of Yamit last February by members of the movement to halt the withdrawal from Sinai. The court based its verdict against Rabbi Yisrael Arieli, the former rabbi of Yamit, on a television newsreel film clip showing him exhorting the troops. Arieli will be sentenced at a later date.

