

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO HEAR AN APPEAL FOR TRIFA TO RETAIN HIS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court refused today to hear a new appeal for retention of citizenship by Archbishop Valerian Trifa of Grass Lake, Mich., who has been charged with concealing his leadership role in the fascist Rumanian Iron Guard when he applied for U.S. citizenship in 1957. The Iron Guard has been blamed for mass murders of Jews and Masons in Bucharest during World War II. The court issued the ruling with no comment.

The effect of the Supreme Court ruling is to uphold a federal circuit court ruling that Trifa's action in 1980 of voluntarily renouncing his citizenship in 1980 stands. The Immigration and Naturalization Service is now expected to proceed with its repeatedly-delayed plans to start deportation proceedings against the primate of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate of America.

Trifa has been fighting to remain in the United States since 1975, when the Justice Department began court action to strip him of his citizenship and deport him. After voluntarily renouncing his citizenship in 1980 and agreeing not to appeal his decision, Trifa nevertheless filed an appeal. The Justice Department called the appeal "frivolous" and the federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati rejected the appeal in November, 1981.

Now 67, Trifa is accused specifically of leading a January, 1941 pogrom in which hundreds of Rumanian Jews were murdered. He was tried in absentia by a Rumanian military tribunal in June, 1941 and sentenced to life at hard labor. He could face a trial for war crimes if he is deported to his native Rumania.

CONGRESS MIGHT PROBE CHARGES THAT U.S. OFFICIALS SMUGGLED WAR CRIMINALS INTO U.S. AFTER WWII

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- Allegations that U.S. officials smuggled hundreds of Russian-born Nazi war criminals into the United States after World War II for anti-Soviet propaganda and intelligence purposes might be investigated by Congress shortly. Rep. Barney Frank (D. Mass.), a member of the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on immigration, said yesterday that he would call for an investigation.

Frank appeared on the CBS-TV "60 Minutes" program yesterday where John Loftus, a former prosecutor for the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), charged that State Department and other officials smuggled known war criminals into the country in violation of specific orders from Presidents Roosevelt and Truman and that various government agencies were covering up this operation as recently as 1978.

According to Loftus, the fact that Nazi war criminals were brought into the U.S. clandestinely by government officials aware of their past activities, seriously hampered the OSI's efforts to expose and prosecute them.

The government must prove that alleged collaborators lied about their Nazi past when applying for admission to the country and for U.S. citizenship, before the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) can denaturalize them and begin deportation proceedings.

Says Files Were Withheld

"We had one unit of the government out trying to prosecute the Nazis and other units of the government trying to secret the information," Loftus said on "60 Minutes." The former prosecutor, who is now in private practice, said the OSI "established that the files pertaining to the Nazi immigration had been withheld from Congress, from the courts, from the CIA and from the local agents of the Immigration Service."

Spokesmen for the Defense and State Departments and the FBI declined immediate comment on the charges. But a Justice Department spokesman said the Department is "aware of these allegations and is looking into them." (See P.2 for State Department reaction.)

Loftus estimated that more than 300 Nazi collaborators from the Soviet Republic of Byelorussia are living in the U.S. at this time. Some are still employed by government and quasi-government agencies, he said.

The Washington Post reported today that officials of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty confirmed that it employed several alleged collaborators named in the "60 Minutes" program but that they are believed to have been cleared by the government.

Two War Criminals Identified

One of them was identified as Stanislaw Stankevitch, recently deceased, who reportedly confessed to the OSI that he was in charge of the large-scale extermination of Jews in Byelorussia. Stankevitch, a former freelancer for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, died before he was prosecuted.

Another freelancer employed by the joint radio operation who was named on "60 Minutes" is Vilis Hazner. The INS tried but failed to deport him and Hazner, suspended during the investigation has since been rehired according to William Kratch, New York bureau chief of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

According to "Nazi War Criminals in America-- Facts...Action" by Charles Allen and Rochelle Sidel-Wolk, Hazner was accused of atrocities against Jews in Riga while an officer of the Latvian "Self-Defense Group" and the Nazi-controlled police organization in Riga, the Schutzmannschaft. He was reported in 1980 to be a resident of Dresden, New York.

Charges Congress Was Told 'Flat Lies'

Loftus charged that Congress was told "flat lies" when it asked the Army in 1978 for information on 111 Nazi war criminals living in the U.S. The Army claimed it had no files on the suspects. The General Accounting Office (GAO) reported in 1978 that it found that Army intelligence agencies

had employed 21 reputed Nazi war criminals as "sources of information." The OSI, headed by Allan Ryan, was established by the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute alleged Nazis living in the U.S., many of them now naturalized citizens. Last week, the House Judiciary Committee rejected by voice vote a motion by Rep. M. Caldwell Butler (R. Va.) to end funding of the OSI which receives about \$3 million a year.

The counter-motion which defeated the Butler measure was led by Rep. Frank who observed: "We have made an historic commitment to weed out and deport war criminals as long as they live. If we were to stop hunting Nazi war criminals it would send a terrible signal to other nations of the world."

STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS IT WILL COOPERATE FULLY WITH PROBES OF WAR CRIMINALS LIVING IN THE U.S.

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) — The State Department declared today that it has always "cooperated fully with law investigations" of Nazi war criminals living in the United States and stressed it will continue to do so in the future.

Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg, commenting on allegations on the CBS-TV "60 Minutes" program that the State Department had helped bring Nazis into the U.S. after World War II, and then subsequently covered up their presence, said that the Department would "review our files to see whether they contain any relevant information." He did not know who would be conducting this review.

Romberg stressed that the Department has always condemned Nazi atrocities and is "deeply concerned at the presence of Nazi war criminals illegally in the United States." He noted that in recent years the Department has cooperated fully with such investigations conducted by the Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), a General Accounting Office inquiry in 1978 and a subsequent hearing by then Representative Joshua Eilberg (D. Pa.).

"We continue to cooperate with the efforts of the Office of Special Investigations to secure information from the Soviet Union and other East European countries as well as Israel," Romberg said.

REAGAN URGED TO OPEN FILES ON WAR CRIMINALS RECRUITED BY U.S. AGENCIES

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) — Emanuel Muravchik, executive director of the Jewish Labor Committee, called today on President Reagan to order a "fish-bowl" investigation into the recruitment by the State Department and other U.S. officials of Nazi collaborators for espionage and propaganda work.

Muravchik wired Reagan that the White House should, through an Executive Order, "open the existing files now being withheld from federal agencies and establish an immediate commission to work with the Congress and to expose and punish those guilty, no matter who, no matter how important, in government circles."

He added: "Those guilty of coverup, frustrating deportation proceedings against known Nazi collaborators, participating in recruitment of persons known to have Nazi links, or having such links, should be tried and dismissed from any government service. Those who collaborated with the Nazis should be deported."

SHARON WARNS PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS

TEL AVIV, May 17 (JTA) — Defense Minister Ariel Sharon said today the Palestinian terrorists should not be misled by the great measure of self-restraint shown by Israel in the face of terrorist shelling of northern villages and towns.

He was speaking at the new Ramon airfield in the Negev, one of the two newly-built bases today declared fully operational. Three new airfields in the Negev replace four major air bases and seven smaller airfields handed over to the Egyptians in the Sinai.

Sharon warned the Palestinians that Israel regarded the cease-fire as applying to all and every terrorist attack against Israel, Israeli-controlled territories or Israeli or Jewish organizations and installations throughout the world. Israel reserved the right to react to any such attack anywhere, he said.

LABOR SHELVES PLANS TO PRESENT A NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA) — The Labor Alignment shelved plans to present a motion of no-confidence on economic issues to the Knesset tomorrow in an attempt to unseat Premier Menachem Begin's narrowly based coalition government. The decision came 24 hours after Labor Party leaders were assured by Begin that the government has no immediate plans for military action in southern Lebanon.

The proposed motion would have been based on figures just released by the Central Bureau of Statistics which showed that the cost-of-living rose by 10.7 percent in April, the highest increase for that month in 29 years. The Laborites thought it might be supported by the two-man Telem faction headed by former Finance Minister Yigael Hurwitz who is strongly critical of the economic policies of his successor, Finance Minister Yoram Ariar.

Telem support would have brought down the Begin government which has only a one-seat margin in the Knesset. But Alignment leaders decided at a meeting today to consult further with other opposition factions before making the move. They reportedly concluded that there was no point in submitting a no-confidence motion certain to be defeated, in which case the government would only be strengthened.

Lebanese Border Situation Discussed

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, party secretary Haim Barlev and former Premier Yitzhak Rabin met with Begin yesterday to discuss the tense situation on the Lebanese border. They emerged from the meeting apparently "relieved" that no military action was planned at this time.

Begin reportedly told the opposition leaders that he attached great importance to good relations with the U.S. The U.S. has expressed concern over the fate of the cease-fire along the Lebanese border and has been urging all parties to exercise maximum restraint.

Begin's meeting with the top Labor Party leaders raised new speculation that a national unity government may be in the offing. But Peres said that subject was not discussed. He said Begin initiated the meeting to demonstrate that he was "for a unity of the people."

BONN (JTA) — Some 200 anti-Nazis staged a demonstration in Bornheim, a section of Frankfurt, to protest a meeting there of neo-Nazis. The demonstrators carried banners reading "Nazis out" and "Once was enough." The rally last week was called by the Association of Nazi Survivors which accused the authorities of failing to ban the meeting.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S MEETING IN JERUSALEM TO BE BOYCOTTED BY FRANCE, SPAIN, GREECE, PORTUGAL

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 17 (JTA) -- None of the French members of the Council of Europe's Political Commission will attend its session in Jerusalem tomorrow. Unconfirmed reports say the French government has privately advised the five French members of the Commission that their presence in Jerusalem at this time "would be inappropriate."

Israeli diplomatic sources say that as far as they know, the three Deputies and two Senators will not attend for "personal or political reasons."

Council sources in Strasbourg told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the French parliamentarians' absence from the Commission's session is due to both personal and political reasons. One of the deputies at least, the sources said, might have given in to the pressure of the Arab countries which are opposed to holding the session in Jerusalem.

Three Commission member states, Spain, Greece and Portugal, will officially boycott the Jerusalem session.

The Council of Europe decided in September, 1981 to hold the next session of the Political Commission in Jerusalem. Despite a joint demarche by the Arab ambassadors to the Council, the body reconfirmed its original decision last January by a vote of 21-8. The Commission's president, British Labor MP Tom Urwin, said at that time that holding the session in Jerusalem "does not mean Council approval for Israel's policies."

BEGIN, TWO SENIOR MINISTERS CLAIM CREDIT FOR DECISION BY ZAIRE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin and his two senior ministers are claiming credit for the decision by Zaire to re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel which it broke at the time of the Yom Kippur War. The announcement here by a special envoy of President Sese Seko Mubutu yesterday that formal ties would be resumed and that Zaire would open its embassy in Jerusalem, was hailed as a major diplomatic triumph for Israel.

Associates of Begin claimed that his policies had proven right. They said that despite warnings by the opposition Labor Party that such acts as the bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor last June, the annexations of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights would further isolate Israel, the fact is that Zaire will be the first Black African nation to renew relations with Israel and Costa Rica has decided to return its embassy to Jerusalem.

This proves, they said, that Begin is correct in following a bold policy that takes only Israel's interests into account rather than worrying too much about the interests of other countries.

Sources at the Defense Ministry, however, are stressing the role of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon in preparing the groundwork for renewed ties with the African states. They noted that Sharon's secret trip to Africa last November, during which he met with Mubutu, was the essential factor that made Zaire's declaration possible.

The Foreign Ministry for its part, insists that Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir played the pivotal role. Ministry sources noted that David Kimche, Director General of the Ministry, made several secret visits to African countries over the past two years in connection with Shamir's goal, stated before he joined the Cabinet in February, 1980, to re-establish diplomatic relations with Black Africa.

Officials here, elated by the breakthrough with Zaire, predicted that Gabon would be the next African state to resume diplomatic ties with Israel. Gabon was one of the countries visited by Sharon last year. The announcement by the Zaire envoy did not say how soon diplomatic ties would be resumed or when a Zaire embassy would be opened in Jerusalem.

U.S. WELCOMES MOVE BY ZAIRE

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that it welcomed the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and Zaire but refused to urge other Black African countries to reopen diplomatic ties with Israel. "We don't want to prescribe for other governments what they should do," Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said.

Romberg also refused to comment on the announcement by Zaire that it would open its embassy in Jerusalem. "That's a matter between Zaire and Israel," he said. He noted that the U.S. stands by its policy not to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem until the future of Jerusalem is determined by negotiations.

U.S. CONSIDERING WITH ISRAEL, EGYPT NEXT STEP IN AUTONOMY TALKS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that the next step in the autonomy negotiations are being "actively considered with our Israeli and Egyptian partners."

Alan Romberg, the Department's deputy spokesman, said that the U.S. special envoy to the autonomy talks, Richard Fairbanks, reported to Secretary of State Alexander Haig in Luxembourg yesterday on his meetings in Cairo and Jerusalem last week. Fairbanks' week-long mission was "productive," Romberg said.

He said it is well known that the U.S. has offered Washington as a site for the talks if Israel and Egypt cannot agree on where to hold them. But he said the U.S. is not promoting any city and the decision will have to be made by the Israelis and Egyptians. The resumption of the talks has been held up because of Egypt's refusal to hold any of the sessions in Jerusalem. Israel has said the talks can be held in as many cities as the parties want as long as Jerusalem is one of them.

U.S. officials have indicated they believe the issue will be cleared up when President Reagan meets with Premier Menachem Begin in either New York or Washington next month.

Meanwhile, Romberg said that Philip Habib, the U.S. special envoy for the Lebanese situation, will meet with Haig when he returns from Europe later this week. Habib met with Reagan at the White House Saturday. Romberg said there was no indication as yet whether he would go to the Middle East.

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PARIS (JTA) -- The Israeli city of Zichron Yaakov and the Paris suburb of Charenton-le-Pont were formally twinned last week.

