

BILL CALLS FOR DISSOLUTION OF THE KNESSET AND ELECTIONS NEXT NOVEMBER

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 24 (JTA) -- A bill calling for the dissolution of the 10th Knesset and for elections next November 2 was introduced by the Shinui faction today. But chances are slim that it will come up for a vote during the current Knesset session and Shinui itself regards the measure as a trial balloon to test the intentions of the two major parties rather than a serious move toward early elections.

The small leftist party submitted the motion because the defection of two Likud MKs last week -- Amnon Lin and Yitzhak Peretz -- deprived Premier Menachem Begin of his one-vote parliamentary majority. Begin reportedly favors early elections on grounds that Likud would be returned to office with a decisive majority. At the moment, however, he is ardently courting the two-man Telem faction to replace Lin and Peretz in his coalition.

According to Knesset regulations, Shinui's election bill cannot be brought to a vote for 60 days, unless the House Committee specifically waives the regulation. Even if that were to occur, the bill could not be voted on unless a majority of the Knesset plenum agreed. An election bill may be voted on only once during any Knesset session. If it were defeated it could not be raised again until the Knesset's fall session.

Fate Of The Coalition

The fate of Begin's coalition now seems to ride on Telem, the faction founded last year by the late Moshe Dayan. Its institutions were scheduled to meet tonight to decide whether to negotiate with Likud. The Telem leadership met with Begin last week but reportedly only "asked questions and received several offers." The meeting was not regarded as "real negotiations."

Meanwhile, the National Religious Party reportedly may drop its opposition to early elections. The NRP, which lost four Knesset seats in the last elections, has been reluctant to go to the polls again for fear that its mandate might be reduced even more. But it is said to feel now that opposing new elections would further damage its image.

JEWISH COMMUNITY ACTS AGAINST ANTI-SEMITIC WORKS IN ITALY

ROME, May 24 (JTA) -- An Italian dictionary containing derogatory definitions of "Jew" and "Judaism" is being withdrawn by its publishers following complaints by the local Jewish community. The community has also initiated actions seeking to bar distribution of a new Italian edition of "Mein Kampf." Both actions were reported by the World Jewish Congress.

The Union of Italian Jewish Communities, the central representative body of Italian Jewry and a member of the WJC, said that the new printing of "Mein Kampf" had recently appeared on some newsstands and was being sold throughout Rome. The Union immediately undertook to have Italian authorities confiscate the book in accordance with existing statutes.

The director of the WJC office here, Fritz Becker, explained that according to law, the sale

of "Mein Kampf" could not be banned for its contents, but Italian press and printing laws stipulate that the name of the publisher and the printer must be indicated in all books. In this case neither the name of the publisher nor the printer is noted in the book.

The Union has been successful in the matter of the "Dictionary of the Italian Language" which, in the words of a judicial proceeding against the publisher, contains entries "insulting to Jews." The Curcio publishing house has written to the Union that, following their complaints, it is withdrawing from the market all copies of its dictionary and that the pages containing the derogatory definitions will be substituted.

ARMY NOT AWARE OF ANY SYRIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS NEAR ISRAEL'S BORDERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 24 (JTA) -- Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan said yesterday that the army was not aware of any Syrian troop movements near Israel's borders but it would complete an assessment of the latest Syrian maneuvers within the next few days.

He said there has been no change of policy by the terrorists in Lebanon, but was not certain whether there has been an easing of tensions along the northern border. He declined to speculate about a general flare-up there.

Speaking on Israel Radio, Eitan defended the army's use of force against Arab rioters on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He referred to complaints of 13 former officers, most of senior rank, that the military maxim of restricted use of firearms against civilians to avoid unnecessary bloodshed was endangered by the recent shooting of Arab demonstrators in the territories.

According to Eitan, the soldiers had not deviated from "military norms" and all charges of improper behavior were rigorously examined. The officer in charge of the central command said over the weekend that deviations from the norm were "exceptions" and were punished.

SECTION OF NCC GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION ON MIDEAST CALLS ON U.S. TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO

NASHVILLE, TENN., May 24 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee has strongly criticized a section of a Middle East resolution adopted by the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches which called upon the United States Government to "undertake an open dialogue with the PLO" without requiring the PLO to repudiate its announced aims for the violent destruction of Israel.

AJC reaction was issued here by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, AJC's national interreligious affairs director, and Rabbi A. James Rudin, assistant director. Rudin represented the AJC at the NCC Governing Board as an official fraternal observer.

While acknowledging that the NCC resolution contains a number of positive affirmations about Israel and Egypt and the Camp David peace process, the two AJC spokesmen deplored the fact that "this latest resolution fails to urge two

preconditions for any governmental dialogue with the PLO, namely, the PLO's recognizing Israel's right to exist as a sovereign state and the cessation of all hostile acts carried out against Israel. This resolution can only lend legitimacy to the PLO, the pivotal catalyst for international terrorism -- hardly a moral position expected from a major Christian body."

Such unqualified support for the PLO in peace negotiations, the AJC officials said, will only contribute to the hardening of positions and will inhibit the cause of Middle East peace rather than advance it.

The NCC resolution, Tanenbaum and Rudin said, is at the same time constructive in a number of respects. They welcome the NCC's commendation of Israel for its "difficult and painful withdrawal from Sinai," and its acknowledgment that both Israel and Egypt have demonstrated their commitment to the Camp David peace treaty and to the continuing peace process. In addition, the AJC welcomed the NCC's support of the United States government's reaffirmation of Israel's right to "secure, defined and recognized borders" and the NCC's call for the removal of all foreign troops and weapons from Lebanon.

Nevertheless, Tanenbaum and Rudin concluded, "the NCC failed in an opportunity to be solidly helpful in dealing with the cutting edge issues of Middle East peace at the heart of which is the PLO's intransigent commitment to violence and terrorism and the refusal of the majority of Arab governments to welcome Israel into the family of nations as a legitimate sovereign state."

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL LABELS PLO SOVIET PROXY; CITES THEIR ACTIVE ROLE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., May 24 (JTA)-- A key State Department official charged that the Palestine Liberation Organization was serving as a proxy for the Soviet Union in fomenting revolution in Central America.

Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, said the PLO was "providing both arms and training to guerilla forces in El Salvador, Guatemala and perhaps Honduras as well."

Abrams, addressing a meeting of the national Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations at Stouffer's Inn here, noted that PLO chairman Yasir Arafat was one of the first foreign leaders invited to Nicaragua after the Sandinista regime came to power there.

He told the 175 people at the board meeting: "PLO military camps in Lebanon and Libya have trained large numbers of Communist guerrillas from Central American countries, and are still doing so. PLO arms are also being smuggled into several Central American countries which revolutionary forces are seeking to overthrow."

"Communist leaders in those countries are constantly visiting Lebanon for meetings with Arafat and other PLO chieftans. They are part of the same ideological camp -- and proudly proclaim it."

The two-day meeting of the UAHC trustees ended yesterday.

MENDEL KOHANSKY DEAD AT 70

JERUSALEM, May 24 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held yesterday for Mendel Kohansky, theater critic and theater historian, who died last

Friday at the age of 70. A member of The Jerusalem Post staff since 1961, Kohansky was best known for his weekly column of theater criticism. As chairman of the Theater Critics Circle of Israel, he often represented this country abroad. He was a member of the executive committee of the International Association of Theater Critics.

Kohansky was born in Poland and attended school in Lodz. He graduated from the University of Warsaw in journalism and humanities and worked for the local press before moving to the United States. He was deeply concerned with the Holocaust he escaped and reflected this in the book he recently completed, "Mirror to Death," which deals with the Holocaust as a theme in world drama. The book is scheduled to be published by the State University of New York.

Also about to appear is his book, "The Disreputable Profession," about the actor's image in society, from the ancient Greeks until the present. It will be published by the Greenwood Press in the U.S.

While in the U.S. Kohansky worked for various newspapers and radios. In 1945 he came to New York City from Chicago to be the Yiddish press and radio director of the Histadrut campaign. In 1955 he settled in Israel and did publicity work for Kupat Holim, Histadrut's sick-fund.

In addition to his weekly column in The Jerusalem Post, which sometimes included commentaries on social and political issues, Kohansky was the author of numerous books and monographs, including "The Hebrew Theater" (1969) and "The Weidenfeld Guide to Israel" (1973).

ISRAEL MISSING FROM MAP SAUDIS ARE DISTRIBUTING AT WORLD'S FAIR

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 24 (JTA) -- The Jewish community here has denounced the omission of Israel from a map being distributed at the World's Fair. The map, contained in a brochure at the Saudi Arabian pavilion, shows the Saudi kingdom and its Arab neighbor states, with Israel's territory presented as part of Jordan.

The brochure was brought to public attention after it was given to members of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee at the fair.

"It is striking that the Saudis have used this opportunity to achieve through cartography what they ... have been unable to achieve through officially supported international terrorism," said a statement quoted by Susan Limor, a spokeswoman for the group.

Tennessee's Governor Lamar Alexander criticized the map as well, saying it presents a "strange view of the world." Agreeing that the map was inaccurate, fair president S. H. Roberts said the brochure "does not represent the 1982 World Fair's management, beliefs or policies."

But he added that no attempt would be made to prevent further distribution of the brochure. "We feel that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the right to control materials distributed within their pavilion and (we) would not attempt to interfere with that right," Roberts said. The representative of the Saudi pavilion said he would not succumb to pressure and that the map would continue to be distributed.

Israel does not have a pavilion at the fair due to economic reasons, according to a spokesman for the Israel Trade Commission in New York City.

There will be no Bulletin dated May 28 because of the Shavuot holiday and there will be no Bulletin dated May 31 because of Memorial Day, a postal holiday.

SHARON URGES AMERICAN JEWISH YOUTH TO GO ON ALIYA TO ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 24 (JTA) — Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon called last night on American Jewish youth to go on aliya to Israel and help meet the challenges facing the Jewish State.

"I can find no excuse for anyone not coming to live in Israel," Sharon told some 400 Jewish students and members of Zionist youth organizations at a meeting at the Roosevelt Hotel here, sponsored and organized by the American Zionist Youth Foundation (AZYF). "Israel is a beautiful country and it is our homeland," Sharon declared and, in response, received a standing ovation from the enthusiastic audience.

Sharon said that the task of developing Israel is continuing despite the enormous gains made so far. He said Israel should become a center for the arts, medicine and sciences as well as a country of "industry and production." He said Israel needs American olim, not only investments, because "investments do not bring people — but people bring the investments."

Sharon's call for aliya was challenged, however, at one point by a member of a small group participating in the meeting which carried signs bearing the inscription "Peace Now." The young man, who identified himself as a member of Dror-Habonim, asked Sharon: "How do you expect us to go on aliya to Israel while Israel has turned into South Africa no. 2?" The youth charged that Israeli policies against Palestinian Arabs are "repressive," comparing them to the treatment of blacks by South Africa.

Rejects Comparison With South Africa

Sharon rejected out of hand any comparison between the treatment of blacks in South Africa and the treatment of Arabs in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. He said he believes that any Jew who makes such allegations is suffering from "a very deep inferiority complex."

Sharon appealed, however, to all American Jewish youth, whatever their views are, to come and settle in Israel. He said if they oppose Israeli settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Golan Heights, they can settle in the Negev, Galilee or any other part of Israel.

The Israeli Minister claimed that the goals of Zionism under the Likud government are the same as they were under the Labor-led government of the past. "Zionism has not changed. Our goal is to live in our homeland. Arabs have been living in our country for centuries — but this is the homeland of the Jews. The right over the country is ours. It has been so for the last 3700 years and it will be so forever."

Sharon, who arrived in New York last Thursday is scheduled to meet in Washington tomorrow with Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger and Secretary of State Alexander Haig. On Wednesday morning he will address in New York a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. According to an Israeli spokesman Sharon will meet here today with leading Wall Street businessmen.

SOME 350,000 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES STAGE A TWO-HOUR WARNING STRIKE

TEL AVIV, May 24 (JTA) — About 350,000 government and municipal employees

held a two-hour warning strike today to protest the Finance Ministry's refusal to pay them a 500 Shekel (\$25) monthly cost-of-living allowance to compensate for the erosion of their wages by inflation.

They were joined in the walk-out by employees of public institutions and organizations. The strike was observed by elementary school teachers, Defense Ministry workers, court employees and civilians employed by the army. Many of them have threatened a longer strike next week unless their demands are met.

Finance Minister Yoram Aridor has offered to pay the 500 Shekel increment only to employees who earn less than the average wage. The Histadrut trade unions are demanding that the increments be paid to all workers.

POPE TO MEET BRITAIN'S CHIEF RABBI

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, May 24 (JTA) — Pope John Paul II will hold a brief meeting with Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, Britain's Chief Rabbi, during his visit here the week after next, unless it is cancelled because of the Falklands conflict.

They will meet on Monday, May 31 in Manchester, which contains Britain's second largest Jewish community. Afterwards, the pontiff will also briefly meet other leaders of the Jewish community.

The meeting was suggested by Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, who is Britain's Catholic primate. It would have taken place in London a day earlier except for the fact that this would have coincided with Shavuot.

By coincidence, the Pope will drive through Prestwich, one of Manchester's most heavily populated Jewish districts, to conduct mass in nearby Heaton Park.

ISRAELI, AUSTRIAN UNIONS SIGN FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT

VIENNA, May 24 (JTA) — The Jerusalem employees branch of Histadrut signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation with its Viennese counterpart, the Gewerkschaft Der Privatangestellten (GPA) here Friday, the first of its kind between Israeli and Austrian trade unions.

A delegation of 11 Histadrut officials came here for the ceremonies. It was headed by Nissan Hapaz, Secretary General of the Jerusalem Labor Council. A similar treaty was recently signed by Histadrut with the West Berlin branch of the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (DGP).

Earlier last week, the Histadrut delegates were guests at a reception given by the Israeli Ambassador, Yissakhar Ben-Yaacov. It was attended by Austrian trade unionists, including Minister for Social Affairs Alfred Dallinger who is chairman of the GPA.

Ben-Yaacov called the friendship pact a positive, constructive element. He referred to the current visit to Israel of the Austrian Minister for Science and Research, Hertha Firnberg, who will open a new wing at the Tel Aviv University Medical School that was financed by private and public donations by Austrians.

CORRECTION: The zip code for the JTA's new office in Washington was incorrectly reported as 2005. It should be 20005.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES GUILT BY INNUEUDO

By Dr. Gene Sosin

(Editor's note: Dr. Gene Sosin is director of program planning of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in New York City and a member of the Board of the Jewish-Telegraphic Agency.)

NEW YORK, May 24 (JTA) -- On May 16, CBS-TV's "60 Minutes" devoted a segment to the subject of suspected Nazi war criminals admitted for permanent residence into the United States. A Boston attorney, formerly employed by the Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations, charged 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. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty was identified during the program as having employed several alleged collaborators.

RFE/RL is a private corporation which is supported by annual grants from Congress administered through the Board for International Broadcasting, a government agency. Its shortwave radio broadcasts reach an estimated 40-50 million listeners per week in 21 languages of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

In recent years, thanks to the arrival in the West of more than 250,000 Soviet Jewish emigres, RFE/RL has drawn upon the talents of hundreds of these emigres to enrich its programming. Indeed many of them have been hired as staff and free-lance writers, editors, announcers and researchers in our Munich headquarters and in the Paris and New York bureaus.

Hiring Procedures Explained

As the result of the editing of the film taped by CBS in the New York Bureau, the implication was made that RFE/RL is knowingly providing a haven for Nazi war criminals. The facts are as follows:

Since the inception of the radios in the early 1950's, the organization has relied on appropriate governmental investigative agencies to clear prospective employees and free-lancers. RFE/RL has no independent investigative capability and therefore must depend on the information provided by federal agencies in Washington.

As this writer told Mike Wallace on camera during the filming of the "60 Minutes" program, once these individuals are hired after clearance we judge their performance by their dedication to the policies of our radios, which advocate American democratic values and vigorously condemn any form of totalitarianism. Wallace then acknowledged that RFE/RL was not to blame. Unfortunately, this exchange was edited out of the final telecast version.

In the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Daily News Bulletin on Tuesday, May 18, two individuals were mentioned as having been alleged by "60 Minutes" to be collaborators who were employed by RFE/RL. One of them, Stanislas Stankevich, was a former occasional free-lance contributor to the Byelorussian service who died in 1980 while under investigation by the Justice Department for wartime persecution of Jews and other residents of Byelorussia.

The other, Vilis Hazners, was also an occasional free-lancer, who contributed to the Latvian program until he became the subject of an investigation by the Justice Department in

1977 for alleged war crimes against Latvian Jews. He was immediately dropped from the free-lance roster.

When the deportation case conducted against him by the Immigration and Naturalization Service was thrown out of court because of insufficient evidence, Hazners resumed his free-lance contributions. This decision by RFE/RL management was based on the immigration judge's ruling to terminate the proceedings against Hazners.

Cites Sensational Treatment

Although "60 Minutes" is to be commended for turning its spotlight on what may prove to be a scandalous cover-up by various federal departments (the telecast has already stimulated a long overdue investigation in Washington), the sensational treatment of the story may have served to damage RFE/RL's 30-year reputation as one of America's most effective instruments in the struggle against the Soviet Union's persistent violation of human rights of its citizens, Jews and non-Jews alike.

It is worth noting that Soviet and East European media, which desperately attempt to discredit RFE/RL, have made similar charges against literally dozens of our employees for decades. We cannot operate as if any of these charges are true unless proof is presented through due process, since RFE/RL subscribes to the principle of presumption of innocence in American justice.

Dr. Glenn Ferguson, president of RFE/RL, has written a letter to Frank Shakespeare, chairman of the Board for International Broadcasting (BIB) dated April 15, 1982, (after the CBS taping and one month before the telecast), requesting that as the governmental agency exercising oversight responsibilities with respect to the activities of RFE/RL, the BIB use its resources "to obtain definitive information with respect to these charges so that this Corporation can take appropriate action consistent both with its mission and with the rights of an individual under our constitutional system."

Shocked By The Revelation

Finally, a personal footnote: as an American and a Jew who lived through the period of World War II and the Holocaust, I am shocked and distressed by the revelation that hundreds of Nazis were given shelter in the U.S. with governmental approval. An immediate thorough investigation is of the highest priority.

At the same time, as a senior executive of RFE/RL engaged inter alia in preparing special programs for Soviet Jewish audiences which keep alive their Yiddishkeit and their identification with fellow Jews in the free world, I am concerned that a prime time television program by means of innuendo may damage the credibility of RFE/RL and diminish its effectiveness as a champion of liberty on the international scene.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Labor Alignment's Knesset faction was forced to cancel its weekly meeting Monday to prevent a demonstrative walk-out by the seven Mapam members. The latter said they would leave if the meeting was attended by Amnon Lin and Yitzhak Peretz, the two Likud defectors who have joined the Labor Party. Mapam has warned that the entry of the hawkish ex-Likud MKs to Labor ranks would tilt the party sharply to the right at the expense of its traditional socialist and liberal outlook. Mapam said that under those conditions it could not continue to participate in the Alignment.