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## VATICAN EXPRESSES ANGER AT CHARGES BY AN ISRAELI OFFICIAL

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- The Vatican has reacted with unprecedented anger to charges by an unnamed senior Israeli official that the Pope and the Catholic Church had remained silent while the Nazis exterminated European Jews during World War II.

A statement released by the Vatican Press Office yesterday and published in the official Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, called the charges "an outrage against truth" and an insult to the person of the Pope.

The remarks in Jerusalem Sunday by the unidentified official were made in the context of reports that Pope John Paul II would receive Palestinian Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat in an audience this week. Arafat, due here tomorrow, will attend the 69th Interparliamentary Union conference as an observer.

The Vatican announced over the weekend that the Pope "is disposed to meet Yasir Arafat regarding the sufferings and rights of the Palestinian people of which the Pope spoke recently."

It is still not clear whether Arafat will be received privately by the Pope or in the context of a general audience to be held tomorrow for the delegates from 98 countries, including Israel, who will attend the Interparliamentary Union conference.

### Storm Of Protest

Nevertheless, the impending meeting aroused a storm of protest from the Israel government and Jewish organizations and leaders here and abroad. (See separate story.) On Sunday, a person in Jerusalem identified only as a senior official, denounced the Roman Catholic Church which he said failed to speak out against the German annihilation of Jews in Europe or the killings of Christians in Lebanon and had now agreed to meet Arafat "who wants to destroy Israel and thus complete the work of the Nazis."

Those remarks were broadcast after the Israeli Cabinet's Sunday session at which the Pope's reported readiness to meet Arafat was roundly condemned.

### Statement By The Vatican

The Vatican statement said: "The declaration by an authoritative Israeli government official yesterday in Jerusalem contains words that are more than surprising, almost incredible. They make us believe that they have forgotten, albeit in an emotional context, with, however, very little objective justification, how much the Pope, the Holy See, the Catholic Church with its pastors and its organizations in various countries did -- in the consciousness of fulfilling a highest Christian human duty -- to protect and save thousands and thousands of Jews before and during the second World War.

"These are the facts which should be well known and of which so many Jews who now live in Israel and in the world were the beneficiaries or witnesses.

"Without wishing to boast, one must nevertheless remind those who have forgotten because one cannot leave without reply such an outrage against truth, encouched, moreover, in language with so little respect for the personality of a Pope of whom one cannot pretend to ignore the words spoken on numerous occasions and particularly during his visit to Auschwitz, in condemning and execrating the genocide of the Nazis against the Jewish people and not only against them."

### Italian Jewish Community Protests

The organized Italian Jewish community, meanwhile, has directed its protests to the Italian government. Arafat is expected to be received here by President Sandro Pertini of Italy and Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo.

The Assembly of Italian Rabbis sent a telegram to Pertini expressing its "most indignant protest for this incongruous and offensive attribution of representation of the Palestinian people to a terrorist organization among whose fundamental objectives is the violent suppression of the State of Israel."

The Union of Italian Jewish Communities released a statement expressing its "painful amazement" that the "highest Italian authorities" will receive an "exponent of an organization whose collaboration with Italian terrorism has been amply documented and whose constitution still proposes the destruction of a State recognized by Italy."

The Union demanded that Italy, "in the light of a negotiated solution of the Middle East conflict, condemn terrorism on all sides and firmly insist on the revision of the PLO constitution during the coming encounters."

### CENTRAL SECTOR OF LEBANON TENSE; GEMAYEL NARROWLY ESCAPES INJURY

TEL AVIV, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- The central sector of the Lebanon front was quiet but tense today, following yesterday's eight-hour series of bombing raids on Syrian and PLO positions by Israeli planes.

The heavy raids are seen here as a warning to the Syrians to put an end to the freedom with which the terrorists have been acting against Israeli soldiers, from what they appear to have thought was the safety of the Syrian line.

Traffic along the Beirut-Damascus highway was halted at the cease-fire line today, apparently because of damage to the roadway and essential bridges from yesterday's raids. Targets included the Namliye bridge and the Dahr Al-Bajdar pass through the mountain ridge which forms the backbone of Lebanon, dividing the coastal plain from the Bekaa valley.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Beirut today that President-elect Bashir Gemayel narrowly escaped injury when an explosion damaged a building he was visiting in east Beirut which houses the offices of his right-wing Christian Phalangist party. The report did not indicate the cause of the explosion or whether it might have been an assassination attempt against Gemayel.

### POPE-ARAFAT MEETING DENOUNCED

NEW YORK, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders protested vehemently today that the Pope intends

to meet with PLO chief Yasir Arafat, and called upon the Pontiff to reconsider meeting with the terrorist leader. They also pointed out that such a meeting could only serve to legitimize Arafat and his organization.

In a cable to the Vatican, Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said "we are profoundly distressed" that the Pope may grant an audience to Arafat. Branding the PLO leader and the PLO "the slaughterer of hundreds of Israeli children, mothers and old people," Berman, addressing the Pope directly, stated:

"We are particularly dismayed that you, who have spoken so eloquently of the world's craving for peace, should dignify this cold blooded murderer by meeting with him."

Berman declared that Arafat "does not deserve to be received by the leader of the Roman Catholic Church ... If you grant Arafat an interview the world will interpret it in only one way: that you regard his views as worthy of discussion, his leadership of the Palestinian Arabs legitimate, his pretensions to statesmanship valid, his terrorist acts forgiven. Such a step, we strongly believe, would be a crushing blow to the cause of world peace to which you have devoted yourself. For these reasons we urge you not to receive Yasir Arafat."

#### Meeting Would Confer Mantle Of Legitimacy

Rabbi Walter Wurzburger, president of the Synagogue Council of America, the umbrella organization for Reform Orthodox and Conservative congregational and rabbinical groups, protested to Archbishop John Roach, president of the United States Catholic Bishops. He wrote:

"We are appalled that by the very act of receiving the chairman of the PLO, the Pontiff will confer the mantle of legitimacy upon a terrorist organization which has ruthlessly massacred civilians including women and children in Lebanon, Israel and in many parts of the world."

Kenneth Bialkin, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said: "For Arafat, the encounter with the Pope is a gift of recognition that murder, practiced often and indiscriminately, is not without its reward. We call upon the Pope to reconsider this gratuitous affront to all who abhor terrorism."

#### Views Meeting As Incomprehensible

The American Jewish Committee's "deep distress" over the possibility of the Pope meeting Arafat was expressed in a cable from AJCommittee president Maynard Wishner to Archbishop Agostino Casaroli of the Vatican Secretariat of State. "It is incomprehensible that the Holy Father who was nearly murdered by a terrorist fanatic trained by the PLO in Beirut would reward the terrorists by giving them implied sanction through the privilege of an audience in Vatican City," he said.

Wishner recalled that the Pope himself "decried terrorists in his February 18 address to the Christian Democratic World Union, saying 'Terrorism is the antithesis of everything that you try to promote as democrats and Christians' ... The Holy Father's audience with the architect of international terrorism is irreconcilable with these moral positions."

#### Meeting Termed Unconscionable

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, sent a cable to the Pope today which stated, in part: "It is incongruous,

lamentable, and unconscionable that the Vatican, the world's most influential voice should take audience with one who has wreaked so much violence on the defenseless; applauded so much suffering of innocents; persecuted so many for their religious birthrights, and just recently led the slaughter of Lebanese of all faiths."

The executive committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, acting on the recommendation of its president, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, adopted a resolution at its semi-annual meeting today stating that a meeting between the Pope and Arafat "can only stain the moral stature of the Catholic church ... A meeting of the Pope with the world's arch-terrorist merits condemnation at any time. Coming on the very eve of Rosh Hashanah, such an audience would fill with deep and bitter disappointment millions of men and women of good will ... who yearn and strive for the day when Middle East terror ends and a new era of peace begins."

#### A Disservice To World Peace

Robert Zweiman, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans, told the 87th annual convention of the organization, meeting in Kiamesha Lake, N.Y., that the Pope-Arafat meeting is a "disservice to human rights and world peace." In a telegram to the pontiff, the JWV urged the Pope to reconsider his meeting with the PLO leader "whose followers trained the man who attempted to assassinate you and whose followers desecrated churches and killed and raped thousands of Lebanese Christians."

Marshall Wolke and Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman, president and executive vice president, respectively, of the United Synagogue of America (USA), sent a telegram to Terrence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York, and to the Rev. Francis Mugavero, Bishop of Brooklyn, asking them to intervene to rescind the meeting between the Pope and Arafat. "Terrorism in whatever guise will defeat the synagogue and the church's hope for peace" in the Mideast, the two USA leaders wrote.

Harold Jacobs, president of the International Young Israel Movement, said the Pope's meeting with Arafat would lend credibility to "the leader of the Communist-inspired international terrorist network." This, he added, "is totally inconsistent with the most basic concepts of religious morality."

Philip Givens, president, and Leon Kronitz, executive vice president of the Canadian Zionist Federation, appealed to the Pope "to cancel this audience (with Arafat). Surely a man who is responsible for the murders of countless Christians and many Jews, all innocent victims of deliberate world-wide terrorism, should not be privileged to approach the Pope."

Irwin Cotler, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, addressed a telegram to the Papal Pro-Nuncio in Ottawa, Archbishop Angelo Palmas, saying the meeting "would only bestow the mantle of legitimacy on those who spill the blood of innocents."

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Tourism figures have dropped substantially in the past three months, since the war in Lebanon erupted. The August total, just released by the government's Central Bureau of Statistics, shows a 15 percent drop compared with August 1981. In July there was a 16 percent drop compared with July a year ago; and in June, a 22 percent falloff. In absolute numbers, the August 1982 figure was 93,700, and the figure for the three-month summer period was 266,300. The figure for the same three-month period last year was 309,800.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 5742

By: Kevin Freeman

## (Conclusion Of The Series)

**NEW YORK, Sept. 14 (JTA) --** The government of Premier Menachem Begin survived several no confidence motions by the Labor Alignment opposition and other opposition parties during the year 5742. The coalition government, while maintaining a narrow majority in the Knesset, nevertheless succeeded in defeating challenges to its authority.

The war in Lebanon also evoked both support and opposition to the government's military operation in Lebanon. Settlement activities continued unabated despite a U.S. call for a freeze on the expansion of existing or new settlements on the West Bank. A dominant figure during Israel's first 34 years, Moshe Dayan, died at the age of 66. Israel also celebrated its 34th anniversary.

**SEPTEMBER 1981 --** The Supreme Court rules that the rabbinate has no legal right to determine state policy. The ruling, which could have far-reaching effects, stems from the controversy between religious groups and archaeologists over the City of David excavation.

Israel's population at the beginning of 5741 was 3,968,000. Of this, 3,315,000 are Jews and 653,000 non-Jews.

The World Zionist Organization's settlement department announces that some 24,000 Jews live in the West Bank.

More than half the Israeli public favors continued unlimited settlement in the West Bank, according to a poll conducted by the Modin Ezrachi Applied Research Center on behalf of The Jerusalem Post.

**OCTOBER 4 --** Moshe Dayan, one of Israel's foremost political and military leaders, dies of a heart attack at the age of 66.

Controversy erupts over the performance of the works of Richard Wagner by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

**NOVEMBER --** Bir Zeit University on the West Bank is closed indefinitely by Israeli authorities after the college fails to stop continuing anti-Israel demonstrations.

Prof. Menachem Milson is appointed as director of the civilian administration on the West Bank. West Bank Arab residents stage demonstrations following Milson's appointment.

Strikes and demonstrations throughout the West Bank and East Jerusalem mark the 64th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, a day of mourning and protest among Palestinian Arabs.

**DECEMBER --** The Knesset Finance Committee approves 240 million Shekels in government funding for yeshivas and other religious institutions affiliated with Aguda Israel and the National Religious Party.

Angry settlers of Yamit, the northern Sinai town which is to be returned to Egypt when Israel evacuates the area in April, threaten "war" against anyone who tries to remove them for their homes.

**JANUARY 1982 --** Moshe Arens is appointed Israel's Ambassador to Washington, succeeding Ephraim Evron.

Gush Emunim squatters and their supporters begin to infiltrate the Sinai precipitating the final showdown before the peninsula is to be evacuated and returned to Egypt in accordance with the Camp David accords.

Begin narrowly survives a motion of no confidence in a Knesset angered by what it declares

to be excessive compensation payments to the squatters of northern Sinai. The government later endorses a compensation agreement of a quarter billion dollars to the settlers.

**FEBRUARY --** In a demonstration of bi-partisan unity, the Knesset votes 88-3 with six abstentions for a resolution deploring a proposed sale by the U.S. of sophisticated weaponry to Jordan and expresses Israel's grave misgivings over such a sale.

Armed troops seal off four Druze villages on the Golan Heights in an effort to end the continuing strike by the Druze protesting Israel's annexation of the Heights.

Some 40 Jewish nationalist settlers in Sinai are arrested in the first confrontation between the army and the settlers who have been infiltrating the peninsula in an effort to prevent the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

**MARCH --** Continuing unrest on the West Bank brings the Begin government to the brink of resignation when an unexpected tie vote on a motion of no confidence causes the Cabinet to convene on its future status. The Cabinet, however, decides to remain in office even though Begin said he would resign if the Knesset vote was a tie.

At midnight, March 30, the Sinai peninsula is declared a restricted military zone.

**APRIL --** The Defense Ministry decides to establish 10 military "lookout posts" throughout the West Bank. Such army posts have frequently formed the basis for later civilian settlements in the occupied territories.

Alan Harry Goodman, a 38-year-old bachelor from Baltimore, Maryland, who recently immigrated to Israel, opens fire into a group of Moslem worshippers and tourists at the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem. Two persons are killed and dozens wounded before Goodman is overpowered by police.

Aharon Abu-Hatzeira, the Minister of Labor, Welfare and Absorption, is found guilty by a Tel Aviv district court of three counts of larceny, fraud and breach of trust.

Israel celebrates its 34th anniversary.

**MAY --** The Begin coalition government barely survives a Labor-sponsored motion of no-confidence in the Knesset which is introduced after figures show inflation to be at a record 130 percent.

The Cabinet, and then the full Knesset, approve the government's ban on El Al Sabbath flights. The ban is one of the concessions which the Aguda Party extracted from Begin as a price for joining his coalition government.

Six army reservists assail the government's behavior on the West Bank in quelling demonstrations, saying that the government has sent incompletely trained recruits into the area without riot control equipment except fire arms which are sometimes used indiscriminately with fatal results.

**JUNE --** Thousands of Israelis pack Tel Aviv Kikar Malchei Israel Square to protest the continuation of Israel's "Peace for Galilee" operation.

The army announces that 214 soldiers have been killed during the first 10 days of fighting in Lebanon, with some 23 soldiers listed as missing and more than 1,000 wounded.

Shlomo Lorincz, chairman of the Finance Committee, estimates that the first three weeks of the war in Lebanon has cost Israel 65 billion shekels (about \$2 billion) and that as a result inflation this year would exceed the projected 90 percent rate.

**JULY --** The Knesset, by a vote of 57-49, approves the entry of the ultra-nationalist Teihiya faction into Premier Begin's coalition government, giving the government an eight seat parliamentary majority.

A five-month strike by Druze on the Golan Heights protesting Israel's annexation of the area is ended by Druze leaders after a compromise is reached

on the issue of Israel's insistence that Druze carry Israeli identity cards.

Former MK Uri Avneri comes under fire for having interviewed PLO chief Arafat for two hours in Beirut while he and the PLO remains trapped in the Lebanese capital by Israeli forces.

Tens of thousands of Israelis rally in front of Herut Party headquarters in Tel Aviv in support of the war in Lebanon, the government and the army. They rally is organized by representatives of all coalition parties.

AUGUST -- Shlomo Argov, Israel's Ambassador to Britain, returns to Israel for treatment in the neurosurgical department of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem after two months of treatment in a London hospital following the attempted assassination of him by Palestinian terrorists in June which sparked the war in Lebanon.

Israel Cabinet announces it will launch a new peace offensive in the Mideast immediately following the conclusion of the PLO evacuation from Beirut "in accordance with the Camp David accords."

The last formal hurdle to the Cabinet's decision to ban Sabbath flights of El Al is removed when the Knesset Finance Committee votes 11-10 to halt the flights.

SEPTEMBER -- The Cabinet, after rejecting unconditionally Reagan's peace initiative in the Middle East, decides to allocate \$18.5 million for the establishment of seven new settlements on the West Bank.

The Knesset, by a vote of 50-40, approves of the government's conduct of the war in Lebanon.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA**  
**ARAFAT EXPECTED TO ADDRESS**  
**UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**  
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat is expected to address the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly which opens September 21, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned from diplomatic sources here. But Arab and PLO diplomats said no such plans are known. The PLO has never given advance information about the arrival of its leaders at the UN, partly for security reasons.

According to the diplomatic sources, Arafat, who visited the UN and addressed the General Assembly in the fall of 1975, will be received at this session "with great honors and with all due ceremonial procedures."

The fact that the President of the General Assembly this year will be an Ambassador of one of the Eastern bloc countries, probably Hungary, would facilitate the reception of Arafat as a head of state; the sources said. Arafat was received as a head of state in 1975, in large measure because the Foreign Minister of Algeria was President of the General Assembly.

According to the sources, no date has been selected for Arafat's appearance. The sources explained that he probably wants to come to the UN to demonstrate the PLO's continuing political power despite its military defeat in Lebanon this summer.

**CANADIAN OFFICIAL SAYS CANADA**  
**DOES NOT RULE OUT RECOGNIZING PLO**  
**OR IDEA OF A PALESTINIAN STATE**  
By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- Canada's

Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark McGowan, declared in Ottawa that "Canada does not fully reject the idea of a Palestinian state on the West Bank" and "is not ruling out the recognition of the PLO as a party to future negotiations on the fate of the West Bank, provided the PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist."

Referring to the West Bank as "Israeli occupied territory," McGowan said "We think Israel has no right to build settlements in the occupied territories and the existing ones should be dismantled."

McGowan, who addressed the foreign press last Thursday, was on that same day removed from the External Affairs Department in a Cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and was appointed Minister of Justice. Allan MacEachen, Minister of Finance, was named the new Secretary for External Affairs, the portfolio he held before heading the Finance Ministry three years ago.

**ISRAEL REACTS COLDLY TO HUSSEIN**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- Israel reacted coldly today to King Hussein's remark that it had been "absurd not to recognize Israel for 34 years." Government officials argued that the monarch's statement, during a British television interview, was nothing more than "an optical observation that Israel exists." It contained no readiness to negotiate, and no readiness to live in peace and normal relations with the Jewish State, these officials maintained.

Hussein, in the interview on BBC's "Panorama" program, spoke of normalization once peace had been established. He envisaged a federation between a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza and his own Hashemite kingdom.

But the Israeli officials insisted that this "vague, hypothetical" talk of peace in the future was "absurd." If Hussein were sincere, he would pronounce himself ready to negotiate here and now, "not merely imply that he is ready to re-take the West Bank and Gaza, without negotiations, under the new U.S. peace proposals," the official said. If Hussein were sincere, moreover, these officials added, he would join the Camp David process.

The officials strenuously denied that Hussein's statements had embarrassed the Israel government which last Sunday pronounced the Jordanian option "dead" in the wake of the Fez Arab summit.

**EX-SS OFFICER'S CITIZENSHIP REVOKED**

CHICAGO, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- A Federal judge has revoked the citizenship of Conrad Schellong, a former SS officer living in Chicago, for having made "material misrepresentation" of his Nazi past when he applied for U.S. citizenship.

Schellong, 71, is alleged to have commanded a guard unit at the Dachau and Sachsenburg concentration camps during World War II and to have trained SS recruits for concentration camp guard duty.

His trial opened here last May 25 on the basis of a complaint filed in March, 1981 by the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigation (OSI). The trial ended June 3. Judge Bernard Decker announced his verdict last Thursday. Schellong's attorney said he would probably appeal.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig will receive an honorary doctorate of philosophy from the Ben Gurion University of the Negev at Beersheba November 22. He will come to Israel a few days before the award ceremony and hold private talks with Premier Begin and other top leaders. The university is honoring Haig "as a gesture of appreciation for his devoted friendship to Israel."