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**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
EUROPEAN JEWS SEEKING HAVEN IN
PALESTINE AFTER WWII WERE TERMED
'ILLEGALS' BY THE U.S. AND CLOSELY
WATCHED, 'TOP SECRET' REPORT SAYS**
By Charles Allen, Jr.

NEW YORK, March 10 (JTA) -- A hitherto "Top Secret" 35-page set of State Department documents reveals that Jewish survivors of the Holocaust seeking their way out of Europe to Palestine after World War II, were labelled "illegals" by the State Department and were kept under strict and extensive surveillance by Department investigators. The documents also charge that two Jewish relief agencies aiding Holocaust survivors were involved in "black market" operations.

The report, which was classified "Top Secret" by the State Department, dated May 14, 1947, is the same one that reported in detail about the Vatican-controlled "monastery route" which aided and abetted fleeing Nazi war criminals, including the notorious SS officers Otto Skorzeny, Klaus Barbie and Franz Stangel.

The official name of the document is "Illegal Emigration Movements In and Through Italy." It became known as the "La Vista" report in American intelligence circles, so named after its author, Vincent La Vista, an international lawyer then (1947) military attache to the American Embassy in Rome and already a skilled intelligence/diplomatic State Department officer. (The details of this report dealing with the "monastery route" were reported by me in the Daily News Bulletins of February 16, 17 and 18.)

JDC And HIAS Kept Under Surveillance

According to the La Vista report, the two Jewish agencies which were most closely watched by State Department investigators operating out of the American Embassy in Rome were the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS).

With a distinct tone of disapproval, the La Vista Report stated that "the administrative staffs of the UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency which provided shelter and aid for millions of refugees after World War II) camps are either furnished by the Jewish relief agencies or they are under control of the Jewish relief agencies."

The Jewish relief agencies also converted UNRRA supplies into one vast "black market," the Report claimed. "... the black market sales of rations drawn from UNRRA are, in the opinion of this writer (La Vista), the largest source of income for both the Jewish underground and the legitimate Jewish relief agencies operating in Italy."

The "Jewish underground," the Report stated, also was a major conduit for "Russian and Yugoslav communist agents." At least "10% of the underground refugees," the State Department investigators claimed, who were trying "illegally to run the British blockade" into Palestine were "communist agents."

The La Vista Report stated further: "At the UNRRA ... DP camp outside Rome ... A Rumanian Jewess and a rabid communist directs the office ... (and) aids the illegal activities of the Jews and the communist agents."

No Sympathy Or Approval

The State Department was able to trace the precise sea-land routes taken by refugees fleeing to Palestine. No indication of any sympathy or approval of what the Jewish refugees were fleeing from in order to establish a Jewish homeland is present in the La Vista Report.

The Report stated: "... the only pre-requisite to establishing identity as a displaced Jewish refugee is the ability to speak Jewish (sic!) (not Hebrew) and the language of the country from which the Jew was supposed to have come."

On the eve of the War of Independence in 1948 out of which emerged the modern State of Israel, the State Department investigators grudgingly admitted that "The Jewish underground now operating in Italy for the sole purpose of assisting (illegal) emigration to Egypt and Palestine is one of the most efficient organizations with which this writer (La Vista) has ever come in contact."

**BACKGROUND REPORT
SHAMIR TO LINK SECURITY AND
NORMALIZATION WITH LEBANON IN
HIS TALKS WITH SHULTZ NEXT WEEK**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 10 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir will link the issues of security and normalization in regard to Israel's relations with Lebanon when he meets with Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington next week.

Shamir's position will be that normalization -- the free flow of persons and goods -- is an element of overall security, and thus the more normalization there is the more flexible Israel will be able to be on aspects of security arrangements.

Shamir will continue to demand that the IDF deploy its own "anti-terrorist posts" inside south Lebanon for an initial period after the withdrawal. But the length of that period would be determined, or at least influenced, by the pace and scope of normalization between the two countries.

This position was worked out in Jerusalem this week in consultations preparatory to Shamir's trip. Defense Minister Moshe Arens met with Shamir and his aides yesterday. Shamir is scheduled to meet with Premier Menachem Begin for last minute instructions.

Officials asserted that Shamir would be "firm" in his representation to Shultz and U.S. special envoy Philip Habib in Washington, particularly on Israel's demand for the IDF-manned outposts in south Lebanon. Observers here believe nevertheless that Israel could be persuaded to forgo those outposts if other elements of security are adequate.

The observers believe that notwithstanding the official tough line, Shamir is empowered to negotiate other alternatives to the anti-terrorist outposts inasmuch as Lebanon has adamantly refused to countenance the future deployment of Israeli troops on its territory.

But Israel is seeking several other aspects of security. They include, according to observers, joint IDF-Lebanese patrols; aerial overflights intelligence cooperation; command-level coordination between the two armies; and an ongoing role for Maj. Saad Haddad's militia in the south.

The observers believe Shamir will also hold out for maximum gains in the realm of normalization and in effect trade them off for some softening of the Israeli demands regarding specific security arrangements. Some members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee who listened to Shamir's briefing Tuesday came away believing that a softening had in fact been intimated in the Foreign Minister's remarks.

Officials in Washington clearly expect Israel to forgo the demand for the outposts. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs Nicholas Veliotis, testifying before a Congressional committee this week, was quoted as expressing doubt that the Lebanese would agree to even daily patrols by IDF soldiers, who would return to Israeli territory each night. Veliotis said Beirut might regard this as an infringement of sovereignty and would expect the Syrians to make the same demand for the area abutting their border in the east.

Shamir has insisted repeatedly that no infringement of Lebanese sovereignty is intended, or indeed would result from security measures since the Lebanese government would have agreed to them in free negotiations. He cited the demilitarization and limitation-of-forces arrangements in Sinai as a case in point.

Negative Reaction To 'Proximity' Talks

Foreign Ministry officials reacted coldly today to the idea, implied by a State Department spokesman yesterday, that Shamir and Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem would engage in indirect or "proximity" negotiations through the U.S. while both are in Washington next week. The officials declared that Shamir would not agree to such talks, because if Salem wants to negotiate with him the meetings must be direct, face-to-face.

The officials pointed out that Israel and Lebanon are currently engaged in twice-weekly direct negotiations and there is no reason for the Foreign Ministers to revert to an indirect format.

LIKUD NOMINATES ORTHODOX SCHOLAR TO BE NEXT PRESIDENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 10 (JTA) -- The Likud-led coalition today nominated Supreme Court Justice Menachem Elon, an Orthodox scholar and past winner of the Israel Prize for his books on Jewish law, to be Israel's next President. The nomination was submitted to the Knesset with the required list of 10 MK sponsors, headed by Premier Menachem Begin.

Elon, 60, is supported by all of the coalition factions. According to Herut Knesset Whip Ronnie Milo, he is almost certain to be elected to succeed retiring President Yitzhak Navon when the Knesset votes on March 22. But inasmuch as the election is conducted by secret ballot, an upset is always possible, political observers noted.

The opposition Labor Alignment is expected to nominate Chaim Herzog, former Ambassador to the United Nations and a one-time chief of military intelligence.

Elon apparently was Begin's second choice for the Presidency. Until last week he personally supported Interior Minister Yosef Burg, a veteran leader of the National Religious Party. But Burg announced Monday that he would not run because he wanted a broader consensus than the Knesset was likely to give him.

Elon's selection today surprised political circles inasmuch as the media was predicting that the nomination would go to Jerusalem attorney Shlomo Tussia-Cohen who, like Navon, is Sephardic and was reportedly backed by Begin. But the ultra-nationalist Tehiya party balked at Tussia-Cohen. He is, moreover, committed to the Jerusalem branch of Herut to run against Laborite Mayor Teddy Kollek in the Jerusalem municipal elections.

Elon is a graduate of the Hebron Yeshiva in Jerusalem and the Hebrew University. He was a professor of Jewish law at the Hebrew University until his appointment to the Supreme Court in the mid-1970s. He is an Ashkenazic Jew.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW MAYOR OF SHILOH BELIEVES WEST BANK IS NO LONGER AN ISSUE FOR INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 10 (JTA) -- Era Rapaport, the mayor of the Jewish village of Shiloh in Samaria, believes the future of the West Bank is no longer an issue for international negotiations.

Jewish control is already a "fait accompli," the 38-year-old Brooklyn, N.Y.-born sociologist said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here this week. Rapaport maintained that it is "kind of irrelevant" to focus on the West Bank when the discussion should center on peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

He predicted that by April, 1984, there will be 100,000 Jews living in Samaria alone. Trying to uproot 100,000 Jewish settlers is not the same as forcing a few thousand to leave the Sinai as was done in compliance with Israel's peace treaty with Egypt, Rapaport stressed. He noted it would create "100,000 refugees."

Rapaport is optimistic not only because the Shomron area where his village is located now has more than 40 Jewish villages with 27,000-30,000 people, but because the Jewish settlers are rapidly buying up Arab-owned land. He said some one million dunams were purchased in the last year, with Arabs being more willing to sell since Israel defeated the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon. "This is land in private Jewish hands, not government-owned," he stressed.

At the same time, Israelis from such places as Tel Aviv and Petach Tikvah are buying homes on the West Bank at a rate never seen before, Rapaport said. He said this is because they are able to get houses for what they would have to pay for apartments in Israel's major cities and at better terms for loans.

It is "no longer fanatical rightwing Gush Emunim types," said Rapaport, a Gush Emunim member, but "typical Israelis." He added that "every buyer of a house feels that this is a guarantee of peace." Rapaport also believes that the settlements add to Israel's security. "My being there strengthens Israel's security," he said.

Rapaport first came to Israel after graduating from Yeshiva University in 1966 to study at the Yeshivat Merkaz Harav Kook in Jerusalem. He returned to Yeshiva University's Graduate School of Social Work

after the Six-Day War to earn a Master's Degree. After working as director of teenage activities and preventive juvenile delinquency at the East New York YMHA, he made aliya in 1971.

He continued to work with teenagers in an area just outside Jerusalem for four years. In 1974, after he was married, he and his wife, Orit, a Sabra and fellow social worker, were the first settlers at the first Jewish settlement in Samaria, north of Jerusalem, Ofra. They stayed for two years and then went to Safed.

But two years later in 1978, they joined the eight families that have already set up the "illegal" settlement of Shiloh, on the site of biblical Shiloh, 25 miles north of Jerusalem and half way between Nablus and Ramallah.

The government of Premier Menachem Begin permitted the settlement under the guise that it was an archaeological site. Rapaport said that this was done because Begin promised then President Carter to permit settlements only on military bases.

The Begin government officially sanctioned Shiloh in 1979 and Rapaport has been its full time mayor every since. He and his wife have four children with a fourth expected after Passover. The village has 420 people, including 70 families with 230 children, 50 students from outside studying at a yeshiva at the settlement, and 15 single men and women. He said that half of those on the settlement work in Shiloh and half work in Jerusalem.

Explains Settlement Patterns

Rapaport denies that the Jewish settlers have been moving into heavily populated Arab areas. He said except for Kiryat Arba and Hebron, and one or two other places, most of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria have been located in areas where there are only small rural villages. He said the land being used by the Jewish settlers has not been farmed or worked for other purposes since Jews were forced out of Israel 2,000 years ago.

He also maintained that the settlers seek to cooperate with the Arab settlers and believe they can live in peace with them. But he said that those Arabs who don't want to live peacefully should go to Jordan.

Rapaport also maintained that the problem with demonstrations on the West Bank has been blown out of proportion by the media. He said that while rock-throwing incidents are serious since people are hurt, they are usually done by children 13-16 years old and even younger. He denied the settlers have been acting as vigilantes. He said when they are attacked by rock-throwing youngsters, they shoot into the air in an attempt to frighten them, but do not aim directly at the perpetrators.

Issue Is East Bank, Not West Bank

Rapaport said he would like to see King Hussein of Jordan join the peace talks but he said the negotiations should not be about the West Bank but about the East Bank (Jordan). He said Hussein stole the East Bank which was once part of Palestine from the Palestinians. He said the West Bank Arabs do not want to live under Hussein, who mistreated them when he ruled them before 1967, and that they fear the PLO. They are farmers and factory workers with little interest in politics, Rapaport said.

This is the message that Rapaport has been bringing to Jews in the U.S. on his current visit

in which he is representing the World Zionist Organization's "Project 1,000" which is an effort to have American Jewish families visit with Israeli families. He also has been speaking about Judaea and Samaria.

But he said that as "a by-product" of this visit, he has discovered there are "many, many Jewish families" who are considering aliya and in particular want to move to the West Bank. He said he feels that more representatives from the settlements should come to the U.S. to encourage them.

CONFUSION IN MARSEILLES

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 10 (JTA) -- Confusion over who was responsible for an aborted bomb attack near the main synagogue in Marseilles early Tuesday morning and its motivation has become a political issue in that city which faces a heated mayoral run-off election this Sunday.

Police Chief Bernard Petault was reported by local newspapers today to have accused "certain rightwing elements" of the bombing in which two men were killed and to have charged "a political racial involvement." Jean-Claude Gaudin, of the rightwing RPR party who is challenging incumbent Mayor Gaston Defferre, a Socialist, hotly denied the charge.

"None of the arrested men has ever been involved with our party," a spokesman for Gaudin said today. Defferre, who is also France's Minister of Interior, is standing by his original assertion that the bombing was an attempted attack on the synagogue by neo-Nazi or other terrorists. The opposition, on the other hand, supports the theory that the bombing was an incident of gang warfare and its occurrence near the synagogue was coincidental.

Police arrested five suspects for questioning yesterday and are seeking others. All reportedly have criminal records. The two dead men, burned alive when the bomb exploded in their car as they tried to evade police patrols near the synagogue, were identified as known criminals.

Police identified them as Daniel Scotti who recently completed a nine-year prison term for armed robbery, and Jean Chichin, also an ex-convict with a long criminal record. Yesterday their names were given as Gerard Scotti and Georges Sihat. The confusion was believed due to forged identity cards found at the scene of the explosion.

Police Chief Petault was quoted by the press today as saying, "The men who acted were in close relations with rightwing politicians in the Province of Vaucluse (near Marseilles) and in Marseilles itself. All those arrested or wanted have links with rightwing circles." Other police sources suggested today that the bombing attempt was aimed at the synagogue by criminals who had "some sort of deal."

CARTER VISITS GAZA

JERUSALEM, March 10 (JTA) -- Former President Jimmy Carter, visiting Gaza today, appeared in agreement with the former Mayor of Gaza, Rashad A-Shawa, that Israeli restraint is needed if the Middle East peace process is to be advanced. A-Shawa, who was deposed by the Israeli authorities recently, received Carter at his residence. He told reporters later that he had expressed to the former President his view that King Hussein of Jordan would not join the peace process as long as Israel persisted in its drive to establish more Jewish settlements on the West Bank.

Carter reportedly told his host that the incumbent American President could hardly exert pressure on Israel because of the internal political situation in the U.S. Congress.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN FOUR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES FOUND TO BE GENERALLY FLOURISHING

NEW YORK, March 10 (JTA) — An American Jewish Committee group which just completed a two week visit to four Central and South American countries, found the Jewish communities there, though small, to be generally flourishing. In two of the countries visited — Costa Rica and Guatemala — the greatest single need was for a rabbi, they reported, and said American rabbinical organizations should be urged to supply that need.

The group, consisting of 15 people, most of them members of the Latin American Committee of the AJCommittee's Foreign Affairs Commission, was led by Howard Greenberger, a professor of law at New York University's Law School, who is a member of the AJCommittee's Board of Governors. The group included Sergio Nudelstejer, of Mexico City, director of the AJCommittee's office for Mexico and Central America.

In addition to Costa Rica and Guatemala, they visited Panama and Venezuela and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. Summarizing their experiences, Greenberger was most enthusiastic about Costa Rica and the warm relations the government of President Luis Alberto Monge maintains with Israel.

Situation In Costa Rica

He said that Monge, who received the group, reaffirmed his strong commitment to Israel "as a democratic society." He compared Israel's isolation in the Middle East to the problems of Costa Rica, one of the few democracies in Central America, Greenberger said.

Israel's Ambassador to Costa Rica, David Tourgeman, told the visitors that many Costa Rican students are going to Israel to study and Israel is providing instructors and technical assistance in return.

Costa Rica's Jewish community numbers about 2,500 in a population of more than two million, Greenberger reported. He described it as a "closely knit" community "with an excellent Jewish school, a love of Jewish tradition and a deep dedication to Israel." But "Its most immediate need is a rabbi," he said.

Community In Panama

Greenberger described the Jewish community of Panama as a "vital community of about 3,500 people dedicated to viable Jewish life." Panama has three synagogues — Orthodox, Conservative and Reform — and the Jewish community, some of whose members trace their Panamanian roots as far back as 200 years, supports two Jewish day schools. Greenberger reported that about 20 percent of the student body in those schools is non-Jewish.

Organized Community In Venezuela

In Caracas, the Venezuelan capital and the largest metropolis of the Caribbean basin, the visitors found "a very well organized Jewish community of about 25,000 with most institutional bodies under the overall supervision of a central council known as the Confederation of the Jewish Associations of Venezuela."

Greenberger reported that "They run a whole network of Jewish day schools, have a magnificent athletic facility called the Hebraica, an Ashkenazi kehilla as well as a Sephardic kehilla, a B'nai B'rith and a Zionist organization."

But, Greenberger observed, "They also share some of the same concerns and problems that are present in American Jewish society—intermarriage, assimilation when children go away to college, and the general loss of Jewish identity." He said the organized community is "making sincere efforts to bring in younger professionals and business people to take vital leadership roles."

NAZI WAR CRIMINALS IN CANADA

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, March 10 (JTA) — There are currently 100 investigations being conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police into possible extradition of Nazi war criminals living in Canada, Solicitor-General Robert Kaplan disclosed here.

The Cabinet Minister, addressing a B'nai B'rith Covenant Breakfast said the issue of former Nazis living in Canada is still a priority for the government. But until new avenues are established to deal with suspected war criminals, the federal government will concentrate its efforts on extradition, he said. It is, however, open to new arguments on how to deal with the matter, but for the time being it is not convinced that there are any, Kaplan added.

He was referring to suggestions from certain quarters that present laws, if appropriately amended, would enable Canadian authorities to prosecute suspected war criminals in the courts. Kaplan noted that the Canadian Jewish Congress is preparing legal briefs in that connection which the government "will examine closely."

He cautioned, however, that "the worst thing that could happen from our point of view would be to charge someone who is acquitted because the legal system isn't there."

Kaplan, whose constituency is in Toronto, said the government will continue to pursue war criminals because morally it is the right path to follow. He cited the case of Helmut Rauca, now before the Court of Appeals, which may be the first time the Holocaust has been a factor in a Canadian court trial.

WOLF FOUNDATION PRIZE IN MEDICINE

TEL AVIV, March 10 (JTA) — The 1982 Wolf Foundation Prize in medicine will be shared by medical researchers in France, the U.S. and Britain, the Foundation announced. The \$100,000 award is being given this year for discoveries involving receptor sites in cell membranes, of cardinal importance in many physiological and pathological processes, it said.

The three winners are Prof. Jean Pierre Changeux, of the Institute Pasteur in Paris; Prof. Solomon Snyder, of the Johns Hopkins University Medical School in Baltimore; and Sir James Whyte Black, of the Wellcome Research Laboratories at Beckenham, England.

Their research of cell membrane receptors which vitally effect the nervous and endocrine systems responsible for regulation of the body functions is said to provide new knowledge of the causes of various diseases and tools for the development of new drugs effective in treating heart and brain diseases, high blood pressure and ulcers, among other ailments.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The American delegation to the Jerusalem Conference for Soviet Jewry will be headed by Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, who will deliver a personal commitment by President Reagan on behalf of Soviet Jewry, it was learned here Thursday.