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NO CHANGE SEEN IN FRANCE'S MIDEAST POLICY FOLLOWING THE SECOND ROUND OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 14 (JTA) -- French Middle East policy is expected to be unchanged despite the possibility that President Francois Mitterrand may reshuffle his Socialist government in the aftermath of yesterday's second round of municipal elections.

The Socialists recovered some of the losses they sustained in the March 6 elections. But while senior Cabinet ministers retained their offices as mayors of some major cities, the fact that they had to face run-off elections and in a few cases won by narrow margins indicated a lack of confidence by the electorate. This has led most observers to believe Mitterrand will appoint a new government shortly.

Among the ministers who may be replaced are Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, who was re-elected Mayor of Lille, and Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson. A large section of the French Jewish community blames Cheysson for what they see as "an unfriendly attitude" toward Israel. But French sources stress that Cheysson only carries out Mitterrand's policies.

Nevertheless, a frequently mentioned possible successor to Cheysson in a new government is Jacques Attali, an Algerian-born Jew who is a special advisor to the President and is active in Jewish organizations. Foreign policy, however, is, under the French Constitution, the "reserved domain" of the President himself. The Foreign Minister, whoever he may be, is not a policy-maker but an implementer of policy.

The Socialists were shaken by the landslide victory of Jacques Chirac, the neo-Gaullist Mayor of Paris whose re-election yesterday was the most dramatic gain by the right. On the other hand, Socialist Gaston Defferre, the Minister of Interior, was re-elected to a sixth term as Mayor of Marseilles, France's second largest city, where he faced a strong rightwing challenger in a run-off contest.

EX-NAZI, MEMBER OF THE GREEN PARTY, RESIGNS FROM THE BUNDESTAG

By David Kantor

BONN, March 14 (JTA) -- Werner Vogel, who won a seat in the Bundestag in the March 6 elections and was named its temporary Speaker, resigned from parliament yesterday after acknowledging that he had been a member of the Nazi Party and the SA (Stormtroopers) when Hitler came to power in 1933.

His admission created severe embarrassment for the Green Party on whose ticket Vogel was elected and which appointed him temporary Speaker in accordance with the tradition that the oldest member of a newly elected Bundestag presides at its first session. Vogel is 75.

The Green Party, in parliament for the first time, is rooted in pacifist and environmental movements, disapproves of West Germany's membership in NATO and opposes the deployment of American nuclear weapons in West Germany. It holds 27 seats in the 498-seat Bundestag.

Vogel disclosed that he had been not only a card-carrying Nazi and member of an SA unit but

served in the Interior Ministry of the Third Reich which implemented anti-Jewish statutes and supervised the gestapo and secret police. But he insisted he had done nothing "to reproach myself for."

Vogel was to have presided at the opening session of the new Bundestag on March 29, at which time a permanent Speaker will be elected.

SHAMIR HAS SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WITH SHULTZ AND MEETS WITH REAGAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir emerged today from his second meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz and went immediately to the White House for a meeting with President Reagan. (Story, P. 3)

It was not clear what progress if any was made during Shamir's talks with Shultz yesterday and today, totalling more than seven hours. But the Foreign Minister was scheduled to return to the State Department from the White House for another meeting with Shultz this afternoon.

Shamir, who was planning to return to Israel tonight, has postponed his departure for another day. There are no plans for him as yet to meet Administration officials tomorrow but he is expected to talk to members of Congress.

Shamir emphasized yesterday that the major purpose of his visit to the U.S. is to explain the Israeli position to the American Administration and to seek what he called a coordination of policy between Israel and the U.S.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Foreign Minister, Elie Salem who met with Shultz earlier this morning, before the Shultz-Shamir meeting, said progress has been made if only because the people who have been negotiating for the last two months have had a chance to meet with Shultz and explain to him at "first hand" the Lebanese position. "We were able to respond directly to some of the concerns of Israel," he said.

Shamir stressed that he is "confident that Israel is entering these negotiations in a good spirit" and that the Israelis, like the Americans and Lebanese are "anxious to reach an agreement." He said many of the "bottlenecks" holding up an agreement now are really "psychological." But, he said, Israel has been asking for some "specific assurances" which "nobody can guarantee beforehand."

Salem rejected Shamir's statement yesterday that the Lebanese army cannot maintain security throughout Lebanon. "The Lebanese army is capable now to control all the territory of Lebanon," Salem said. "The Lebanese army which is in greater Beirut has provided peace in greater Beirut. The only part of Lebanon that is enjoying peace is that part that is under the Lebanese army," he said.

At The World Conference On Soviet Jewry: KIRKPATRICK REJECTS VIEW THAT THE DECLINING NUMBER OF JEWS ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE USSR IS DUE TO 'NESHIRA'

By David Landau and Cindy Kaye

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations,

appeared today to reject the theory held by many Israelis that the decline in the number of Jews allowed to leave the Soviet Union was the result of "neshira" (dropouts) — Jews opting to go to countries other than Israel, principally the U.S., after leaving the USSR.

"The reason why the Soviet Union refuses permission (to leave) vary with the seasons. One has to be able to read their minds to know which reasons they are citing, and I can't do that," Kirkpatrick said at a press conference on the eve of the third World Conference on Soviet Jewry which opens here tomorrow. The American envoy is attending the conference as President Reagan's personal emissary.

On the issue of neshira itself, she stated emphatically that "The right to emigrate, the right of citizens to leave any country, is a basic right and (is) apart from where they go."

This appeared to put her at odds with Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, who will chair the conference. He declared at a separate press conference today that "Israel is against neshira ... Our major fight is to enable Jews to leave Russia so they can come to Israel." He added that neshira is a sensitive subject which seems to receive extra attention when U.S.-Soviet relations are at their low points.

Cites U.S. Solidarity With Soviet Jews

Kirkpatrick said, "U.S. interest in solidarity with the problems of Soviet Jewry, our solidarity with the refuseniks and with Jews who want to return to their homeland, is shown by my presence here and U.S. participation in the Soviet Jewry conference."

She stressed her personal respect for Israel as "a flourishing, dynamic democracy" and likened it, as a new nation and a haven for Jews "marked indelibly by the Holocaust" to America when it was a young and growing country.

Dulzin, at his own press conference stressed that the aim of this third international gathering for Soviet Jews — the first and second were held in Brussels in 1971 and 1976 — is to "express Israel's solidarity with world Jewry and more specifically with Soviet Jews." He spoke of renewed emigration opportunities for Soviet Jews arising from this conference. "We want (Soviet leader Yuri) Andropov to renew the policy which (the late Leonid) Brezhnev followed to allow Jews to leave Russia," he said.

Dulzin reviewed the plight of refuseniks, Jews who have requested exit visas and have been denied them. He said they number 7,000 at the present time. He said that altogether, some 400,000 Jews want to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

RELATIVE QUIET ON THE WEST BANK

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) — Unrest and violence continued on the West Bank today but at a diminished level compared to recent days. An Israeli woman was injured and an Israeli driver was also hurt by rock-throwers in Ramallah where shops stayed shut in a general strike. There also was some rioting in the streets.

But Arab nationalist elements who tried to engineer a similar commercial strike in East Jerusalem today had only marginal success. By noon nearly all of the shops there were open for business.

The situation on the West Bank was reviewed at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. Defense Minister Moshe Arens said the IDF had the means to impose

law and order but would not resort to methods that might tarnish the army's image and were contrary to the moral norms governing its conduct.

Arens said the latest violence was precipitated by the recent Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers, the presence in the area last week of former President Jimmy Carter who is closely associated with the Camp David accords and Arens' own tour of the West Bank last week. Cabinet sources believe the outbursts are transient and that the situation will soon quiet down.

2 ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED

TEL AVIV, March 14 (JTA) — Two Israeli soldiers were wounded last night when their patrol was attacked by small arms fire north of Tyre. Fire was returned towards the site of the ambush and the area was searched, the army spokesman announced. Earlier in the day, seven soldiers were wounded when their patrol was ambushed north of Sidon. The Beirut-Sidon road was sealed off for most of the day while Israeli soldiers conducted a search for the attackers.

Elsewhere in Lebanon, the Syrians were reported to have shelled an IDF position on the Eastern front. It was the first breach of the cease-fire between the two sides in this sector in several months. There were no casualties or damage from the shelling, army sources said.

JOSEPH ROBISON DEAD AT 70

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA) — Joseph Robison, director emeritus of the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress and a leading authority on civil liberties and religious freedom, died yesterday of cancer. He was 70 years old.

Robison drafted model civil rights and anti-discrimination legislation that have been adopted around the country. In particular, he drafted New York City's Sharkey-Brown-Isaacs Law, the first statute against bias in the general housing market. The example set by this pioneering legislation has since been followed in more than a dozen states and in many cities.

Robison regularly represented the AJCongress at legislative hearings before Congress and state and local legislative bodies. He submitted briefs in leading cases on such issues as government support of sectarian schools, sectarian practices in public schools, the operation of Sunday laws, legislative apportionment and racial segregation in both the South and the North, before the United States Supreme Court and other courts.

These included a number of briefs filed in the historic series of cases in which the Supreme Court condemned racial segregation and broadly interpreted the constitutional guarantee of equality. Robison, a prolific author of articles and pamphlets on civil rights and civil liberties issues, was born in Crestwood, NY, in 1912. He was a graduate of Columbia College, 1932, and the Columbia Law School, 1934. He was a member of the New York State and United States Supreme Court bars. In addition to his work at the AJCongress, he was on the legal staff of the National Labor Relations Board for 10 years, served for 20 years as general counsel of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, and was chairman of the Equality Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union.

PARIS (JTA) — The Second World Jewish Cultural Festival will be held here next month and will also mark the 100th birthday of Czech Jewish writer Franz Kafka.

SHAMIR, REAGAN HOLD 'FRIENDLY TALK'

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir had what he called a "friendly talk" for one half hour with President Reagan at the White House, but they apparently did not go into details of the issues dividing the U.S. and Israel over Lebanon. Shamir said the details would be discussed at the State Department where he was returning for a third meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Shamir told reporters that his talk with Reagan was not confined to Lebanon but covered the entire "peace prospect" for the Middle East. He said Reagan expressed his feelings of "friendship toward Israel," his concern for the "security" of Israel, and for the right for all countries in the Middle East to live in peace. Shamir said that Reagan gave him "personal greetings" to take back to Premier Menachem Begin but he did not describe what they were.

**At The World Conference On Soviet Jewry:
ALARMING NEW MANIFESTATIONS OF
ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE SOVIET UNION**

By David Landau and Cindy Kaye

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) — A first-hand report of alarming new manifestations of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, including Jew-baiting games played by high school students, was presented here today by 14 members of the American Jewish Committee, who flew here directly from a visit to the USSR last week.

The group, headed by AJCommittee president Maynard Wishner, are delegates to the third World Conference on Soviet Jewry which opens here tomorrow. According to Wishner, "In several cities, Jews who never even sought to emigrate from the USSR have been set upon and beaten up. This is a new development which in the past has been reserved for Jews who had filed to emigrate."

Wishner described a "new game" called "concentration camp" played by high school students in Leningrad. "Jewish students are given identification numbers and are addressed by number rather than by name for days and sometimes weeks on end," he said. He noted that, along the same lines, publications claiming that the Holocaust never occurred and that Jews had cooperated with the Nazis are appearing in increasing numbers.

Wishner said the worsening conditions for Soviet Jews are "collected impressions which we can relay after speaking directly to 25-30 refuseniks in the course of our visit" to Russia. By contrast, he said, Soviet officials who met with the AJCommittee delegation sought to assure them that "Any Jews may leave Russia with the exception of a few thousand people who are being kept for specific reasons."

Wishner urged increased attention to the Soviet Union's "fundamental denial of human decency. We had hoped that the change of leadership might lead to a modification of policy but there is no sign of this."

**OPPOSITION IS MOUNTING AGAINST
A RALLY OF FORMER SS MEMBERS**

By David Kantor

BONN, March 14 (JTA) — Opposition is mounting among anti-Nazi groups in West Germany against a rally of former SS members scheduled to take place in Bad Hersfeld, in the federal state of Hesse, in a few weeks. The town's authorities,

rejecting protests or ignoring them, have already made available for the meeting a public hall supported by the town's taxpayers.

Three years ago, the town of Nassau on the Lahn River had served as a traditional meeting place for the Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler SS division, which was notorious for atrocities committed by its members during the war. But after public protests and demonstrations from 1977 through 1978 the town officials declared the SS guests as unwelcome. An important factor in this decision was the wide media coverage abroad of the SS division and the demonstrations of anti-Nazi groups.

Now the town of Bad Hersfeld is confronted with a similar problem. On the one hand, the SS rally would bring a lot of money to this small community. Some 600 guests have already made reservations for four to five nights, and many restaurants expect booming business during their stay.

On the other hand, the town's good record as a festival location is at stake, with thousands of guests possibly being irritated and angered if Bad Hersfeld becomes a friendly site for old-time Nazis.

Meanwhile, the German journalist, Heiner Lichtenstein of the Cologne-based WDR radio station, has called on Jewish organizations to send written protests against the Nazi rally to Bad Hersfeld Mayor Boehmer at 6430 Bad Hersfeld, Postfach 40, West Germany.

THE PURPOSE AND DREAM OF THE JNF

EILAT, March 14 (JTA) — "Turning sand into land, wasteland into homeland," is the purpose and dream of the Jewish National Fund, Charlotte Jacobson, president of the JNF of America, declared here.

She was summing up remarks just made by Moshe Rivlin, the JNF's world chairman who, with Mrs. Jacobson, addressed over 200 American JNF leaders holding their biennial conference here. She also told the gathering that the JNF is "in the forefront of Israel's struggle for a better tomorrow" and "your involvement makes all of us partners in the battle to turn a hostile and arid environment into an ecological wonder."

Rivlin told the American visitors that the JNF's \$100 million-plus budget for the coming fiscal year would go in part towards planting five million new trees in parks and agricultural areas around the country, and in part to building roads and infrastructure work for new settlements and new recreational areas.

The JNF, he said, was "the combination of a great dream and hard work. If we stop the work, it will be very bad and if we stop the dream it will be terrible ... Help us to continue to work and dream."

CHIEF RABBINATE ELECTIONS TUESDAY

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) — The Chief Rabbinate elections will be held tomorrow as originally scheduled after the Supreme Court today reversed its order for a postponement, issued yesterday.

The postponement was decreed on technical grounds. The government, which appoints 20 members of the 150-man electoral college had named 10 Ashkenazim to nine Sephardic electors, thereby disturbing the 75-75 balance between the two branches of the rabbinate.

Minister of Religion Yosef Burg acted quickly to amend the discrepancy by replacing one of the Ashkenazic electors by a Sephardi and the high court saw no further reason for delay. The electoral college is an ad hoc body constituted by law to elect the Chief Rabbis. It consists of rabbis, Knesset members and such local level politicians as mayors and chairmen of local religious councils.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

THE KREMLIN'S PERCEPTION OF JEWISH POWER IN THE U.S.

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 14 (JTA) -- Nearly 50 of the most eminent Soviet specialists from the U.S., Canada and Europe reached a surprising consensus at a recent "Experts Conference on Soviet Jewry Today," held in London.

While they differed on many aspects of the problem, all were of the firm opinion that the Kremlin's attitude towards the emigration of Jews was rooted in a firmly-held conviction that the Jews in the United States wield great power and can lay down or influence American world policy and especially its policies towards the Soviet Union.

The London conference was organized by the recently-established Israel-Diaspora Institute based on the campus of Tel Aviv University and the London-based Institute of Jewish Affairs, with the support of the Theodor Herzl Institute of New York.

Its aim, according to Dr. Yoram Dinstein, rector of Tel Aviv University and dean of its law school, one of the founders of the Israel-Diaspora Institute, was to use the time before the convening of the Jerusalem Conference on Soviet Jewry this week, following the original Brussels conference, to prepare the academic and scientific basis for the latest conference.

This gathering will be more political and aimed at action, rather than the purely academic forum of the London experts' discussions.

Surrealistic View Of Jewish Power

Dinstein, a leading expert on constitutional law who in the early 1970's served for a time as an Israeli consul in New York handling Soviet Jewry issues and who has remained active in that area, referred to what he termed the "almost surrealistic view of Jewish power" on the part of the USSR.

He said this means that the Kremlin adopts a carrot and stick policy towards allowing its Jewish citizens to leave the country, turning the tap on and off according to its perception of the American President's reaction to Soviet moves.

Soviet officials have told experts, including some of those who attended the London conference, that they were mistaken in claiming that because the U.S. President was not Jewish and only a minority of Senators were Jews, it was not the Jews who make policy. "You don't read the situation properly," they say.

"It's not these leaders themselves who have to look at to know who wields power. Look at their aides and experts -- nearly all of them are Jews; and it is they who draft policy," the experts have been told.

Dinstein said: "The experts were all agreed that the Kremlin leaders seem to believe the great bluff of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. They are convinced that it is Jewish power which runs the U.S., at least."

The experts attending the London conference had gathered to try and establish "what went right and led the Kremlin to begin allowing Jews to emigrate, and then what went wrong and brought about the decline of emigration."

The Kremlin decision to allow Jews to leave the Soviet Union to join relatives in Israel appears to have been taken some time between 1963

and 1965, but only "dripdrips" managed to get exit visas by 1967, when even that trickle was stopped in July 1967, at the outbreak of the six-day war.

Emigration started again in September, 1968, but it seems to have been the world outrage at the Lenin-grad trials and the publicity engendered by the First Brussels Conference in 1971 which brought about what became almost a mass movement of Jews from the Soviet Union.

By 1979 the exit figure peaked at over 50,000 but has since declined annually from 9,000 in 1980 to only 2,000 last year. Although a monthly figure is no absolute indicator, the January 1983 emigration figure was a bare 81, with only 19 of them coming to Israel. The others all went on to the U.S.

The Sovietologists tended to agree that the move to America rather than to Israel had had little to do with the Kremlin decision to slow down emigration.

Situation Since The Late 1960's

Since emigration restarted in the late 1960's, about 260,000 Russian Jews have left the Soviet Union. According to the best estimates, another 380,000 Russian Jews have sent their personal details to Israel for the Israeli government to send on entrance visas for presentation to the Soviet authorities. This makes an astonishing 600,000 Soviet Jews who have left or have shown an active interest in leaving the Soviet Union.

And the figure will almost certainly increase. It is a known fact that the more exit visas granted at any time, the larger the number applying for exit permits.

At the same time, the number of refuseniks has remained constant, at about 3,000 a year -- except for last year, when the number rose sharply to 8,000. A refusenik is described by the experts as a man who has received a formal written refusal to his application for an exit visa.

Many others are not officially refuseniks because they have not yet received the formal rejection. Hundreds, or even thousands of them, have been told to go back and bring further details -- a delaying tactic which is a form of harassment and intimidation.

The very fact of starting the process which will hopefully eventually lead to an exit visa is already a commitment in itself. As applications must be sent by mail, and not hand-carried by visitors or messengers, they are an open and official announcement, because of censorship.

Citizens are frequently summoned to the visa office and queried about the contents of letters from abroad, even if the letter itself has not yet been delivered by the post office to the addressee.

Reversion To Leninist-Stalinist Theory

Another point on which the Soviet experts were agreed was that the Kremlin was reverting to an old Leninist and Stalinist theory of the integration of national elements in the Soviet Union.

Reference to "a fusion of nationalities" by Soviet leader Yuri Andropov alarmed the experts, as a hint of a further crackdown on ethnic and national groups, including the Jews. But on the other hand, it is being made more difficult for Jews to "fuse" or integrate through marriages with non-Jews.

While the offspring of such integrated marriages can opt for which ethnic group they wish to embrace, "internal passports," the identity cards all Soviet citizens must carry, now bear the nationality of both father and mother.