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SPECIAL TO THE JTA WARSAW TENSE AS GHETTO UPRISING ANNIVERSARY IS ABOUT TO BE MARKED

By Milton Jacoby

WARSAW, April 18 (JTA) -- On the eve of the awesome and solemn 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, the atmosphere in this city of two million is tense and expectant. To this largely rebuilt and imposing capital have come some several hundred Jews, both young and old, from some 20 countries. They represent varying facets of Judaism, but with one common resolve -- to honor Warsaw Jews who just four decades ago died in a blaze of glory and martyrdom.

Polish authorities have taken this gathering very seriously indeed. Each of the hotels -- the Forum, the Victoria, the Grand and the Europejski -- is like an armed camp. Outside are police patrols, and inside groups of soldiers demand guest-cards before admitting anyone. Visiting a friend in another hotel is no easy matter.

Security forces are all over the place trying to ensure that there will be no confrontations between Arab terrorists and Jews during the several days of the observance, a hotel manager explained. Estimates vary as to the number of Jews who have come here from other countries, but the Israeli contingent of some 300, including Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, is by far the largest and the most colorful.

Orthodox Jewry, which is noticeably absent from the American groups, is indeed well represented by the Israelis, many in traditional garb and flowing beards. Some are here for an additional purpose -- to seek out those places in towns like Lamza and Bialystok where they or their parents may have originated.

But all seem to be linked by one common denominator which has brought them far from home -- a purposeful and strong desire to merge their ethnic memories with the fate of Polish Jewry and all the victims of the Holocaust.

Great Synagogue Reopened

Today, a major event of the observance was the reopening of the Great Synagogue on Twarda Street, turned over by the Polish state to the Jewish community. Blown up by the Nazis in 1943, it has been reconstructed at a cost of 120 million Zlotys (over \$1 million).

After the joyous processional of the five Sefer Torahs and their placement in the damed ark, the El Mole Rachamin was chanted. The poignant tones soaring through this hall that had suddenly died 40 years ago only to be reborn today, produced an eerie and haunting effect.

There were impassioned remarks, as speaker after speaker, including community president Mozes Finkelstein, Rumania's Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen, Rabbi Itzhak Frenkel of the World Federation of Polish Jews, and Bishop Majdanski on behalf of the Catholic Church, all recalled those who died in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and hailed the redemption of this religious center of Polish Jewry.

Religious Affairs Minister Adam Lopatka asserted that the government "makes enormous efforts in

order not only to save the remains of the Jewish culture in Poland but to restore them to their old lustre. The synagogue in which we are gathered today is a good example of such an approach and it is my wish that it will serve the Mosaic creed community in the best possible way."

In the late afternoon, mezuza's were nailed to the wall of the synagogue and then several hundred delegates assisted in the first religious service.

Somehow, the auspicious ceremonies seemed incomplete without the presence of Shmuel Tennenblatt, the dynamic editor of the Warsaw Volkstimme, which he published weekly in Yiddish and in Polish. He had described to this reporter some eight months ago his high hopes for the anniversary ceremonies in which he planned to play a major role, and he expressed his eager desire to meet his fellow Jews from all over the world.

Some weeks after his interview with this reporter he was felled by a stroke and died in the prime of his life. In a sense not anticipated then, tomorrow will also be a very special tribute to this charismatic friend and leader.

REAGAN SAYS U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE GOALS OF PEACE IN THE MIDEAST DESPITE TERRORIST BOMBING OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BEIRUT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 18 (JTA) -- President Reagan declared today that despite the "vicious terrorist bombing" of the United States Embassy in Beirut, the U.S. will continue to pursue "our goals of peace in the region."

The President made his remarks at the start of an awards ceremony for Peace Corps volunteers in the White House garden, some five-and-a-half hours after the bombing took place at 6:05 A.M. (EST). Although Reagan said "the cowardly act" cost a number of American lives, neither he nor the State Department were able to give casualty figures by mid-afternoon. Unofficial reports from Beirut listed the number of dead as between 28 and 32, including six U.S. marines and two soldiers, and 100 injured.

State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said that U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon was able to telephone Washington within an hour of the explosion after digging out of the rubble in his office. The Embassy usually has 30 to 35 people working there at one time, including the marines, Romberg said.

Special envoys Philip Habib and Morris Draper were in another part of Beirut at the time of the explosion. Draper's wife, Roberta, was reportedly slightly injured.

Three Groups Claim Responsibility

Although first reports said the bombing was caused by a booby-trapped car, Romberg said that it was not certain what kind of bomb had been used or where it had been placed. He said the United States did not know at this time who was responsible, noting that three groups have already claimed that they did it.

Reagan, in his remarks, said Lebanese President Amin Gemayel had telephoned him to express his "profound regret and sorrow" at the bombing and to offer the condolences of the Lebanese people to the

families of Americans who died as a result of the bombing. Reagan said Gemayel added his "firm determination that we persevere in the search for peace in that region," a determination Reagan said he seconded.

Statement By Reagan

"This criminal attack on a diplomatic establishment will not deter us from our goals of peace in the region," Reagan said. "We will do what we know to be right. Ambassadors Habib and Draper, who are presently in Beirut, will continue to press the negotiations for earliest possible total withdrawal of all external forces."

"We also remain committed to the recovery by the Lebanese government of full sovereignty throughout all of its territory. The people of Lebanon must be given a chance to resume their efforts to lead a normal life, free of violence without the presence of unauthorized foreign forces on their soil. And to this noble end I rededicate the efforts of the United States."

Shamir Shocked By The Bombing

Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Foreign Minister, said today on ABC-TV, that he was shocked by the bombing, declaring, "It's horrible, it's horrible." He added that the attack "explains to a certain extent our caution, our worries about security problems in Lebanon." He spoke via satellite from Tel Aviv.

Asked whether he felt the bombing would affect the outcome of the talks between Israel and Lebanon on withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, a goal about which he said "I think we are close," Shamir said he did not think the Embassy attack would complicate the talks. On the contrary, he said, "we have to work more closely in more efforts to reach an agreement."

Meanwhile, Romberg maintained that the U.S. still believes that Syria will withdraw from Lebanon once there is an agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli forces. "The government of Syria has expressed its willingness to withdraw its forces from Lebanon in the context of the agreed complete departure of all foreign forces from the country," he said. Romberg said he would not interpret a report from Damascus over the weekend that Syria will not pull its army out of Lebanon until the withdrawal of Israeli forces is complete.

UNSEASONABLE WEATHER PUTS DAMPER ON ISRAEL'S ANNIVERSARY EVENTS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA) — Unseasonably cold and rainy weather put a damper on celebrations of Israel's 35th Independence Day today. The blustery elements may also have helped avert clashes between Peace Now demonstrators and West Bank settlers at ceremonies dedicating a new settlement, Beracha, overlooking Nablus, the largest Arab city on the West Bank.

The thousands of persons who trekked through mud to celebrate the dedication or oppose it, got a thorough drenching. The ceremonies had to be held indoors. Deputy Premier David Levy, the only Cabinet member to attend, did not address the celebrants and departed by helicopter after a brief stay.

Beracha, formerly a military (Nahal) outpost, was officially proclaimed a civilian settlement and a handful of families moved in. But the opposition Labor Party and others saw the government-

sponsored event as a deliberate provocation to the 100,000 Palestinian residents of Nablus and had urged the government to cancel it.

Premier Menachem Begin ignored their pleas and, in his Independence Day speech today declared Israel's "inalienable right to the Land of Israel" and stressed that his government's massive settlement drive would continue.

Shouting Matches At Beracha

Thousands of Peace Now advocates and others opposed to Begin's policy were bussed to the Beracha site where they faced thousands more settlers, mostly religious Jews wearing yarmulkas. The two sides shouted slogans at each other and waved placards. But violence predicted in some quarters did not occur.

Peace Now circles said tonight that they had achieved some success because the dedication of Beracha, touted as a State event and the centerpiece of this year's Independence Day celebrations, was held under "semi-secret" conditions. It was not clear whether this was dictated by the presence of large numbers of protestors or by the heavy rainfall and high winds.

Later, Jewish settlers reportedly drove through Arab towns with Israeli flags flying from their cars and large color portraits of Begin on their rear windows. But the territory as a whole remained quiet in contrast to the recent weeks of almost daily clashes between stone-throwing Arab youths and Israeli security forces and settlers.

Independence Day festivities began in Israel last night, before the weather turned foul. Tens of thousands of young people thronged the main streets of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and other towns, dancing, singing and watching troupes of performers on temporary stages erected on sidewalks.

But the downpour today forced tens of thousands of Israelis to cancel their picnics and outings to the countryside and seashore. Nevertheless, many braved the elements to visit army, navy and air force bases which were opened to the public for the occasion. An estimated 50,000 persons visited the navy facility at Ashdod and thousands of Jerusalemites toured the Neve Yaacov artillery base just north of the city.

NAVON: ISRAEL THREATENED BY RELIGIOUS, SECULAR DIVISIONS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA) — President Yitzhak Navon warned today that the divisions between religious and secular elements is the most dangerous internal threat to Israeli society today. The two groups are growing further apart, he said.

Navon, who will retire when his five-year term ends next month, expressed his views in radio and television interviews on the occasion of Independence Day. He said he wondered why education had to be segregated from kindergarten on between religious and non-religious Jews. Such subjects as mathematics or geography need not be taught separately. "There is no such thing as religious mathematics," he said.

Navon said the ethnic gap — between Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jews — is narrowing perceptibly thanks, among other things, to intermarriage between the two groups. He predicted that the gap will disappear in a relatively short time. The President urged greater political tolerance.

Premier Menachem Begin also called for "mutual respect ... among friends and rivals" in his Independence Day message. But he devoted much of his address to ruling out a freeze on settlements on the West Bank as urged by President Reagan. He claimed the settlements were not only legal but a vital element of Israel's security.

U.S. EXPLAINS ITS DECISION ON ISRAEL'S FIGHTER PLANE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 18 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration's decision to allow Israel to buy American components needed for its new fighter plane, the Lavie, was due to Israel's request that the parts were "urgently" necessary now "to avoid disruption of the project," the State Department maintained today.

"We wanted to be as forthcoming as possible in view of the long-term U.S. commitment to Israel's security," Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said. Israel's Defense Minister, Moshe Arens, announced the decision yesterday, calling it "good news" and perhaps "an indication of an improvement in relationships" between the U.S. and Israel.

Arens also said he hoped the announcement might also be an indication that the U.S. will lift the "embargo" on the 75 F-16 jet fighter-bombers President Reagan said would not be sent to Israel until Israel withdraws its forces from Lebanon. While refusing to discuss the F-16s, Romberg tried to separate the two issues today.

"The decision on the Lavie is based on broader concerns than the immediate situation in Lebanon," Romberg explained. "Our cooperation on military systems is an important aspect of our long-term bilateral relationship and the decision on the Lavie should be taken from that perspective."

KIRKPATRICK WARNS OF DANGERS FACING ISRAEL AS A RESULT OF 'ASSAULT ON LANGUAGE' IN THE UN

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 18 (JTA) -- Declaring that one of the lessons to be learned from the Holocaust is that "words have consequences," Jeane Kirkpatrick, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, warned here last night of the dangers presented to Israel as a result of the "systematic totalitarian assault on language and its meanings" in the United Nations.

Creating a parallel between the rise of Nazism and its efforts to discredit European Jews "as sub-human," to the sometimes vitriolic debates in the halls of the UN, Kirkpatrick noted that Palestinian Arabs are now termed the "Jews of the Arab world," living in a diaspora and that Israelis are "redefined as Nazis." She also noted that enemies of Israel in the UN describe Israeli policy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as acts of "genocide."

Kirkpatrick said she has sometimes been "chided" for her objections to the use of such inflammatory language at the UN. "But be assured, that as representative of the United States in the United Nations, I do mind and will go on minding," she declared to thunderous applause.

Kirkpatrick addressed some 500 persons attending the Simon Wiesenthal Humanitarian Laureate Award dinner at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. She was presented with the award for her actions as "a steadfast and loyal friend of the Jewish people committed to the security of the State of Israel, and to the causes held sacred by freedom-loving people everywhere."

The Ambassador pointed out three significant lessons which should be learned from the rise of Nazism and World War II. First, she said, the Nazi plans against the Jews were written "in black and white for all the world to see" and were issued some eight years prior to the outset of the war. Kirkpatrick said this should have present-

ed a "clear warning of the impending disaster." She noted that part of the plans for the extermination of European Jewry was to create the "myth" of the Jewish people as being "subhuman."

A second lesson to be drawn from the Holocaust, Kirkpatrick added, was that "totalitarians test the grounds for more sustained aggression and persecution by beginning with minor suppression and calculated violence." She noted that the first regulations against the Jews consisted sometimes of actions such as limiting their travel.

She said that the actions by the Nazis against the Jewish population was partially a test of the world community's resolve and said that when it remained silent about the persecution of the Jews, the Nazis proceeded to embark with their broader plans for conquering Western Europe.

The third lesson, Kirkpatrick said, is the need now for concerted action between the United States and its allies "to ensure that the totalitarian forces of anti-freedom and dehumanization do not prevail." She said, however, that the lessons and implications of the Holocaust are not necessarily universally shared.

Consequences Of Words

Referring to the United Nations, Kirkpatrick said that if anyone remains doubtful as to the consequences of words, those doubts should be dispelled in view of the efforts in the past year to have Israel expelled from the United Nations, where the Jewish State was labeled by the UN General Assembly "as a non-peace loving nation." The charter of the UN calls for membership of all nations which are peace-loving, and this action by the General Assembly could have paved the way for Israel's expulsion from the UN.

Kirkpatrick said that to use the term "genocide" against Israel "is the worst possible outrage" and a "sacrilege" to the victims of the Holocaust. She pointed out that collective violence against a people is used as a means to scapegoat, while genocide "aims to eliminate... is calculated, planned purposefully (and) total in intent."

Award Sparks Protest

The award presented to Kirkpatrick created some dispute. Members and supporters of the New Jewish Agenda, a national organization claiming a membership of 2,500, picketed outside the hotel where the dinner was held. The Agenda issued a statement calling Kirkpatrick "an apologist for rightwing dictatorships" and saying that "her support of Israel can never eradicate her collaboration with these murderous dictatorships." The Agenda said it was "disappointed and angered" with the Simon Wiesenthal Center for bestowing the award upon Kirkpatrick.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israel's cost of living index rose by 5.6 percent in March, the highest March increase in 30 years, according to Central Bureau of Statistics spokesman David Neuman. The high March figure brought the cost of living index during fiscal 1982/83 to 134 percent. At the present rate of increase, inflation this year will be not less than five percent.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Immigration to Israel had a modest increase last month, including a 12.6 percent rise in the number of immigrants from Western countries compared to the same month last year, the Jewish Agency reported.

CORRECTION: A headline in the April 12 Bulletin should have stated "RA Leader Raps Reagan for His Attack on Nuclear Freeze Advocates."

NEEDY JEWS TO GET KOSHER CHEESE FROM FEDERAL DAIRY SURPLUS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, April 18 (JTA) — For the first time in the history of distribution to the needy by the federal government of dairy foods from its vast surplus stocks, arrangements have been made to distribute kosher cheese made from such surplus milk to needy Jews in the New York City area, an official in a key program of aiding the Jewish poor here reported today.

Rabbi David Cohen, executive director of the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that 37,000 pounds of kosher American cheese will be distributed to some 7,400 Jewish families starting April 25.

Cohen said he had made an effort in 1982 to persuade Department of Agriculture officials to donate the needed milk from its surplus after the surplus food distribution program was announced by President Reagan. He said he began with requests to city officials, who sent him to state officials, who sent him to federal officials, who refused to provide the milk.

He said the reason federal officials approved the request this year was because Assemblyman Dov Hikind, a Brooklyn Democrat, who pressed the request vigorously, was finally told that if he or some private organization would pick up the cost differential for the production of the kosher cheese, the Department of Agriculture "would be willing to provide the basic cost of production, the surplus dairy products themselves, and the cost of transportation to one location in the state."

Production Of Kosher Cheese

Cohen said that, to his knowledge, all kosher or Cholov Yisroel American cheese, regardless of brand, is produced by companies such as Olam-World Cheese Company, under contract with a few major plants in Milwaukee, such as those of Kraft. Cholov Yisroel refers to milk in which there is rabbinic supervision extending to the diet of the cow. Some Jews use only Cholov Yisroel milk.

He said the kosher cheese is always produced on a Monday morning, after the plant has been idle for at least 24 hours. The plant is then carefully cleaned and made kosher, the coagulating element is added and finally kosher labeling is applied. In non-kosher cheese the coagulating element, rennet, is from animal sources. The kosher element is from chemical derivatives.

Cohen added that in the case of American cheese made from Cholov Yisroel milk, a number of months of preparation is involved to assemble enough quantities of such milk. He added that the Olam Cheese Company has a contract with the federal government to produce kosher cheese for the Board of Jewish Education of New York. He said he understood Olam to be the only cheese company to have such a contract.

Cohen said the Coordinating Council ordered the kosher cheese for production today and delivery to New York City on or about April 25. He said the minimum order is a truckload, 37,000 pounds.

Cohen said the kosher cheese will be delivered to the Gustave Hartman YM-YWHA in Far Rockaway and to senior centers throughout New York City, under auspices of the Coordinating Council.

He said each Jewish community is responsible for picking up its allocated amount of cheese in five-pound blocks, from the main distribution point. The

cheese will be distributed at local sites to Jews who present evidence of their having low incomes and who are in need.

Cost Of The Program

Cohen said the only cost in which the Coordinating Council is involved in the program is the 15 cents per pound differential — the same amount as is paid by the Bureau of Jewish Education — for the extra cost of manufacturing the kosher cheese.

Olam World Cheese Company officials said the costs relate to rental of the plant; koshering the plant; kashruth supervision (by the kashruth division of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations); change of rennet formula; and labeling charges. Cohen said that in the case of Cholov Yisroel kosher cheese, the added cost is 35 cents per pound, based on production and storage of Cholov Yisroel milk prior to making it into kosher cheese.

Rep. Mario Biaggi (D. N.Y.) has been making efforts to persuade the Department of Agriculture to underwrite these costs, Cohen said, noting that the New York City Council recently passed a unanimous resolution, introduced by Councilman Fred Samuels of Harlem, which urged the federal government not to discriminate against persons who eat kosher by forcing the Jewish community to pay the difference in production costs.

Cohen said prospective recipients were being notified through the Coordinating Council's affiliated Jewish community councils and that the coordinating council planned media advertising about the availability of the kosher cheese.

He stressed he did not think the 37,000 pounds would meet the needs of poor Jews and that the Coordinating Council is considering additional orders. He said the funds for the \$6,000 cost differential for the kosher cheese is being met partly with a \$3,000 grant from the Coordinating Council and the other \$3,000 is being raised by concerned Jews in Brooklyn, led by Hikind. Jewish Ys and the senior centers will be involved as distribution aides.

Cohen added that synagogues, Jewish Ys and schools will be used as distribution centers only if they have adequate refrigeration facilities.

TWO MEMORIALS HELD IN ITALY

ROME, April 17 (JTA) — The city of Ravenna was the scene of two memorials last week, one for the fallen soldiers of the Jewish brigade which was part of the Allied forces that fought the German army in Italy during World War II, and the other in memory of Jews and other Italians who were victims of the Holocaust or partisan fighters against the Nazis.

For the past 25 years, the Israel Embassy here, with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, has laid wreaths of blue and white flowers on the graves of Jewish soldiers from all over the world, buried in the cemetery at Ravenna. Also honored are the Italian soldiers of the Cremona and Friuli brigades — both still in existence — who fought together with the Jewish Brigade in the battle of Senio in the spring of 1945.

This year, the ceremonies outside the War Memorial in Ravenna were addressed by Eytan Rann, Israel's Ambassador to Italy, who is himself a veteran of the Jewish Brigade. The occasion had special significance inasmuch as it coincided with the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

The "Day of Martyrs in Memory of the Holocaust and Patriotism" was organized this year, as in the past, by Raniero Ranieri, a former partisan fighter, with the participation of local authorities and soldiers of the Cremona and Friuli brigades.