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CABINET MEMBERS REJECT CALL FOR INQUIRY INTO LEBANON WAR; LABOR DIVIDED ON USEFULNESS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 7 (JTA) -- Cabinet ministers have flatly rejected opposition demands for an official inquiry into the government's conduct of the war in Lebanon. Two separate motions by the Labor Alignment and Shinui calling for a state inquiry commission are expected to be defeated when they come up for a vote in the Knesset tomorrow.

Government officials argue that it is not appropriate to investigate the war in Lebanon while it is, in effect, still going on. One senior minister was quoted as welcoming an inquiry once the Israeli army withdraws from Lebanon because it would show that the government performed better than its critics contend.

The Labor Alignment's Knesset faction is itself divided over the political wisdom of a probe. MK Mordechai Gur suggested that Labor take full advantage of the present public debate over the war. He pointed out that if an inquiry was held, criticism of the conduct of the war would be silenced for its duration because the matter would be "sub judice."

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres said he agreed with Gur. He said however that Labor could not ignore the fact that it was Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich who accused former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon of misleading the Cabinet.

U.S. PROMISES NEW TALKS WITH ISRAEL ON WAR CRIMINALS AFTER SNAFU ON E. JERUSALEM VENUE

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 7 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that there would be "a new phase" in talks between the U.S. and Israel on the possibility of deporting suspected war criminals stripped of their American citizenship to stand trial in Israel. But no date was given.

Discussions were to have begun in Israel last week between Mark Richards, Deputy Assistant to U.S. Attorney General William French Smith, and Israel's Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir. The talks did not materialize however because of a dispute over venue. The Israelis insisted that Richards come to Zamir's office in East Jerusalem. The American official refused on grounds that the U.S. does not recognize Israel's sovereignty in East Jerusalem which was annexed after the 1967 Six-Day War. Richards returned to Washington Sunday.

State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg affirmed today that "There has been a long standing policy since 1967 that U.S. officials have not met with Israeli officials in Israel if their offices were in East Jerusalem." Nevertheless, according to Romberg, "We have had discussions going on and those talks will continue ... A new phase of the talks is coming." He gave no further details.

Richards went to Israel specifically to discuss the case of Valerian Trifa, Archbishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in the U.S. who was stripped of citizenship and ordered deported after it was con-

firmed that he lied about his Nazi past to obtain entry into the U.S. and subsequently, naturalization. Trifa, a leader of the fascist Iron Guard in Rumania during World War II, is held responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Jews in a pogrom in Bucharest in 1941.

His deportation was ordered by a federal court earlier this year but the U.S. has been unable to find any country that would accept him. Israel indicated it would consider trying Trifa and other alleged war criminals facing deportation if there was sufficient evidence to obtain a conviction. Under a law adopted in 1950, Israel arrogated to itself the right to try persons accused of crimes against Jews anywhere in the world before the Jewish state was founded in 1948.

Yitzhak Feinberg, a spokesman for the Justice Ministry in Jerusalem, said after Richards' departure that he hoped the discussions could be continued later at a lower level. Richards was the highest ranking Justice Department official to come to Israel to discuss the matter. He reportedly met with Zamir at a hotel in the western section of Jerusalem last week and they discussed various subjects but not the case of Trifa or other suspected war criminals. According to Zamir, protocol demanded that the primary subject of Richards' visit to Israel must be discussed at his office.

According to reports from Jerusalem, an appointment was scheduled for noon last Thursday but was cancelled by Richards. Feinberg said later that there were several suspected war criminals residing in the U.S. whom Israel wanted to prosecute. He said trying Trifa was problematic because the Rumanian-born cleric was accused of inciting a pogrom but not of killing anyone.

NICARAGUAN ENVOY PROMISES TO INVESTIGATE ADL CHARGES

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 7 (JTA) -- The Nicaraguan Ambassador to the United States yesterday told four representatives of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that his government does not have an official policy of anti-Semitism, according to one of the ADL officials present at the meeting.

Furthermore, the Ambassador, Antonio Jarquin, said that the three cases of confiscation of property of Nicaraguan Jews and the confiscation of the Managua synagogue by the government would be reviewed, ADL said.

The meeting between the ADL officials and the Nicaraguan envoy was initiated at the request of Jarquin following the publication by the ADL of a series of charges against the Nicaraguan government which includes the confiscation of Jewish owned properties and the forced exile of the Jewish community of some 50 persons.

The ADL officials who met with Jarquin included: I. Barry Mehler, chairman of the ADL's Latin American Committee; Abraham Foxman, ADL associate national director and director of the ADL national affairs division; Jess Hordes, associate director of the ADL's Washington office; and Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of the ADL Latin American Affairs department.

Rosenthal, in an article prepared for publication in the ADL Bulletin, the agency's publication, charged that along with the confiscation of Jewish property and forced exile of the Jewish community, the Sandinista government, which came to power in 1979, has been unresponsive to ADL appeals to end "these human rights violations" and permit the return of the Jews to their country. He wrote that the forced exodus of the Nicaraguan Jewish community was effected by subtle and direct threats or by forcible measures, two cases of which Rosenthal cited in the article.

At a press conference following the meeting with the Nicaraguan Ambassador, Rosenthal said that because the Nicaraguan government has not been responsive to past ADL requests for information on the plight of the Nicaraguan Jews, the ADL decided to publicize the issue.

While Jarquin said his government "had erred" in not providing a reply to ADL requests, according to Rosenthal, the Ambassador "said his government had no policy of anti-Semitism and asserted that three ministers of the government are of Jewish origin."

Rosenthal said that the ADL officials explained that "if they are Catholic and not identified with the Jewish faith, their ability to trace their Jewish ancestry back one generation or more does not make them Jewish." Rosenthal reported that the Ambassador said he will request that his government review the confiscation cases on which the ADL has submitted formal inquiries.

Synagogue Used For Social Club

Rosenthal reported at the press conference that the ADL has charged that the synagogue in Managua has been turned into a children's social club, the exterior Stars of David covered with propaganda posters and the inside wall of the sanctuary have been plastered with anti-Zionist posters.

"As for the synagogue," Rosenthal said, "The Ambassador claimed it was the private property of the president of the Jewish community and was confiscated." The president of the Jewish community, Avraham Gorn, was jailed after the Sandinista government took power. The ADL official said he told the Ambassador that the synagogue, Congregación Israelita de Nicaragua, was the property of the Jewish community of Nicaragua.

"We also expressed concern about anti-Semitism in the press and urged that key government officials denounce anti-Semitism when it appears in whatever form and that the denunciation of anti-Semitism be publicized in Nicaragua," Rosenthal said. The Managua daily, Nuevo Diario, July 1982, published a series of anti-Semitic articles which included a reference to the "synagogue of satan."

Rosenthal continued: "We told the Ambassador that the return of the synagogue to the Jewish community and the denunciation of anti-Semitism would be a sign to the Jews who left and also to the world Jewish community." According to Rosenthal, the Ambassador told the ADL officials that he was returning to Managua today and would "try to come back with some answers" when he returns in about 10 days.

Meanwhile, Rep. Michael Barnes (D. Md.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Western Hemispheric Affairs, called on the Sandinista government to cease its anti-Semitic practices and termed the government sponsored

repression of the Nicaraguan Jewish community "absolutely inexcusable."

In a letter to Daniel Ortega Saavedra, the commander of the ruling junta in Nicaragua, Barnes warned: "If there is to be any hope of reconciliation between our two countries, Nicaragua's Jewish citizens will have to be allowed to return to their homes. Property and their synagogue will have to be restored to them and your government will have to cease its campaign of harassment." He said the government sponsored anti-Semitic practices placed "Nicaragua on the same level as Argentina with respect to human rights."

CRANSTON WARNS AGAINST PRESSURE

SAN FRANCISCO, June 7 (JTA) -- Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Calif.) warned here that efforts by the Reagan Administration to pressure or seek concessions from Israel on major policy issues could have fatal consequences for the Jewish State.

"Israel might not survive but we (the U.S.) would," Cranston told some 100 persons Sunday at a luncheon meeting of the American Jewish Congress' national governing council, which met here for its three-day annual meeting.

"I say that we should make it unmistakably clear to all the Arab nations that we will not pressure Israel in an effort to try to persuade Israel to make concessions which may be contrary to her interests and perhaps contrary to her survival," Cranston said.

In attacking the "myth" of what he called a balanced U.S. policy in the Middle East, Cranston said the U.S. should not let Israel doubt its steadfastness and that America's national interests are equated with Israel's security. "We must make it plain to the Arabs that we will never sell Israel down the river as a price for their friendship or for their oil," he asserted.

The Senate deputy minority leader said, "America's policy of pouring arms indiscriminately to Arabs and Israelis alike, poses tremendous strain on Israel's economy." He criticized President Reagan's assertion that Israel need not be concerned by U.S. arms shipments to the Arab nations because they are intended for use against the Soviet Union. However, Cranston pointed out that the number one enemy of the Arab states is Israel.

Cranston, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for the 1984 Presidential election, stressed during his 20 minute speech that he had refused to join those who condemned the Israeli raid of Iraq's nuclear reactor in June, 1981 because he viewed the action as "defensive, not offensive."

A leader in the Senate in opposition to the AWACS arms package sale to Saudi Arabia last year, Cranston said he is prepared to lead the opposition in any proposal to sell sophisticated weaponry to Jordan. "Such a sale should be made only after Jordan ends its state of war with Israel and joins the Camp David peace process and not before," he said.

LUTHERANS ATTACK ANTI-SEMITISM

By David Kantor

BONN, June 7 (JTA) -- The leadership body of the United Protestant Lutheran Church of Germany, the VELKD, issued a strong indictment of anti-Semitism at its meeting in Hannover.

In appealing to the public to stand up against any form of hatred or enmity toward Jews, the church leadership declared that the struggle against anti-Semitism included making a distinction between criticism of the policies of the Israeli government and the legitimate claim of the Jewish people for their own state within secure borders.

U.S. LABELS AS 'PATENTLY FALSE' CLAIM THAT MOST SOVIET JEWS WHO WANTED TO EMIGRATE HAVE DONE SO
By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 7 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration today denounced as "patently false" the assertion by the head of the "Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public" that the majority of Soviet Jews who desire to emigrate from the Soviet Union have already left. "Many thousands of Jews, some estimates range into the hundreds of thousands, are still denied this fundamental right of freedom of movement on the flimsiest pretext," State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said. "It is particularly deplorable that the Soviet regime should now enlist some people of Jewish ancestry to participate in their anti-Semitic diatribe."

Today's sharp U.S. rebuke followed the claim by Samuel Ziv, a Jewish law professor in Moscow who heads the anti-Zionist group, which was recently formed by the Soviet authorities, that all Russian Jews who wanted to leave the USSR have already done so and that Zionist groups are "juggling figures" to show that large numbers of Jews still wish to emigrate.

Ziv, whose claims were carried in Tass, the official Soviet news agency, told a Moscow press conference yesterday that "the absolute majority of Soviet Jews who wanted to leave in order to reunite with their families abroad have left by now. The Jews left in Russia have no desire to leave their country except those who have fallen victim to Zionist propaganda which has brainwashed them," Ziv, who serves as First Deputy of the anti-Zionist committee, was quoted as saying by Tass.

According to Tass, the committee, established last April, endorses Israel's right to exist but is opposed to the policies of the Premier Menachem Begin's government and supports the creation of a Palestinian state. The committee is chaired by Gen. David Dragunsky, one of the highest ranking Jewish officers in the Red Army, now retired.

Soviet Statement Called 'Anti-Semitic'

The State Department said today that "while this particular statement was purported to reject anti-Semitism, in fact the basic thrust of this and other anti-Zionist propaganda is anti-Semitic." Romberg pointed out specifically a statement by Dragunsky who was quoted as saying, "The time is now for us to make more concerted efforts to counter international Zionism and to rebuff the anti-Soviet campaign it mounts. The actions of Begin and his thugs are very similar to those of Hitler's atrocities," he was quoted as saying by Tass.

Romberg said the U.S. "condemn(s) particularly the statements" by Dragunsky "who equated Zionism with Nazism. Such anti-Semitic propaganda under the guise of anti-Zionism or any other cover is an extreme distortion of the truth and is absolutely unacceptable," Romberg said.

The statements as reported by Tass by the members of the anti-Zionist committee also drew a sharp rebuke from Soviet Jewish groups. The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) said the committee is the "larger component of a new propaganda campaign in which Soviet authorities are trying to delegitimize Israel and Zionism and make the desire for repatriation to Israel border on criminality."

The NCSJ, in a statement released today, said, "The propaganda offensive takes place at a time when the emigration of Jews has virtually ended and an average of 100 a month are permitted to leave. Despite the claims of the anti-Zionist committee ... Western monitors know that at least 300,000 invitations have been sent to Soviet Jews to permit them to take the first step in leaving. These have not been acted upon."

The Soviet authorities, the NCSJ charged today, have created this committee "using people who are ostensibly Jews, but who were never involved with fellow Jews and are rejected by Soviet Jews as their spokespeople. The practice of using selected Jews to express Soviet opinion on matters of Jewish concern is not new." The NCSJ said Dragunsky and Ziv have "been trotted out in the past to deny that there is any persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union and that Jews want to leave."

The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews said in New York yesterday that "we have thousands of documented cases of families still forcibly divided by Kremlin policy and we have every reason to believe there are many tens of thousands more. Under any circumstances, the Soviets are clearly violating their repeated affirmation of the UN Declaration of Human Rights which obligates them to release anyone seeking to emigrate, not just those lucky enough to have immediate family members in Israel, as the Kremlin requires."

Moscow Jews Protest Committee

The President of the American Jewish Committee, Howard Friedman, said today that the attacks by the anti-Zionist committee is the "latest evidence in an apparent attempt to sever the links between Jews in the USSR and Jews in the West by means of vicious anti-Israel, anti-Zionist campaign, and in fact, raising the specter of dual loyalties by asking Soviet Jews implicitly to choose between Jewish sentiments and Soviet patriotism."

The president of the Zionist Organization of America, Alleck Resnick, said the statements by Ziv and Dragunsky "are part of an aggressive anti-Zionist campaign. They are desperate attempts to persuade the West that there is no point in continuing to agitate for Soviet Jewish emigration. But we know better, and so does our government."

Meanwhile, the NCSJ reported that six prominent Moscow Jews issued a letter last week protesting the formation of the anti-Zionist committee and singled out Dragunsky's right "to declare in the name of all the Jews who are Soviet citizens that they do not want to leave the USSR."

The letter asked: "How is it, that you have not noticed the 300,000 Jews who, in spite of enormous difficulties, managed to leave the USSR during the last 12 years?" The letter was signed by former Prisoner of Conscience Boris Chernobitsky and his wife, Elena, Viktor Elistratov, Natalia and Gennady Khasin and Evgeny Grechakovsky.

UJA REFORMS ANNOUNCED

JERUSALEM, June 7 (JTA) -- Jewish Agency Treasurer Akiva Levinsky said today that reforms in the way the United Jewish Appeal allocates funds for social needs in Israel is having a positive effect on the Agency's fiscal situation.

He said there were signs that the cumulative deficit is shrinking, and interest payments are smaller. He predicted that the Agency will be able to write off all of its debts within the next five years. (By Gil Sedan)

KOTLOWITZ BELIEVES WEST WILL BE NEW SOURCES OF IMMIGRANTS FOR ISRAEL, PREDICTS 15,000 IN 1983

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) -- Raphael Kotlowitz, head of the immigration and absorption department of the Jewish Agency, predicted here that by the end of 1983 some 15,000 olim from western countries will settle in Israel. He disclosed that in the first four months of this year 3,393 olim came to Israel from the West compared with 2,287 during the same period in 1982.

Speaking with reporters at a press conference last week, Kotlowitz, who returned to Israel after a visit to several South American countries, said that he believes that Israel's new source of immigrants will be from the Western countries since "the gates of Russia are closed" and aliya from "countries of distress" where the Jews are persecuted, such as Iran, is also over for the time being.

He said that in 1981, 7,500 olim came to Israel from the West. Last year the figure rose to 9,200.

"We are entering a new era as far as aliya to Israel is concerned," Kotlowitz declared, claiming that the growing economic hardship in many Western countries and "the realization by Jews that one can live well in Israel" can account for the good prospects for aliya.

4,000 Expected From North America

According to Kotlowitz the largest group will come from the United States. "We expect about 4,000 olim this year from the United States and Canada, about 2,000 from Great Britain, about 2,000 from France, about 4,000 from Central and South American countries and the rest from South Africa and various European countries," Kotlowitz said.

Kotlowitz said that his department is increasing its activities and services to meet the expected increase in the number of olim. These include the increase in the number of shlichim (emissaries), pilot tours in Israel for potential olim and the establishment of an aliya desk at Kennedy International Airport in New York, to provide information to American tourists on aliya to Israel.

NEW CENTER SEEKS TO PROVIDE JEWISH PERSPECTIVE ON PREVENTING NUCLEAR WAR

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) -- The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pa., has announced the opening of its Shalom Center, which it called the first Jewish resource in the world devoted to the study and public discussion of Jewish perspectives on preventing a world nuclear holocaust.

A spokesperson told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Shalom Center was the only such agency connected with any seminary, Christian as well as Jewish, in the United States.

Arthur Waskow, a member of the RCC faculty, was named director of the Shalom Center. He told the JTA that the center has been started with grants of \$25,000 each from the Emet Foundation of Los Angeles and the Levinson Foundation of Brookline, Mass. He said the first year budget for the new center is \$100,000.

Ira Silberman, president of the RCC, said the Shalom Center was gathering studies, books, pamphlets, films, liturgies, policy statements and similar materials for dissemination to the Jewish community. He said the center planned to commission special studies to cover a variety of areas involved in its goal.

He said these included the relevance of Jewish sacred lore and tradition to the issues of possession and use of nuclear weapons; and the impact of the nuclear arms race and of various arms-control approaches to the Soviet Union.

Silberman said another study will seek to determine whether the experience of Soviet Jewry support movements in bypassing Soviet governmental controls to make direct contact with Soviet Jews could be applied to Soviet compliance with arms control pacts.

He said other studies will deal with the economic impact on the American Jewish community stemming from decisions on specific weapons and research contracts, and approaches to conversion of weapons production facilities for civilian purposes.

Silberman said the center was planning religious liturgies on the threat of a nuclear holocaust, as well as a study of proposals for nuclear-free zones in the Middle East.

Training Speakers

Silberman said the Shalom Center is training speakers and organizing speakers bureaus in a number of American cities to provide speakers for Jewish groups on the peril of nuclear disaster and for bringing of Jewish perspectives to general audiences. He said one speakers bureau is already functioning in Philadelphia.

Waskow said the Shalom Center has started to provide speakers for national and other Jewish groups. He said the center, which is housed in the RCC, has made initial contacts for development of speakers bureaus in nine other cities.

Beside Waskow the Shalom Center staff includes a secretary and two staff persons who are currently directing creation of the speakers bureaus. He explained additional staff, like the present two, will be engaged for a particular study on a consultant basis, adding "we do not want to build an empire in the Shalom Center but to stimulate all existing Jewish organizations to do this work."

DOCTORS PLAN NEW TACTIC

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) -- Israeli doctors, now in the fourth month of their strike for higher wages, say they are planning a new tactic to force the government to accept their demands for nearly double income by making it more expensive not to.

The tactic will result in better service to patients but at a heavy cost to the government hospitals at which most of the doctors are employed, the strikers say. The doctors presently treat patients at alternative clinics for a fee of 900 Shekels per visit. They now intend to send most or all of their patients to government hospitals for a battery of tests paid for by the State.

A spokesman for the Medical Association said the plan would be implemented in a few days if negotiations with government representatives remain at an impasse. He said one of the results would be serious overcrowding of the hospitals where the wards are filled to capacity and many patients occupy beds in the corridors. The patients will be receiving more medical attention than they ever had, the doctors contended. The government hospitals are presently manned by about 10 percent of their normal medical staffs.