

KOHL'S VISIT TO ISRAEL IS A CENTER OF CONTROVERSY IN GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 1 (JTA) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Israel has become a center of controversy here and a political issue that will be debated in parliament next week. The object of the visit was to further improve West German-Israel relations which had been severely strained in recent years.

But according to the opposition, Kohl succeeded in renewing friction by his blunt insistence while in Jerusalem that Bonn's promise to sell advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia, a country still technically at war with Israel, is irrevocable.

Kohl's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) is defending the arms deal. The opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) claims that the Chancellor created unnecessary strains in relations with the Israelis.

They say the arms deal with Saudi Arabia, which Kohl stresses was initiated under the SPD government headed by former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, was in fact rejected by the SPD. Therefore, there was no need for Kohl's decision to go ahead with it on grounds that a promise once given cannot be broken, the opposition asserts.

Charge Kohl Created False Expectations

They also charge that Kohl created false expectations by assuring the Israelis that Bonn would protect their interests with the European Economic Community (EEC) and would consult with the U.S. before selling arms to the Saudis. The Israelis are worried about their agricultural exports to Europe after Spain joins the EEC.

Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Jewish community in West Berlin, joined in the criticism of the Chancellor. He said he was shocked by some of the remarks made by Kohl's aides during the Israel visit which he found lacking in tact and constraint.

Even members of the CDU conceded that the intensity of Israel's opposition to the Saudi arms deal was underestimated before Kohl went to Jerusalem. Bonn is waiting for a detailed exposition of the Israeli objections which, top government officials have promised, will receive careful consideration. But according to Kohl's aides, this might influence the scope of the arms sales but will not alter the government's determination to go ahead with the deal.

Saudi Shopping List Received

Government sources have also confirmed that, reports to the contrary notwithstanding, the Saudi shopping list has already been received here, though negotiations over specific items have yet to begin.

Israeli diplomats say there is no question of negotiating with West Germany over which specific items they consider "especially dangerous." Jerusalem is against the deal on moral grounds and that was made perfectly clear to the Chancellor at this meetings with Israeli leaders last week, the diplomats say.

Nevertheless, some newspapers here are speculating that the Israelis will mute their opposition if

they are offered appropriate compensation — meaning German military hardware. The Israelis vigorously deny this but it is assumed that German arms sales to Israel, hitherto embargoed, will go through provided that it is done discreetly and without publicity.

In that event, however, the government will run into a strong opposition from the SPD. Observers say it would be impossible for Kohl to undertake secret arms sales to Israel without prior consultation with the opposition party.

At The Prayer Breakfast In Honor Of Israel: PROCLAMATION BY CHRISTIANS AFFIRMS STRONG BOND BETWEEN U.S. AND ISRAEL
By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA) — Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Meir Rosenne, was guest of honor at the Third National Prayer Breakfast in Honor of Israel here today. He was presented with a proclamation on behalf of the "five million-plus Bible-believing Christians" in America, affirming the strong bonds between the U.S. and Israel.

The event, at the Shoreham Hotel, was sponsored by the Religious Roundtable, headed by E.E. McAteer of Memphis, Tenn. The 4,000 persons attending included many delegates to the annual convention of the National Religious Broadcasters, members of Congress, White House officials, rabbis and Christian clergymen and representatives of major Jewish organizations with headquarters in Washington. The sponsoring group, which has honored Israel at two previous Prayer Breakfasts, claims to be the largest assembly of Christian leaders in the U.S.

Addressing the gathering in a hall decorated with blue and white bunting, Israel's national colors, and Stars of David, Rosenne declared: "If we stand together, it is not because there are strategic interests that are common to the U.S. and Israel. It is because we fight for the same ideals."

He paid tribute to American soldiers who fell in Europe during World War II "who fought exactly the same fight as the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto. If the world is free today, it's thanks to America and those who didn't give up. Whoever thinks you can break our spirit or divide America and Israel doesn't understand anything in modern history."

The proclamation presented to Rosenne re-affirmed America's commitment to Israel's security and urged both the Executive branch and Congress to pursue strategic cooperation with Israel in the interests of peace. It also deplored anti-Semitism as incompatible with the Christian Gospel and urged Middle Eastern nations to renounce terrorism and to embrace the legitimacy of Israel.

Led by four clergymen, the gathering rose to pray for the West German government to revoke its decision to sell arms to Saudi Arabia and for the Congress to vote to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

**FOCUS ON ISSUES
JEWS AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA) — Although 59

percent of American Jews identify themselves as Democrats and only 11 percent as Republicans, as shown by the latest polls, Jewish support for Ronald Reagan both as President and as a candidate for re-election "is roughly in the 20 percent bracket," according to Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee. Thirty percent of Jews say they are independents.

Bookbinder was one of three participants in a roundtable analysis of the issues affecting American Jews in 1984 -- the Presidential elections, U.S. policy toward Israel, the plight of Soviet Jewry, and domestic issues. The others were David Harris, Washington director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and Marc Perl, Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress.

The roundtable, sponsored by B'nai B'rith International, was held shortly before Reagan formally announced he would seek a second term. It was moderated by Warren Eisenberg, director of B'nai B'rith International.

Focus Of The Discussion

The focus of the discussion was how Jews can affect the issues as voters when they comprise only 2.6 percent of the American population and cast only four percent of the vote. Bookbinder noted that the Jewish vote "isn't a 'homogenized' vote because it can be 15 percent in a state like New York which has a great deal of importance for the candidates."

He recalled that in past Presidential elections, the Jewish vote varied sharply from 10 percent for Barry Goldwater in 1964 and Richard Nixon in 1968 and 1972 to 40 percent for Reagan in 1980.

"The battle is on to get the difference between 10 and 40 percent ... This difference can be 'totally critical' in states like New York, Florida, Illinois or California," he said.

Can't Be A Single Issue Constituency

Perl warned that Jews "can't allow ourselves to be a single issue constituency" by voting for lawmakers on the record of their support for Israel alone. "If we fall into that trap, we are going to fall into a political catastrophe for the Jewish community. We are simply going to end up being four percent of the vote and with a four percent of the vote you're not going to get anywhere."

According to Perl, "We need to build coalitions. We need to involve ourselves as Americans in the social fabric of this country. We need to build constituencies that can get 51 percent on issues we care about strongly." In that connection, he said:

"When we work in close cooperation with Blacks and women and Christians for whatever reason, for what might be on our common agenda or their common agenda ... it is with the idea in mind that we will build a sense of relationship and sense of cooperation with the 'majorities' or with the 'rainbow coalition' of minorities that can make up a majority."

Moscow Impervious To Western Pressure

Harris, noting the all-time low in Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union last year, maintained that Moscow "is becoming more impervious to Western pressure ... with this kind of backdrop of declining emigration, increasing repression against Jewish activities and on-going cultural and religious genocide, the question becomes to what extent, if any, has the American Administration been responsible for that decline and to what extent can it help reverse that decline?" he said.

He stressed that the overall relationship of the U.S. with the Soviet Union "will loom large in the minds of the voters, and particularly in the minds of American Jewish voters. Most people seem to believe that the Soviet-American relationship does impact on the issue of Soviet Jewry."

Harris added that "If the Soviets planned the decline in emigration, it was planned in 1978-79 under a Democratic Administration and was continued under the Reagan Administration. There may not be that direct causality between the American Administration and the plight of Soviet Jewry." But, "Others would argue that under the Reagan Administration, the freezing of a relationship, the virtual cut-off of dialogue, the increase in polemics, the rhetoric, have only made it worse for those Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate," Harris stated.

He observed that if Secretary of State George Shultz raises the issue of Soviet Jews in his contacts with Soviet leaders, "why should the Soviets release more Soviet Jews? Why should they do anything to improve the chances of Ronald Reagan being re-elected President of the United States?"

Soviet Jewry Is a Primary Issue

Harris said that Walter Mondale, the current front-runner for the Democratic nomination, and Senators Alan Cranston of California and Gary Hart of Colorado have exemplary records in support of Soviet Jewry. Rev. Jesse Jackson and Reuben Askew "are not so well known to us. And (Sen. Ernest) Hollings (of South Carolina), Sen. (John) Glenn (of Ohio) and (former Sen. George) McGovern (of South Dakota) have a more mixed although generally sympathetic record on Soviet Jewry."

According to Harris, "What we must insure is that we in our Jewish community convey effectively and articulately to our candidates that the issue of Soviet Jewry is indeed a primary issue on our agenda."

Division Across The Political Spectrum

Bookbinder said that "Jews divide across the (political) spectrum ... A recent scientific poll of Jewish attitudes in America showed that 36 percent accept the label 'liberal', 38 percent describe themselves as 'middle-of-the-road' and 23 percent describe themselves as 'conservative'..."

He said, "There is a perception that Jews vote as a bloc and that the Israel issue united all Jews. But even experts disagree on whether their great commitment to Israel has led Jews to a certain kind of voting."

Bookbinder added: "If it's a Reagan-Mondale race in November, it will be a stand-off for most American Jews on the Middle East issue because we will have done our job -- we will have seen to it by then that all candidates will indeed have made commitments to us. Also in all cases, you have incumbents or former incumbents. Both Reagan and Mondale are going to have to suffer or benefit from their mixed records."

LIKUD DEFEATED IN KNESSET VOTE TO HOLD DEBATE ON GOVERNMENT PLANS TO EXPAND JEWISH QUARTER IN HEBRON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The Likud-led coalition suffered an unexpected defeat when the Knesset voted 48-46 today in favor of an opposition motion to hold a full-scale debate on the government's plans to expand the Jewish quarter in Hebron.

Deputy Premier David Levy, speaking for the government, urged the Knesset to drop the motions. He said plans to extend the Jewish quarter into what is presently an open air vegetable market would be

carried out without moving any of the Arab vendors against their will. But Likud MK Drom Seigerman voted with the opposition and former Minister-Without-Portfolio Mordchai Ben-Porat, who has just resigned from the Cabinet, abstained.

An angry dispute broke out, meanwhile, between Labor Alignment dove Yossi Sarid and Geula Cohen, of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party over Jewish acts of violence against Arabs on the West Bank that have gone unpunished.

Sarid maintained that the security authorities know who planted the bombs that maimed two Arab mayors in 1980 but are unable to prosecute the offenders for lack of evidence. He said evidence was lacking because of the non-cooperation of Jewish settlers in the territory and inadequate intelligence in the settlements.

Cohen accused Sarid of defaming the settlers. She said she did not believe Jews were involved in the bombings but added that if Jewish terrorists are found, they should be brought to justice because they "are the enemy of settlements."

U.S. AID TO ISRAEL, EGYPT IN FORM OF GRANTS IS DESCRIBED AS 'A BIG CARROT' PROGRAM

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration's new policy of providing economic and military assistance to Israel and Egypt in the form of grants rather than loans was described by a State Department official as "a big carrot" program for both countries rather than a "big stick" approach.

The economic and military assistance in the foreign aid budget for fiscal 1985, submitted by President Reagan yesterday, amounts to \$2.250 billion for Israel; \$2.170 billion for Egypt; \$117 million for Jordan; \$35.3 million for Lebanon; and \$20 million for Middle East regional development.

The State Department official would not say whether the foreign aid package includes a proposed \$220 million to finance an 8,000-member Jordanian "strike force" to use in emergencies in the Persian Gulf states. The budget will be formally submitted today to Congress. The fiscal year begins October 1.

According to Peter McPherson, administrator of the aid program who participated in a press briefing on the subject, the grant approach is "a good deal" for Israel and Egypt because it eases the debt burden of those friends and allies "who badly need military support but cannot afford to divert extremely limited foreign exchange."

He said this approach would not cost the U.S. too many additional millions of dollars because by the time repayment has been made on the loans, its value will have been diminished by inflation.

ISRAELI OFFICIAL VISITS CHILE TO DEMAND THE EXPULSION OF WAR CRIMINAL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry, has made a surprise visit to Chile to press the Israeli government's request to the government of President Augusto Pinochet to expel Walter Rauff, a Nazi war criminal held responsible for the murder of a quarter million Jews during World War II. Rauff found haven in Chile after the war and has been living there since 1950.

Kimche turned up unannounced in Santiago yesterday. He told reporters today that he had formally communicated his government's request of a week ago. He did not say whether he received a reply and if so, what it was.

An Israeli Embassy spokesman in Santiago was quoted as saying that Kimche arrived on a private visit. The spokesman did not say whether the expulsion of Rauff was the main purpose of the visit. Kimche met with Chile's Foreign Minister Jaime Del Valle.

Israel has been supplying arms and military assistance to the ruling junta in Chile. The country's former Foreign Minister, Miguel Schweitzer, visited Israel last December. The two countries are said to want to expand their commercial ties.

Beate Klarsfeld Arrested, Released In Chile

Meanwhile, Chilean police yesterday arrested Nazi hunter Beate Klarsfeld as she demonstrated outside the Presidential Palace in Santiago for the expulsion of Rauff. The former SS Colonel, now 77, designed the mobile gas chamber trucks in which at least 250,000 Jews were killed before the death camps at Auschwitz, Treblinka and other sites were set up to carry out the "final solution" on a vaster scale.

Klarsfeld, whose activities along with her husband, Serge, over many years helped bring other Nazi war criminals to justice, was fined for disturbing the peace and was released from jail, according to reports from the Chilean capital today. She is said to have been given the choice of signing an undertaking to behave only as a tourist or face expulsion. Klarsfeld refused to sign.

She and six other persons arrested in the demonstration have been ordered to appear in court on February 8. A human rights organization has submitted a writ of habeas corpus to prevent her expulsion from Chile.

Rauff's extradition has long been sought by West Germany. The Chilean Supreme Court rejected a request in 1963. Klarsfeld maintains that Pinochet can expel him as he has expelled thousands of political opponents since his military coup more than 10 years ago.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Dominican Republic's Ambassador to Israel, Dr. Manuel Esteban Rodriguez Femandu, died in the Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba Tuesday. He was 42 years old. The Ambassador died after suffering a stroke last week. He had taken up his duties in Israel last April. The body will be flown home on Friday for burial in the Dominican Republic.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Eighty-eight Jews emigrated from the Soviet Union in January, according to the Soviet Jewry Research Bureau of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). The NCSJ's research arm reported that this continues the downward trend set in 1983.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Local government employees returned to work in municipalities and local councils Wednesday after all-night negotiations which resulted in wage increases of the equivalent of between 45 and 65 dollars for the lowest-paid workers.

MAJOR WORK BY ISRAELI OFFICIAL OF THE WJC ISSUED IN JAPAN

TOKYO, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- A major work on human rights published by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, has been issued in Japanese translation here and its author, a senior Israeli official of the World Jewish Congress, has completed an unprecedented series of lectures on the subject in three Japanese cities.

Dr. Natan Lerner, executive director of the WJC Israel Branch, was invited here on the occasion of the translation into Japanese of his book on the convention against racial discrimination, first published two years ago by the London-based research arm of the WJC, the Institute of Jewish Affairs. Lerner, an international lawyer, is a recognized authority on the international protection of human rights.

The WJC official was the guest of the Buraku Liberation League. The Buraku are the largest minority in Japan and the League was established more than 50 years ago to lead the struggle for their advancement and equality.

Lerner spoke at meetings and receptions -- widely covered by the Japanese media -- in Osaka, Tokyo and Kyoto, attended by prominent personalities from political, economic, religious, and journalistic circles. In Tokyo he delivered formal lectures to the Japanese human rights law group and the staff of the United Nations University.

UJA COLLECTED \$326.5 MILLION IN 1983; SETS NEW RECORD FOR PEACETIME

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal collected \$326.5 million in cash in calendar year 1983 to set a new peacetime record, UJA national cash chairman Bernard Borine announced.

The total, collected among 627 campaigning communities nationwide, is \$1.5 billion more than was projected for the year by American campaign leaders during budget meetings of the Jewish Agency -- the principal beneficiary of UJA/Community campaign -- last February, Borine said.

"Despite difficult economic conditions created by cutbacks in federal and state spending for social welfare programs in communities, American Jewry once again has responded with generosity and compassion to the ongoing needs of the world Jewish family," Borine said. "This remarkable performance demonstrates our enduring commitment to the quality and continuity of Jewish life everywhere it exists."

A total of \$67.9 million has been pledged to the Special Fund to date to help provide additional support for civilian social welfare, education and health programs and services threatened by reductions or curtailment in the economic wake of the Galilee operation. Cash collected in 1983 included \$19 million earmarked for the Israel Special Fund, Borine said.

He stated that the 1983 cash total includes \$283 million for the 1983 Regular Campaign to support Jewish Agency programs for housing, financial aid, health care, job training and Hebrew instruction for Israel's new immigrants; the establishment of rural settlements in the Galilee, Arava and Negev; youth aliyah facilities for the education and care of youngsters who remain outside the mainstream of Israeli society, and special programs for the elderly.

Funds from UJA/Community campaigns also go to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee which aids Jews in more than 30 countries, including Moslem states and lands of distress.

The total also includes \$20.6 million for Project Renewal, the sweeping economic, social and cultural

rehabilitation program created to improve the quality of life in Israel's distressed neighborhoods, Borine added.

Borine said UJA has launched an accelerated cash program in 1984 that aims at collection of unpaid pledges from 1984 and prior Regular Campaigns; fulfillment of commitments to the residents of Project Renewal neighborhoods, and total redemption of unpaid pledges to the Israel Special Fund. In addition, communities are being urged to remit cash to UJA for all allocated needs in equal monthly payments.

BEN ZION BOKSER DEAD AT 77

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser, the spiritual leader of the Forest Hill Jewish Center since 1933, who died Monday after a short illness. He was 77.

An author, teacher and an activist on behalf of many Jewish and Zionist causes, Bokser was born in Poland. He came to the United States with his parents at the age of 13. He graduated from the City University of New York and received MA and Ph.D. degrees in philosophy from Columbia University. He was ordained as a rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1931.

Bokser was the author of a number of books on Judaism, among them, "The Wisdom of the Talmud"; "The World of Cabala"; "The Legacy of Maimonides," and, his most recent book, "Profile of Faith." Bokser taught at the Jewish Theological Seminary for many years and was the teacher of many generations of rabbinical students.

Bokser also served for more than 25 years as program editor of the Eternal Light radio program sponsored by the Seminary.

He played a leading role in mobilizing funds for Israel's economic development through his participation in the Israel Bond Organization program. He was also active on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal.

LEGISLATION URGED TO ENSURE THAT ALL FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN GERMANY BE PRESERVED AS SHRINES

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The Simon Wiesenthal Center at Yeshiva University has urged the chairman of West Germany's five major political parties to press for legislation to ensure that all former concentration camp sites in that country be preserved as national shrines to the victims of the Nazi Holocaust.

Letters, signed by Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Center and Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean, were sent after the West German Ambassador to the United States, Peter Hermes, confirmed to the Center that a portion of the former Neuengamme concentration camp and slave labor center outside of Hamburg was being considered for other purposes.

The letters, dated January 30 -- to coincide with the 51st anniversary of Hitler's rise to power -- stated, in part, that conversion of the Neuengamme camp for other purposes "would send the wrong message at the wrong time ... (to) our youth--tomorrow's leaders -- and give solace to those in Germany and elsewhere who seek to whitewash the unprecedented crimes of the Nazi era."

Last year, the Wiesenthal Center protested to Hamburg city officials over proposed changes at Neuengamme, where over 50 percent of its estimated 106,000 inmates perished between 1938 and 1945.