

Vol. LXII - 67th Year

Wednesday, February 15, 1984

No. 31

ANNUAL REUNION MEETING OF FORMER SS UNIT MEMBERS SPARKS PROTESTS

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Protests are mounting against the annual reunion meeting of former members of the Waffen SS "Totenkopf" (Death's Head) Division, planned for March 30 in the town of Oberaula, State of Hesse.

But while various organizations and trade unions are urging the State Minister of Interior to ban the rally on constitutional grounds, the community of 3,500 seems less disturbed by the prospect of SS veterans in their midst than they are fearful of possible demonstrations by anti-Nazi groups.

The local authorities, members of the ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU), have rented a public hall to the ex-Nazis. Hotel and restaurant owners are looking forward to the influx of 500-odd SS veterans and their families.

They are concerned, however, that their town's image as a tourist resort will be tarnished by protesters. They recall in particular the thousands of people who protested against the meeting of a different group of Waffen SS veterans in the town of Bad Hersfeld last summer.

Can't Keep Anyone From Coming

Dieter Pfalzgraf, chairman of the Oberaula Community Council, told reporters, "There are many who think that they should protest here and make a circus like in Bad Hersfeld. We are not going to introduce controls on who comes to this place.

Fortunately, 100,000 people come here each year and none of them ever resorted to violence. We have no means to keep anyone from coming."

According to "The Volunteer," a magazine published by HIAG, the umbrella organization of former Waffen SS members, the "Waffen SS comrades" met in Oberaula in 1982 and 1983 and were very well received by the local population.

This was borne out by the reply of a 54-year-old resident when a reporter reminded him that the "Totenkopf" Division regularly served in concentration camps during the Nazi era and was assigned to "special missions" against the Jewish population in Eastern Europe. "This does not disturb me particularly. I do not see any problem in their coming here," the man said.

The tolerant attitude toward the SS veterans may stem in part from Chancellor Helmut Kohl's recent description of HIAG as nothing more than a social club for mutual assistance. The members of the "Totenkopf" Division have registered this year as a society of people who want to spend their vacation together in Oberaula. That may have been done to ward off protest demonstrations such as occurred in Bad Hersfeld.

3 NAZI COLLABORATORS GIVEN LIFE SENTENCES RELEASED AFTER 20 YEARS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Three French Nazi collaborators whose death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment by President Charles de Gaulle, have been released after serving 20 year prison terms, the Justice Ministry confirmed today.

The life sentences of Jean Barbier, Jacques Vasseur and Joseph Cortial were reduced to 20 years by de Gaulle's successor, former President Georges Pompidou. A Justice Ministry spokesman said that "after completing their sentences there no was no possible reason to keep them in jail."

Barbier, now 64, was sentenced to death in 1966 for having led the French gestapo faction in Grenoble. He had also been a member of the Waffen SS and served on the Russian front during World War II. He was arrested in 1963 after hiding out for 17 years under a false name. He was released from prison last August.

Vasseur and Cortial, also in their middle-sixties, were originally sentenced to death for serving as gestapo agents. As such, they arrested Jews and resistance fighters for deportation to death camps.

With The Presidents Conference In Israel:

DULZIN: HOPE FOR SOVIET JEWS

By David Friedman

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, expressed the hope last night that the selection of Konstantin Chernenko to succeed Yuri Andropov as head of the Soviet Communist Party will reopen the emigration door for Soviet Jews. (See P. 3 for special analysis.)

"Let's hope that perhaps a new chapter with regard to Jews and the possibility of Jews to leave and come to Israel "will be written," Dulzin told the some 70 persons participating in the four-day mission here of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at a dinner for them which he hosted at the Jerusalem Hilton.

Dulzin based his hope on the fact that Chernenko was "close" to the late Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev. He noted that during Brezhnev's regime some 260,000 Jews left the USSR, of whom 165,000 settled in Israel.

However, whatever happens "we will not give up the struggle," Dulzin declared. He said the World Presidium for Soviet Jewry has scheduled March 7-13 for a worldwide mobilization for Soviet Jewry.

Dulzin said support of Soviet Jewry is one of the three major items on the agenda for world Jewry. The first is to secure the safety and development of the State of Israel, he said. The other "is to keep the Jewish people alive." He noted that no matter what happens in Israel, the Jews here will remain Jews but in the diaspora no one can be certain that their grandchildren will be Jewish.

Dulzin said to prevent this, education and aliya must be stressed. He urged that more children be sent to Israel on the various education programs. He announced a new program to involve communities directly in aliya.

Another suggestion to prevent assimilation was made today by Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir when he addressed the Presidents Conference in an open air meeting at the Citadel of David in the Old City. Noting that only a small percentage of American Jews have ever visited Israel, Sharir said more must be encouraged to come to strengthen their identity with Israel and the Jewish people. He said the majority of people who visit Israel "leave as friends."

**With The Presidents Conference In Israel:
LEVY: ONLY THOSE WHO LIVE IN
ISRAEL CAN MAKE DECISIONS FOR ISRAEL**
By David Friedman

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA) — Deputy Premier David Levy told visiting American Jewish leaders today that the only people who can make decisions for Israel are those who live here.

Speaking in Hebrew at a luncheon to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Levy stressed that while Israel is constantly being criticized it has no other choice but to pursue the policies it is following.

He was critical of the Reagan Administration for not keeping Israel informed on the meetings now going on in Washington between President Reagan and King Hussein of Jordan and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Levy talked about the critical need to close the social gap in Israel. He said while there was an imperative need to improve the economy, there could be no solution which created large-scale unemployment.

Economic Situation Assessed

Earlier, the Presidents Conference heard, in separate sessions, Trade and Industry Minister Gideon Patt and Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai declare that Israel's need to cut their standard of living to improve the economy. Patt said that while Israel's inflation was high, it was not really 200 percent but actually 25-27 percent in dollars.

He said that it is difficult to cut the budget because 28 percent went for defense and 38 percent is allocated to servicing the foreign debt. However, Patt said there was a "good chance" if the present trend of the past few months continues that Israel could cut its annual debt of \$3-4 billion by \$1 billion because of an increase in exports.

Patt argued that in the future Israel must concentrate on high-technology exports because it cannot reduce its unfavorable trade balance by exporting only "pantyhose" and "bathing suits." He said a meeting will be held in May in which representatives of major firms will be brought here to interest them in investing in Israel.

He said he had been told by foreign company heads that they see Israel as a good place to locate their companies because of its "political stability."

Patt stressed to the Americans that while Israel would now be getting all of its military and economic aid from the U.S. as a grant, it returns all this money to the U.S. because it makes all its purchases there.

Tomorrow, the Presidents Conference delegation will meet with Labor Party leader Shimon Peres and then with Defense Minister Moshe Arens and other Defense Ministry officials. They will visit with President Chaim Herzog on Thursday and wind up their visit with a dinner at the Knesset Thursday night which will be addressed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir. (Separate story on Presidents Conference, P. 2.)

JULIUS WEINBERG DEAD AT 61

CLEVELAND, Feb. 14 (JTA) — Julius Weinberg, professor of American history at Cleveland State University and active in Jewish educational activities here as well as in the Jewish Community Federation's community relations activities, died on February 8 at the age of 61.

A graduate of Case Western Reserve University, Weinberg received rabbinic ordination from the Mirrer Yeshiva in New York. He was a religious school administrator before becoming director of the Internal Relations and Culture Commission of the Jewish Community Council of Detroit where he served from 1947 to 1953.

From 1953 to 1962 he served as rabbi and educational director of the Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, Mich. While there, he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in American history at the University of Michigan. He taught at Wayne State University in Detroit and the State University of New York in New Paltz before coming to Cleveland State University in 1965.

Weinberg was a founder, Board member and officer of Jewish educational institutions, including the Cleveland Hebrew Schools, Bureau of Jewish Education, Agnon School, Akiva Hebrew High School, and the College of Jewish Studies. He was a member of the Internal Affairs Committee of the Cleveland Welfare Federation and of American Professors for Peace in the Middle East.

A prolific writer, his works dealt with American history, Soviet Jewish history and Jewish music. At the time of his death, Weinberg was at work on a series of essays dealing with American Jewry from 1945 to the present. An article on "The Jewish Cantor in America" is scheduled for publication soon.

2 SOVIET POC'S FACE MORE PROBLEMS

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (JTA) — Former Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Grigory Goldshtein, a physicist from Tbilisi, may face a new three to five year prison term, according to information obtained by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). Accused of taking advantage of his position at the Central Bureau of Statistics, he was informed that his file was transferred to a local prosecutor. The NCSJ reported today that Goldshtein protested the move with a detailed letter to the First Secretary of the Georgia Republic's Communist Party.

In another development, the NCSJ reported that Iosif Begun, the Hebrew teacher and Jewish activist who was sentenced last October to seven years imprisonment to be followed by five years of internal exile for "anti-Soviet" activities, has been transferred to a "corrective labor camp" in Perm, some 600 miles east of Vladimir where he was serving his prison sentence. No further information is available at this time.

JEWISH AGENCY BUDGET

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA) — The budget of the Jewish Agency for the coming fiscal year will total \$467 million, if proposals by treasurer Akiva Levinsky are approved by the Agency Board of Governors meeting here next week. Agency chairman Leon Dulzin gave the budget proposal breakdown as follows: \$360 million for the regular agency budget; \$48 million for project renewal; and \$59 million for the World Zionist Organization.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A British-born Swedish architect has won the first Wolf Foundation Prize for architecture, it was announced here. Ralph Erskine, born in Britain in 1914 and now a Swedish citizen, won the \$100,000 prize for his "fundamental contribution to contemporary architecture, based on his creative spirit, solving human problems in a highly original formal language."

SPECIAL ANALYSIS THE KREMLIN TRANSITION: WILL IT AFFECT SOVIET JEWRY?

By Dr. William Korey

(Part One Of A Two Part Series)

(Editor's note: Dr. William Korey is the director of policy research of the B'nai B'rith International Council and an expert on Soviet policy and the situation of Soviet Jews.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (JTA) — The death of Yuri Andropov and the accession of Konstantin Chernenko as the top leader of the Soviet Communist Party is unlikely to bring any basic change for the immediate future in policy toward the Soviet Jewish community.

During the course of the past year, it is now clear, basic Communist Party decisions have been largely taken by the Politburo as a collective group and it is more than likely that the forthcoming transitional period will also be marked by the collectivity of decision-making. Each key member of the Politburo represents a crucial and major interest group in Soviet society.

Caution in terms of decision-making and, especially in terms of changes in the existing policy line with respect to most areas is certain to be the prevailing mode. This flows from the collective character of decision-making, the predominantly gerontological feature of the leadership, and the fact that, in the current state of American-Soviet sharp tensions, no one will be inclined to seek a hasty and significant modification of the Party line.

Moreover, it is probable that the entire Party leadership of the Politburo, given its awareness of Andropov's long and terminal illness, carefully considered and very likely planned all possible steps to take account of a variety of changing circumstances. While clashing interests and struggles for power were undoubtedly occurring, they were carefully shielded from public view.

Party Policy Regarding Soviet Jewry

With reference to Soviet Jewry, Party policy as elaborated by the collective leadership under Andropov and, no doubt to be continued for the time being, under Chernenko, the new General Secretary, comprises four areas:

* A veritable shut-down on emigration but with a trickle allowed exodus. The trickle serves a variety of purposes. It is a "demonstration" that the USSR is adhering to the Helsinki accord. It is also a convenient lever to use against refuseniks: "be quiet, and, in due course, you too can emigrate."

* An intensifying clampdown on the study of Hebrew and Jewish history by "ulpanim" or other private and informal means. This is accompanied by modest, largely inconsequential gestures suggesting concessions with respect to culture in Yiddish.

* A serious effort to limit and restrict, although not totally sever, the contacts and relationship between Soviet Jews and Jews of the West. This is being accompanied by an effort, unprecedented in the last several decades, to laud in the press persons with obviously Jewish names who have served "patriotically" or otherwise the Soviet cause.

* A broadening, "anti-Zionist" media campaign with distinctive, though at times blurred, features of anti-Jewish stereo-typing and bigotry. The campaign has been institutionalized, provided official sanction, and given extensive local casting with the creation of the "Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public."

To the extent that the official Soviet policy toward Soviet Jewry is largely a function of the relationship between the USSR and the West, mainly the U.S., with the Jews held, as it were, as hostages to that relationship, no significant alleviation of the Soviet Jewish plight can be expected in the near future. No serious experts on Soviet affairs anticipate any immediate thawing in the current frigidity of the U.S.-USSR relationships.

Still, the new Soviet leader, beyond the immediate transitional stage, may seek to provide his Administration with a more popular base by initiating "peace" gestures or responding to "peace" gestures from the West. Such gestures of responses would evoke strong positive reactions within the Soviet public (and elsewhere).

Under circumstances of a renewed, even if limited, dialogue with the West, particularly in the area of arms (especially nuclear arms) control, an improvement in the condition of Soviet Jewry, most notably with respect to emigration, should and would not be excluded.

In this respect, Chernenko's most recent statement on East-West relations, which appears in an introduction to a newly-published translation of his speeches and articles, is encouraging. He wrote that "we are in favor of active and fruitful dialogue with nations living under different social systems than ours, the United States and Britain in particular." Chernenko added that it was "more important than ever" to intensify efforts for mutual understanding with the U.S.

Chernenko's Views On Emigration

Of the entire 12-man top Soviet leadership, only Chernenko, the 73-year-old former principal aide to Leonid Brezhnev, has expressed himself publicly on the subject of emigration. For a time, submerged by Andropov, he re-couped much of his powers with the worsening illness of the former and now enjoys eminence as the dominant "Old Guard" figure. Thus, his views have considerable pertinence.

These can be gleaned from an excerpt from Chernenko's book, "Human Rights in Soviet Society," published in 1981 by Novosti:

"As for emigration, the relevant Soviet legislation and rules are fully in accord with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which says, among other things, that the right to go abroad may be limited in certain cases where it is necessary 'to protect national security, public order, public health or morals or the rights and freedom of others.' In some cases, the permission to emigrate may be postponed until the applicant's close relatives have settled their affairs, including material matters."

"A decision on the application for permission to emigrate may be postponed in the case of persons possessing state secrets or those who have recently undergone training in important military fields. Upon the expiration of the established time limit for secrecy, the application for emigration is reconsidered. We have no other causes for not allowing emigration."

Avoids A Totally Negative Response

While narrow and restrictive in its interpretation of international human rights and law, it nonetheless, on an overall basis, avoids a totally negative response to the issue of emigration rights. Even as Brezhnev took special pride in the Helsinki Final Act without, however, giving any focus to its "reunion of families" features, so, too, can it be expected that Chernenko, like his late protector, and unlike Andropov, will give at least lip service to the Helsinki accord. Indeed, in the above-mentioned work, Chernenko makes favorable reference to Helsinki.

Like Brezhnev, too, the new General Secretary, chose in his "human rights" work, to denounce anti-Semitism as a "nationalistic aberration" which is "alien to socialism." Brezhnev had condemned anti-Semitism in this manner, extremely rare for a Party leader, at the 26th Party Congress in February, 1981. The condemnation had no doubt been a response to the sharp criticism to which the USSR had been subjected in the area of anti-Semitism at the Madrid Conference of Helsinki signatories.

Brezhnev may also have been fearful about the upsurge of especially virulent anti-Jewish propaganda and activity within the USSR which could produce unmanageable and dangerous consequences. On the other hand, Chernenko coupled Zionism with anti-Semitism as a "nationalistic aberration" (as Brezhnev had also done), which only serves to encourage the bigot who masquerades his Jew-baiting within an anti-Zionist framework. Nonetheless, the overall intent of the Chernenko warning is to discourage particularly virulent or poisonous outbursts of anti-Semitism.

(Tomorrow: Part Two)

Reagan, Hussein, Mubarak Concur:
MIDEAST CONFLICT MUST BE RESOLVED
BY NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING EXCHANGE
OF TERRITORY FOR PEACE
By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- President Reagan, King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt emerged from a luncheon meeting at the White House today with Reagan declaring that the Middle East conflict "must be resolved by negotiations involving an exchange of territory for peace." In addition, Mubarak urged the United States to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization through Yasir Arafat; and Hussein expressed his appreciation for the three-way talks today and his own private meeting with Reagan yesterday.

A senior Administration official who summed up the talks later, stressed, however, that there had been no breakthrough. "No decisions were taken and no new plans were made--that was not the purpose of the meeting," he said.

The official also dissociated Reagan from Mubarak's call for a U.S. dialogue with the PLO, observing that "You can't control statements by a departing chief of state and you certainly don't endorse it by standing there."

He reaffirmed that the U.S. stands by Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 as the framework for Middle East peace and declared, "We have no intention of negotiating with the PLO."

The official said that Reagan had assured his guests that he will not "shy away from the peace process during this election year ... He (the President) made clear the need for moving forward." The official refused to elaborate, however, on Reagan's remark about exchanging territory for peace.

In his remarks to the press after the luncheon meeting which lasted well over an hour, Reagan said he and his guests had "discussed in detail the opportunities for progress in the Middle East." He stressed his September 1, 1982 peace initiative as the best means toward progress and blamed the situation in Lebanon on "outside forces."

Mubarak had the most to say to reporters at the White House. He maintained that the key to a solution in Lebanon is "the prompt and unconditional with-

drawal of Israeli forces" from that country. He held Israel's invasion of Lebanon to be "the cause of the problem" and warned that the partition of Lebanon "must be prevented at any cost." He suggested an expanded and re-enforced peace-keeping role for the United Nations in Lebanon. He also insisted that the Palestinian problem must be addressed "without delay."

Mubarak, who met with Arafat in Cairo last December after the PLO chief was ousted from Lebanon by Syrian-backed Palestinian dissidents, told Reagan, "The Palestinian people are entitled to your support and understanding. There is no substitute for a direct dialogue with them through their chosen representatives, the PLO."

He suggested that the dialogue be held with Arafat whom he described as "a responsible leader who has demonstrated tremendous courage under the most difficult circumstances."

Hussein said after the meeting that he "carries back the impression that Egypt and the U.S. are willing to contribute their full share in the search for peace."

The senior Administration official described the three-way talks today as "very lively and animated... an airing of concerns and views about the need to renew the focus in the Middle East." He said the purpose of the meeting had been to discuss where the situation in the region as a whole and in Lebanon stands today and what can be done to reactivate the peace process.

The official said the three leaders had agreed on the need to broaden peace negotiations to include Jordan and that Hussein is "looking for a framework to enter the negotiations."

MAN WHO COLLABORATED WITH BARBIE
HAS BEEN GETTING A RESISTANCE
PENSION FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- A collaborator with Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie has been receiving a Dutch resistance pension of 100,000 Guilders (about \$33,000) a year for the past 10 years, it was disclosed here.

The disclosure has prompted a further investigation into the wartime activities of Guillaume Meertens and a decision by the pension authority to suspend payment pending its outcome. Meertens, who lives in Spain, is believed to have collected over one million Guilders to date. He may be forced to refund the amount if it is proven that he deliberately misled the pension fund.

The pension came to light in the course of an examination of Barbie's activities in Nazi-occupied Holland during World War II, before he was transferred by the gestapo to Lyon, France. He is now awaiting trial there for crimes against humanity. The examination was conducted by Paul Brillman, special prosecutor investigating war criminals in Holland.

Meertens was arrested by the Germans in the early days of the occupation for anti-Nazi activities. While in prison at Scheveningen he agreed to work for his captors. He was released and, for about a year thereafter, supplied Barbie with information about Dutch resistance groups. After the war he apparently convinced the authorities that he had been a member of the resistance.