

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION SAID TO BE PURSUING THE 'RIGHT COURSE' IN THE EFFORT TO HELP SOVIET JEWRY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA) — Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said today that the Reagan Administration is pursuing the "right course" in the effort to help the Jews of the Soviet Union.

"It is an issue which I think the Administration is concerned about and is pushing," Abram said after a dozen national Jewish leaders met with Secretary of State George Shultz for an hour at the State Department. "I wish some of the Western allies were equally as vigilant on behalf of this international human right."

Abram said the purpose of today's meeting was to follow up the one held before the recent European Security Conference in Stockholm and to urge upon Shultz "a continued perseverance and determination on behalf of the rescue of Soviet Jews."

Three Major Issues Raised

Three major issues in connection with Soviet Jewry were raised. The first was a lack of emigration. Abram noted that there are at least 350,000 Jews who want to leave the USSR.

He said the second issue was to "protest anti-Semitism which is rampant still in the Soviet Union." The Jewish leaders also protested "the use by the Soviet Union and its allies of the United Nations as a megaphone to broadcast anti-Semitism throughout the world," Abram said. "The Soviet Union is unfortunately the only great power since Hitler to use anti-Semitism as an instrument of national policy."

Abram said Shultz "is totally committed to the rescue of Soviet Jewry and we think that he is on the right course which is the course of determination and the course of perseverance."

Shultz Disappointed With Low Emigration Rate

Shultz "expressed disappointment that the trickle of Jews that are leaving the Soviet Union is still a mere trickle," according to Abram. "He is not able to say when it will increase, but like ourselves, he is confident that he is on the right course and that eventually there will be an amelioration of the circumstances that presently exist."

Abram stressed that Israel can only protest the situation. He noted that Shultz has brought up the issue of Soviet Jewry in all of his meetings with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and has instructed his ambassadors to raise the issue in their meetings with Soviet officials, not as a "throw away item," but as a "front-burner issue."

Abram expressed the hope that Konstantin Chernenko, the new Soviet leader, might allow emigration to increase because of his closeness to the late Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, under whose regime more than 250,000 Jews left the USSR.

A similar hope was expressed by Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Exec-

tives, shortly after Chernenko was named Communist Party Secretary. But Abram emphasized that this was only a hope and there was as yet no facts to substantiate it.

Shultz Given Eight Recommendations

Lynn Singer, president of the Union of Council for Soviet Jews, gave Shultz a list of eight recommendations on actions he might follow. They included urging the Administration to condemn "the recent incidents by tourist harassment in the USSR" and the "virulent anti-Semitism sanctioned" by the Kremlin.

Singer also urged the Administration to reopen negotiations to establish a U.S. Consulate in Kiev, to take action to mark the eighth anniversary of Anatoly Shcharansky's arrest on March 15, to "continue to upgrade the content and technical quality of the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty," and to "press the Soviets to allow family visits, correspondence and medical treatment to Soviet Prisoners of Conscience."

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OAS SAYS ISRAEL AND THE U.S. HAVE MUTUAL INTERESTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA) — Ambassador William Middendorf, the United States representative to the Organization of American States (OAS), maintained here yesterday that the U.S. and Israel have mutual strategic interests in Central America.

Addressing a luncheon sponsored by the Center for International Security, a Washington-based non-partisan organization headed by Dr. Joseph Churba, Middendorf said: "Soviet-prompted activities, coupled with the current instability in Central America, have the potential for causing a diversion of resources needed to contain the USSR in the Eurasian theater and to weaken our response to Soviet proxies in the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere."

He said the Soviets have promoted violence in Central America and the Mideast "through a network of surrogates and terrorists. For this reason, the Jewish community and Americans in general need to devote careful attention to Central America which, like the Mideast, is vital to our national security."

Middendorf noted that in Central America today a battle is being waged by "atheistic Communism to destroy our Judeo-Christian civilization." He said that Communism in Central America is facing opposition from religious people — and therefore the church is often Communism's target. He cited Nicaragua as an example, stating:

"Among the most out spoken anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua have been some of the churches and clergy in that country ... The Sandinistas have made the religious institutions of their country a principal target of their activity and propaganda."

The Fate Of Jews In Nicaragua

Referring to the fate of the Jews in Nicaragua he said: "The small Jewish community in Nicaragua has been so intimidated by Sandinista actions and rhetoric during and after the revolution that virtually the entire community has fled the country. Today, no more than

a half dozen of a community that numbered about 50 in 1979 remain in the country. In 1978, five Sandinista guerrillas attempted to set fire to the door of the Jewish synagogue, along with the private property of many prominent Jews. The government then permitted a Sandinista organization to use the building as its headquarters.

"More recently, when the issue of the confiscated synagogue received considerable publicity in the United States, the Sandinistas offered to return the synagogue, but the few remaining Jews in Nicaragua have stated that they do not have the resources to maintain it properly. The government has not offered to reconsider the expropriation of property owned by Jews."

Cites Nicaragua Anti-Israel Position

Middendorf also pointed out Nicaragua's anti-Israel position and its close relations with the PLO. He said that the Sandinistas allow the PLO to maintain an office in Managua. "The PLO provided military training to the Sandinistas even before they overthrew the Somoza government in 1979," the Ambassador noted.

Noting that Nicaragua broke diplomatic relations with Israel in 1982 over the Lebanese war, Middendorf said: "The Sandinista-inspired press has long been filled with anti-Israel attacks which, in the summer of 1982, became openly anti-Semitic. Articles accused Jews of having crucified Christ, of having used the 'myth of the chosen people to massacre Palestinians', and of having financial power to gain political control of the United States. They referred to 'synagogues of Satan' and said that 'world money, banking and finance are in the hands of Jews, the eternal protectors of Zion'."

FALWELL SEEKS TO ALLEVIATE CONCERN AMONG JEWS ABOUT REASONS FOR FUNDAMENTALISTS' SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA) — The Rev. Jerry Falwell, president of the Moral Majority, sought to alleviate concern within the Jewish community that Christian Fundamentalist support for the State of Israel may be based on efforts to have the Jewish people return to Israel for en masse conversion.

"While I do believe in the imminent return of Christ, I do not believe that there is anything in relation to the Jewish people of the State of Israel that must yet occur in order for the messiah to come," Falwell told some 200 persons at the Theodor Herzl Institute last night. "So the devotion of most Christians to the State of Israel is not tied to that."

Falwell also distanced himself from Christian groups whose primary activity is to proselytize Jews and to engage in missionary activity. He described the Moral Majority as a "political organization" and said his group does not provide any financial support to these groups.

While acknowledging that his mission is "to preach the Gospel," Falwell said the Moral Majority, "is not singling out or zeroing in on any segment of the population, and that includes the Jewish people." He said he is an advocate of "religious freedoms everywhere," and called on Israel to "go the extra mile in the area of religious liberty."

"To ask conservative Christians to reject what they feel is part of their responsibilities to their belief, is unrealistic," Falwell said. "No, we do not support Jews for Jesus. Yes, we do want to evangelize the world. No, we're not zeroing in on anybody."

Falwell, who was warmly received by the audience, was speaking on his "perspective of U.S.-Israel relations." He himself brought up the topic involving the reason for Christian fundamentalist support for Israel, and this issue was also raised during a brief question and answer period.

Falwell reiterated his well-known strong support for Israel, saying, "I would think that every American should be totally committed to the welfare of the State of Israel." He said he and the Moral Majority support the bill now in Congress which calls on the Reagan Administration to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

He called U.S. policy in Lebanon an "embarrassment" and said the U.S. should never have interrupted the Israeli "liberation" of Lebanon from Syrian and Palestine Liberation Organization "slavery." According to Falwell, the Israeli invasion was "surgical" in its implementation.

Falwell said that among Israel's best friends in the U.S. are "bible-believing conservative Christians." He added: "The time has come for Israel to recognize who her friends are, who her enemies are and who can be counted on in crisis."

Speaking with reporters before addressing the Institute, Falwell described the Palestinians as a "genuinely suffering people." But he asked why Israel is being asked to solve the Palestinian problem and suggested that Jordan is a Palestinian state. He also rejected the idea that Israel should relinquish the West Bank, saying it would be a fatal mistake.

FORMER KKK MEMBER INDICTED FOR BOMBING A SYNAGOGUE

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. Feb. 8 (JTA) — A former member of the Ku Klux Klan, a suspect in at least 13 homicides in seven states, Joseph Paul Franklin, was indicted yesterday for the bombing of a Chattanooga synagogue on July 29, 1977.

Franklin, 33, has been serving a life sentence in the federal penitentiary in Marion, Ill. since 1982 for the sniper slaying in August, 1980 of two Black youths who were jogging with two white girls in Salt Lake City.

Douglas Fisher, a Chattanooga police spokesman, said Franklin had confessed the Chattanooga synagogue bombing, telling police he came to Chattanooga "to kill Jews."

No one was killed in that explosion, which razed the Beth Shalom synagogue. Fisher said Franklin told him he had hoped to blow up the congregation but when only eight Jews showed up for the service, it was cancelled.

An early adherent of the American Nazi Party, Franklin wore armbands with swastikas. In 1970, he joined other American Nazis in picketing the White House when Israel's then Prime Minister, Golda Meir, visited Washington.

TWO ORTHODOX JEWS REMANDED ON SUSPICION OF GRAVE ROBBERING By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 8 (JTA) — Two Orthodox Jews from Rishon LeZion have been remanded in custody for 15 days on suspicion of grave robbing.

A Rehovoth magistrate's court identified them today as David Aronfeld, 34, a driver and gravedigger employed by the Hevra Kadisha Burial Society in Rishon LeZion and Meir Agassi, who works in the religious township of Bnei Brak. Police are continuing their investigation to determine whether other persons were implicated.

Aronfeld and Agassi are suspected of having illegally removed the skeleton of Teresa Engelovitz from her grave in the Rishon LeZion Jewish cemetery last Thursday and transporting it in Agassi's truck to Ramle. The skeleton of a woman, positively identified by police forensic experts as Engelovitz, was found Sunday discarded in a Moslem cemetery in Ramle. The remains were re-buried in the original grave Tuesday by order of the Supreme Court.

The case has stirred a conflict between civil and religious authorities. The local rabbinate in Rishon LeZion ordered Engelovitz's body exhumed several months after the deceased was buried a year ago on grounds that she had not been converted to Judaism in her native Rumania according to strict Orthodox practice. A court injunction prevented the rabbinate's order from being carried out.

After the skeleton was identified, Israel's Chief Rabbis and the local rabbinate deplored the apparent grave robbery but insisted that the remains could not be re-buried in the Jewish cemetery. The Supreme Court overruled their objections.

FOUR ACCUSED OF AMBUSHING ARAB BUS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO SEE THEIR LAWYER WHILE IN CUSTODY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court today rejected an appeal by four men suspected of ambushing an Arab bus that they be allowed to see their lawyer while in police custody.

The men were remanded Tuesday by a Jerusalem magistrate who denied them the right to confer with counsel at the request of police. Such requests are rare and the presiding judge must be thoroughly satisfied that it is justified before endorsing it.

The suspects are believed to be the masked gunmen who opened fire on a bus carrying Arab day laborers from the West Bank to their jobs in Israel early last Sunday morning. Six of the 18 passengers were wounded, one seriously.

Their lawyer, Meir Schechter, appealed the decision which was ruled on in closed session by a three justice panel headed by Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar. Schechter was engaged to defend the suspects by Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the militant anti-Arab "Kach" movement.

Appeal Filed In Another Case

A similar appeal has been filed on behalf of three men remanded in custody yesterday as suspects in an unsuccessful attempt to plant explosives on the Temple Mount, site of two major Islamic shrines in East Jerusalem, last January. They too have been denied access to counsel while their appeal is pending.

Two of the three suspects were identified as members of a messianic Jewish sect living in the abandoned Arab village of Lifta on the western outskirts of Jerusalem. The suspects have been cooperating with police.

A search of Lifta yielded a large weapons cache including 107 hand grenades, 80 loaded magazines for automatic weapons, two mines, eight fuses, six bazooka shells and several dozen kilograms of high explosives, fuses, wires and detonators. All of the material is Israel army issue.

CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA) -- Charges have been dropped against four demonstrators who were arrested in January for staging a sit-in at the West

German Consulate General here to protest planned arms sales by Bonn to Saudi Arabia. The charges of criminal trespass against the four were dismissed in the New York City Criminal Court.

The four -- Rabbi Avraham Weiss, of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, Father Bruce Bramlett, Rector of St. Marks Episcopal Church in Teaneck, N.J., and Dan Posner and Bernie Glickman -- participated in the peaceful sit-in which coincided with the arrival in Israel of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The sit-in was organized by Americans for a Safe Israel.

In a statement after the charges were dismissed, Weiss said: "We are thankful for the judge's decision. The real criminal is the German government, which is prepared to sell arms to a country whose avowed aim is the destruction of Israel. Tragically, the Germany of yesterday is resurfacing today, and the German government's actions evoke remembrances of things past."

HOLLAND WILL NOT PROSECUTE BARBIE

AMSTERDAM, March 8 (JTA) -- The Netherlands government will not prosecute Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie who was active in the gestapo in Germany occupied Holland in 1940-41, Justice Minister Korthals Altes told Parliament yesterday.

Replying to questions, Altes said there was insufficient evidence to bring war crimes charges against Barbie. He is known to have worked for the SS in The Hague and in Amsterdam during the latter part of 1940 and the first six months of 1941, before he was posted to France where he became gestapo chief in Lyon.

Barbie, known as the "butcher of Lyon," was turned over to France by Bolivian authorities early last year and is awaiting trial in Lyon for crimes against humanity. The Netherlands State Institute for War Documentation says it has investigated his activities in occupied Holland but found no evidence of war crimes for which he could be tried owing to the statute of limitations.

JOINT JORDAN-PLO GROUP FINANCING ARAB ENTERPRISES ON THE WEST BANK

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA) -- A joint committee of Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization is financing Arab home building on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem and supplies capital for Arab universities and other enterprises in the territories, according to a report in the newsletter of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.

The report, written by Hillel Frisch, contends that Arabs building homes in or near Jerusalem can obtain mortgages of between \$21,000-\$30,000 on favorable terms from the joint committee. The PLO also funds Bir Zeit and A-Najah universities on the West Bank, the latter in Nablus and finances the pro-PLO Arabic newspapers Al Fajr and A-Shaab in East Jerusalem, Frisch reported.

He said this activity represents the Arab policy of "sumud", a word which translates roughly to "steadfastness," in contrast to the policy of mass flight adopted by Palestinian Arabs in 1948 and 1967. The purpose of "sumud," according to Frisch, is the infusion of Arab capital into the occupied territories to achieve Palestinian political goals.

The policy was endorsed at the Arab summit meeting in Baghdad in 1979 which called for the injection of some \$150 million annually into the territories, Frisch wrote.

BAYLOR COLLEGE FOUND GUILTY OF RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS

By Arnold Rosenzweig

(Editor's note: Arnold Rosenzweig is a staff writer for the Jewish Herald-Voice of Houston, Texas.)

HOUSTON, March 8 (JTA) -- Two Jewish cardiovascular anesthesiologists have been vindicated in their suit that accused Baylor College of Medicine here of unlawfully discriminating against them by not allowing them to participate in the Baylor rotation to the King Faisal Hospital in Saudi Arabia.

U.S. District Court Judge James DeAnda, who ruled Tuesday in the case, found intentional discrimination on the basis of religion. The two doctors were identified as Lawrence Abrams and Stuart Linde.

In his findings, the judge ordered a permanent injunction prohibiting Baylor from discrimination on the basis of religion. "We must thereby permanently enjoin the defendant from excluding qualified Jews from the King Faisal rotation program," DeAnda ruled.

He also awarded back pay to both doctors to compensate for the difference in wages received as members of the Baylor staff as opposed to what they would have received if they had been permitted to participate in the King Faisal program. The total amount of awards to Abrams was \$156,840.30. The awards to Linde totalled \$248,982.08.

Significance Of The Suit

The consolidated cases, decided Tuesday, were brought under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibits religious discrimination in employment, and were also brought under provisions of the Export Administration Act. Violations of both Title VII and the anti-boycott provisions of the Export Administration Act were found.

Commenting on the case, Stuart Nelkin, attorney for the two doctors, declared: "I am elated with the decision, not only for my clients, but also because I believe this decision is much bigger than the individual plaintiffs. It affects American Jews everywhere in this country, and I hope it is a precedent for continued policing of discriminatory actions by employers and suppliers adhering to the Arab boycott."

DeAnda's findings noted that the objective criteria established by Baylor for participation in the program regarding anesthesiologists are that: the person must be a member of the Baylor Department of Anesthesiology faculty; and that the person must be certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology or hold an equivalent foreign certification recognized by the Board.

Some Of The Court's Findings

According to DeAnda, "The evidence clearly established that both plaintiffs met the objective criteria set forth immediately above during times material to this lawsuit." The judge also stated, "The evidence shows that no qualified medical personnel employed by Baylor who were Jews have been afforded any rotation in the King Faisal program" since its inception in 1978.

The findings added that, "as was true of Dr. Abrams, the sole reason for Dr. Linde's nonparticipation in the program is because Baylor administrators made it clear that Jews could not participate in the rotation. The court finds that Baylor has not established any bona fide justification for excluding Jews from the King Faisal program. These exclusionary prac-

tices were undertaken unilaterally by Baylor's administrative officials.

"There is no evidence to show that Baylor officials took any appropriate steps to determine the actual policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward Jews participating in the program. Moreover, Baylor took no steps to alleviate or rectify the effects of any perceived discriminatory practices and policies on the part of the Saudis."

Intentional Bias Against Jews Cited

Continuing, the judge found that "The ready acquiescence of Baylor officials in furthering the perceived Saudi exclusion of Jews is in stark contrast to the nondiscriminatory policies which were implemented by two other institutions engaged in programs similar to the King Faisal rotations."

DeAnda noted that officials of the University of Colorado Medical School and the University of Washington Medical School "insisted that nondiscrimination clauses be included in the agreements they entered into with the Saudis and that those clauses would be enforced. There is no reason to conclude that Baylor would have been unable to achieve the same results if it had only attempted to do so."

The court found that "the discrimination against Jews was intentional, and that there was indifference and insensitivity on the part of the Baylor officials who actually administered the King Faisal program regarding the issue of whether Jews could participate in that program."

REUNION OF SS VETERANS BANNED

BONN, March 8 (JTA) -- A reunion of Nazi SS veterans in Bad Harzburg was banned by the town manager, Horst Voigt yesterday on grounds that the gathering, scheduled for May 17-20, would endanger "public security and order." The ban was approved by the town council.

Voigt told reporters that "violence and confrontations were feared" if the many anti-Nazi groups in West Germany which have protested the reunion carried out their plans for counter-demonstrations. He said the ban was also intended to protect the town's "ideals" and avoid "material damages" to the community.

About 800 former members of the Hitler Youth and Adolf Hitler Waffen SS divisions and their families were planning to attend the reunion which was to be disguised as a meeting of "economic experts," town officials said.

The action in Bad Harzburg was in contrast to that of the town of Oberaula, in Hesse, where the local authorities rented a public hall for the upcoming reunion of veterans of the SS "Totenkopf" (Deaths Head) division in face of widespread protests. The various SS veterans groups operate under an umbrella organization HIAG, which the Bonn government has refused to outlaw despite a constitutional ban on all successor organizations to the SS and SA.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- About 5,000 nurses and some 20,000 service and administrative personnel continued their strike against the Health Ministry for the second day Thursday forcing 32 government hospitals and district health centers to operate on a reduced (Sabbath) schedule and in some instances with even smaller staffs.