

ANTI-SEMITISM IN ROMANIA

By Edwin Eytan

ZURICH, March 27 (JTA) — Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Romania confirmed yesterday that certain press and literary circles in his country have launched an anti-Semitic campaign. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "the situation in Romania is serious" and expressed the hope that President Nicolae Ceausescu will intervene before the situation gets out of hand.

Rosen, who has been a member of the Romanian Parliament for 27 years, paid tribute to Ceausescu and said he presumed that the President was not fully aware of what was going on. The Chief Rabbi returned from a three-month trip to Israel on March 7 and said he found most of Romania's 29,000 Jews scared, some actually panicky, about recent anti-Semitic publications.

Rosen told the JTA that before this departure for Switzerland a few days ago, he filed a legal complaint with the chief Romanian Army Prosecutor charging the authors of the anti-Semitic slurs with incitement to racial hatred, spreading anti-Semitic propaganda and fascist activities. All of these are considered crimes under the country's criminal code which specifies that the Army Prosecutor is responsible for investigations relating to fascist crimes or activities.

Anti-Semitic articles have appeared over the last few months in a number of papers, including *Scanteia Tineretului*, the Romanian equivalent of the Soviet Union's *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, as well as in the local Bucharest paper published by the Communist Party.

The Worst Of The Attacks

The worst of the attacks appeared in a book of nationalist poems by Corneliu Valerian Tudor. The book, which appeared last December and has been widely distributed, contained material reminiscent of the worst war-time anti-Semitic literature. The material in the book said that Jews were "cursed" for being "thieves and corruptors, people with no conscience and no sense of loyalty, who have no patriotic links whatsoever to their country and only think of how to exploit it."

Valerian Tudor, who has a long anti-Semitic history, does not seem to have been disciplined for his racist attacks and continues to publish articles in various local publications. The editor who dealt with his work at the state-controlled publishing firm which issued the book has been reprimanded and had her salary reduced for three months as an administrative sanction.

Rosen said he was certain that Ceausescu was not aware of what was going on in certain anti-Semitic circles. He pointed out that Romania's official attitude toward its Jewish citizens remains unchanged. He cited, as an example, the fact that the Jewish community choir which came to Switzerland to help launch the United Jewish Appeal campaign there did not encounter any problem obtaining exit visas and all the necessary authorization for their travel.

(In New York City, Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, sent a cable to Ceausescu expressing "grave concern" over the anti-Semitic campaign and stated that "We are sure that your intervention will achieve the cessation of such shocking events." Bronfman also sent a cable to Rosen assuring him that "we shall continue to give you our moral support in every way as in the past." Rosen is a member of the WJC Governing Board.)

(Elan Steinberg, director of the WJC-American Section, said that Bronfman decided to approach Ceausescu when it became clear that a series of contacts with lower government officials had failed to stem the outpouring of anti-Semitic material. Steinberg disclosed that the WJC has been holding discussions with American government officials on the problem.)

SHAMIR AND PERES FAIL TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AN ELECTION DATE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 27 (JTA) — Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres failed, after a long meeting tonight, to reach agreement on an election date. They are scheduled to meet again tomorrow morning.

Peres told reporters that both sides remained "entrenched" in their positions. He said Labor wants "a short campaign of 90 days" with elections in May. Likud is holding out for a fall date. But according to Peres, there is "a marked tendency on both sides" to reach a compromise. Political observers took this as a hint that agreement may yet emerge and that elections will be held late in June or early in July.

Present law requires 100 days to elapse between the time the Knesset dissolves itself and election day. The law is subject to change. The Knesset approved Labor's early elections bill last Thursday and sent it to the Legal Committee to be prepared for the required three readings before the Knesset plenum and final action.

Bid To Extend Knesset Session Fails

Labor urged that the present Knesset session be extended for one week to expedite the process. But Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor decided to adjourn the Knesset tomorrow as scheduled for its Passover recess.

The Knesset can be convened during a recess either by the government or on a motion supported by at least 30 members. Moshe Shahal, chairman of the Labor Alignment Knesset faction, said today that Labor would resort to that device if action on the bill appears to be lagging.

Savidor promised today that he would tolerate no foot-dragging and would personally chair the Legal Committee if necessary to expedite work on the bill.

NAVON: MOST IMPORTANT NATIONAL TASK IS TO UNSEAT LIKUD GOVERNMENT
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 27 (JTA) — Former President Yitzhak Navon said today that the most important national task at the moment is to unseat the Likud government. But he was non-committal as to what role

he might play to further that objective. Navon cut short a visit to the United States and Canada when Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres urged him to return home in telephone call after the Knesset approved an early elections bill last Thursday. Peres said to want Navon to take an active part in the upcoming election campaign. Some of Navon's backers in the Knesset are promoting the popular ex-President as the next Prime Minister in the event of a Labor victory.

Navon told reporters today that he has not decided yet how he would fit himself into the political scene. He said he would consult with his Labor Party colleagues as soon as possible to see how this could best be done.

He stressed, however, that leadership of the Labor Party is not an objective in itself nor is his own position an issue. The overriding need is to oust Likud, he said. He accused the government of polarizing Israeli society.

Worried About 'Serious And Bitter Things'

"What worries me at present is what has been happening here in recent years — serious and bitter things — the deepening of internal hatreds between the Oriental and Ashkenazi communities, between the development towns and the kibbutzim, between the Orthodox and the secular elements, between the parties," said Navon who is himself Sephardic.

He said he would not now "go into details of the economic and political situation and the war in Lebanon. I think there is an urgent national need to change the government. Everything else is secondary to that objective."

Navon did not claim to know the best way to defeat Likud in the next elections. "We shall have to meet, to talk it over. We have to find the best way to do it together, reaching agreement amongst ourselves," he said.

Navon may have been referring to the internal strife within the Labor Party, notably the bitter rivalry between Peres and former Premier Yitzhak Rabin. He implied that an internal leadership struggle must be avoided at all costs if Labor is to win a victory at the polls.

CARTER CHARGES THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE CAMP DAVID PROCESS

DALLAS, March 27 (JTA) — Former President Jimmy Carter charged on the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Israel-Egypt peace treaty that the Reagan Administration has failed to move ahead with the Camp David process for a broader peace in the Middle East.

"I think we've not only not made progress in the Mideast, there's been a retrogression in prospects for peace in the region," Carter told reporters at a news conference yesterday during a visit to Southern Methodist University.

He called for "an American initiative at the top level" by either President Reagan or Secretary of State George Shultz to bring about a thaw in the chilly relations which have developed between Israel and Egypt since the outbreak of the war in Lebanon in June, 1982.

But while the former President was critical of the Mideast policies of the Reagan Administration, Carter said he was glad that the peace treaty which he was helpful in molding has survived three serious challenges in the past few years.

"Probably the most severe was the requirement that Israel withdraw from the Sinai and dismantle the settlements," he said. "The next serious was (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat's death and his replacement by (Hosni) Mubarak. And a third severe test was the Israeli invasion of Lebanon."

But Carter said he did not see any prospects for a broader peace in the region in the immediate future. He described the U.S. role in Lebanon as a total failure which has strengthened Syrian influence "and therefore the Soviet Union's influence in the region."

The former President said the U.S. has become an unreliable partner, partially due to the strategic agreements signed with Israel which has taken the U.S. out of the role of an unbiased negotiator and mediator. Carter said he did not feel that the efforts of a special Mideast Ambassador, such as Donald Rumsfeld, would win any serious concessions from leaders in the Mideast.

BORA LASKIN DEAD AT 71

MONTREAL, March 27 (JTA) — Bora Laskin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, died yesterday in Ottawa Civic Hospital following complications from pneumonia. He was 71 years old.

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who appointed Laskin to the post in 1973, said he was "extremely saddened at the loss of such a great Canadian, a brilliant legal mind who presided over the Supreme Court during an important period in the search for the Canadian identity."

Laskin was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the son of Jewish immigrants from Russia. His parents came to Winnipeg in 1904 where his father worked in a scrap yard for fifty cents a day. Laskin received his bachelor of arts degree in 1933 from the University of Toronto and a master of law degree from Harvard University in 1937. He then turned to an academic career, joining the University of Toronto in 1940.

In 1946, Laskin was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal and in 1970 he was appointed to the Supreme Court. Less than four years later, he became Canada's first Jewish Chief Justice.

Prior to this appointment he served on the Board of Trustees of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, was chairman of the Toronto chapter of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, and was chairman of the legal committee and vice chairman of the community relations committee of the Ontario Canadian Jewish Congress.

Laskin's written opinions as Chief Justice were considered among the finest in the field of jurisprudence. He made many notable decisions on constitutional matters such as Indian rights and labor issues.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow in the Jewish Memorial Chapel in Ottawa. Interment will be in the Holy Blossom Memorial Park.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Two Israel Defense Force soldiers were slightly wounded in south Lebanon Monday when a remote-controlled explosive detonated as their patrol passed along a road east of Tyre. A grenade was thrown at an IDF patrol in Sidon Tuesday but caused no injuries. The patrol did not open fire because the street was crowded with local residents at the time.

FUTURE OF AMERICAN JEWISH POLITICAL INFLUENCE ASSESSED

BALTIMORE, March 27 (JTA) — American Jews will continue to wield political influence beyond their numbers because they must if they are to survive, according to Howard Squadron, outgoing president of the American Jewish Congress and Rep. Sander Levin (D. Mich.). But political analyst Ben Wattenberg disagrees.

The three men participated in a panel discussion on "Configuration of Jewish Political Influence in the 21st Century" at the Biennial National Convention of the AJCongress here. The 500 delegates elected Theodore Mann of Philadelphia to succeed Squadron who served two terms as AJCongress president.

Basis For Continued Political Influence

Squadron argued that Jewish political influence in the U.S. will remain strong because it is not based on numbers but on such Jewish community characteristics as "a high level of education, intensity of purpose and a clear knowledge of where its survival interests are."

He explained that Jews do not wield political power directly because of their small numbers but are able to influence those who do wield political power. "Because we shall continue to be a minority, we will continue to be driven by our highly developed survival instincts," he said.

Levin referred to the intellectual contributions of Jews to the nation and their ability to work effectively in the political arena as reasons why they will continue to exert political influence.

He acknowledged a declining Jewish population in the U.S. and increased dispersal of American Jews from large Jewish population centers. Nevertheless, according to Levin, Jewish influence will remain high and will increase in states that heretofore have known minimal Jewish political influence.

Consequence of Jewish Population Decline

Wattenberg, co-editor of Public Opinion magazine, said the almost certain decline in the Jewish population would translate into fewer Jewish votes. As the proportion of the Jewish population to the nation's population as a whole continues to dwindle in relation to other ethnic groups, particularly from Third World nations, the ability of the Jewish community to protect its interests through political activity will "sharply diminish, sharply erode each year unless there are more Jewish votes," he said.

Wattenberg, a conservative, claimed that although the Jewish community has been accused of backing away from liberalism, the fact is that a segment of the liberal community has moved away from Jewish concerns.

Squadron predicted, however, that the Jewish community would continue to support its traditional "liberal" agenda which includes church-state separation, civil rights and social justice because it is in the self-interest of Jews to do so.

Mann, who succeeds Squadron, has been long active in Jewish and civic affairs. He served as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations from 1978-80 and as chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry from 1981-83.

MAN PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO CHARGE OF KILLING A PEACE NOW ACTIVIST

By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 27 (JTA) — Yona Avrushmi

pleaded not guilty to the murder of Peace Now activist Emil Grunzweig more than a year ago at the opening of his trial at a Jerusalem district court today.

Avrushmi, a 28-year-old resident of Ofra on the West Bank, has been charged with throwing the hand grenade which killed Grunzweig and wounded 10 others at a demonstration against the war in Lebanon outside the Knesset on February 10, 1983. He claimed he was at his parents' home at the time of the incident and, according to his attorney, his whereabouts can be proven.

The court rejected a defense request to drop a second charge of attempted murder which relates to the wounded persons. But it agreed to a short postponement of the trial for further hearings.

Four U.S. Olim Indicted

Yesterday, the district court formally indicted four American Jewish immigrants for acts of terror against Arabs, including the wounding of six Arab day laborers in a bus ambush on the West Bank on March 4. The men charged were identified as Meir Leibowitz, 21, Levi Hazan, 23, and Yehuda Richter, 21, all implicated in the bus attack; and Yekutiel Godinsky, 20, accused of four other attacks on Arabs.

Another suspect in the bus ambush, Craig Leitner, agreed to testify for the prosecution and was not charged. The four men charged were identified as members of Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach movement. Hazan and Richter, originally from Los Angeles and Godinsky, from New York, hold dual U.S. and Israeli citizenship, as does Leitner who is also from Los Angeles. Leibowitz's citizenship was not disclosed.

According to prosecuting attorney Michael Shaked, the men charged with the bus ambush can receive prison terms of up to 20 years and Godinsky faces a possible 15 years in prison.

2 EXPLOSIVE CHARGES FOUND IN JERUSALEM ARE SAFELY DEFUSED

JERUSALEM, March 27 (JTA) — Two explosive charges were found and safely defused in widely separated areas of Jerusalem today. Police urged the public to keep a sharp watch for suspicious-looking objects. One explosive device was planted near a bus stop on the Bethlehem road in the southern outskirts of the city. The other was at the railway station.

Security sources warned of possible stepped-up terrorist activity this week because of the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and "Land Day" this Friday. "Land Day" is an occasion for protests by Palestinians against the confiscation of their lands on the West Bank.

Fire bombs and stones were thrown at Jewish buses passing through West Bank towns today. Windows were broken but there were no casualties. Employees of the Arab-owned electric corporation were ordered to remove Palestinian flags planted on top of power pylons last night.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Former Premier Menachem Begin said that he has no intention of resigning from the Knesset at this time. Begin, who has been in seclusion ever since he resigned as Prime Minister last September, had been widely expected to drop out of the Knesset after he failed to appear last Thursday night for the crucial vote on the Labor Alignment's early elections bill. Given the 61-58 margin in favor of the bill, Begin's vote would not have affected the outcome.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA ARGENTINE JEWS ARE IN A STATE OF EMOTIONAL TURMOIL

BUENOS AIRES, March 27 (JTA) -- The Jewish community in Argentina, reassured from the top levels of the new government that anti-Semitism will not be tolerated and the crimes of the previous authoritarian regime will be punished, is still in a state of emotional turmoil.

Jews suffered, perhaps disproportionately, from the excesses of the old military junta that ruled Argentina. Anti-Semitic propaganda in its most blatant forms was, if not officially inspired, generally condoned. Thousands of Jews, mostly young people, were among the tens of thousands of Argentines who "disappeared" and are presumed to have been murdered for political reasons.

The trauma of those days has not ended and is often manifested in recriminations against leaders of the so-called Jewish establishment who allegedly failed to react vigorously to the anti-Semitism, arbitrary arrests and kidnappings of Jews under the military dictatorship between March, 1976, and October, 1983.

The passions and heated controversies in the Jewish community were evident at the 11th Congress of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Argentina (Vaad Hakehilot) -- the equivalent of the Council of Jewish Federation (CJF) in the United States -- which ended here last week. It was the second major Jewish gathering in Buenos Aires this month, the first being the Sephardic Conference where the guest of honor was Israel's former President, Yitzhak Navon.

Israel Concerned Over Jewish 'Disappeared'

Navon, who is Sephardic, is a beloved figure of the Jewish community here. His presence was a demonstration of Israel's deep concern over the condition of Argentine Jewry, as was the attendance at the Vaad Hakehilot Congress of, in addition to Navon, four members of the Knesset.

The visits of Labor MKs Uzi Baram and Rabbi Menachem Hacohen; Likud Liberal Dror Zeigerman; and Geula Cohen of the Tehiya Party, underlined Israel's ongoing interest in the fate of the Jewish "disappeared," many of whose families live in Israel; and with the problems of anti-Semitism and violations of human rights in general.

The clamor for justice and the pain over atrocities of the past permeated the Congress. Some voices were raised for unrestricted vengeance. There was bitter criticism of many who headed the Jewish community during the years of the military regime for their alleged passivity and self-censorship.

These included Nehemias Resnitzky and Mario Gorenstein, former presidents of the DAIA, the representative body of Argentine Jewry; and Jacobo Kovadloff, director of South American Affairs of the American Jewish Committee who was himself forced by the junta to leave Argentina.

But these men, and others, could bear silent witness to the fact that they were caught up in events beyond their control and that they had acted, or failed to act, solely to save Jewish lives, not out of indifference.

The gathering was addressed by Interior Minister Antonio Traccoli, speaking on behalf of President Raul Alfonsín. He stressed the contributions of the Jewish community to the development of Argentina and called upon it to cooperate in building the new democratic reality.

Traccoli, who was warmly received by the assembly, noted that difficulties experienced by Jews coincide with authoritarian rule. Hatreds and misunderstandings have their roots in such regimes and "it is no wonder that the enemies of the rule of law are also the enemies of the Jewish community," he said.

The Interior Minister gave assurances that the Alfonsín government "intends to punish any harassment or incitement to harassment of persons or groups, and will create new legal strictures and tighten existing ones against acts based on race, religion, nationality, sex or political ideas while at the same time, being careful not to restrict freedom of expression."

He condemned anti-Semitic incidents which, he said, were perpetrated by people "who do not have faith in democracy." The government stands ready to severely punish those who commit such crimes, he declared.

Dov Schmorak, Israel's Ambassador to Argentina, spoke of events in the Middle East and expressed hope that the Argentine government might use its influence through its Third World position, to avoid the constant, arbitrary condemnation of Israel at international forums. Navon reaffirmed the bonds between Israel and diaspora Jewry. He said this strong link found its best expression in the Zionist movement.

Meetings, Workshops And Panels

There was a variety of meetings, workshops and panels during the Congress that focused on education, youth, culture, social research, organizational development, social assistance, relations between Israel and diaspora Jews, the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union and in Arab countries. The recommendations of these panels were adopted at the closing session.

A highlight of the Congress was a performance by the Buenos Aires Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Dalia Atlas at the Colon Opera House. In addition to the delegates, it was attended by senior Cabinet ministers, among them Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, Minister of Economy Bernardo Grinspun, Minister of Labor Antonio Mucci, and Minister of Education and Justice Alconada Aramburu.

CAIRO COURT DISMISSES SUIT AGAINST THE TV MOVIE 'SADAT'

NEW YORK, March 27 (JTA) -- A Cairo court dismissed a suit against Columbia Pictures and the six directors, producers and writers of the television movie "Sadat" who were accused of "damaging and distorting" Egyptian history. The film remains banned in Egypt.

The court ruled yesterday that "since the distortions and the slanders found in the film took place outside the country, it follows that the crimes were not within the Egyptian courts' jurisdiction." The suit had been filed by the Egyptian Movie Syndicate which demanded criminal penalties. If convicted, the accused faced maximum prison terms of two years and fines -- provided they came to Egypt.

CORRECTION

The Daily News Bulletin apologizes for misspelling the name of the late Rabbi Judah Cahn in yesterday's edition.