

**SHAMIR: ISRAEL MAY HAVE TO FACE
'THOUSANDS OF YEARS' OF TERRORISM**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA) -- Israel may have to face "thousands of years" of terrorism, according to Premier Yitzhak Shamir who made this bleak assessment in a Passover interview with Maariv today.

But he added that terrorist attacks were not a serious factor affecting Israel's life and development within the present reality of the country. He said that following the destruction of the terrorist infrastructure in Lebanon, the capability of the Palestinian Liberation Organization to strike against Israel is now severely restricted.

Shamir stated: "One must know how to fight terrorism just as one must know how to fight all the sorts of crime from which we suffer. We may have thousands, or even scores of thousands, of years of terrorism before us. Jews must know how to live with the enemies and defend themselves against them. Even when we have peace with all our Arab neighbors, I don't know if terrorism against us will disappear from the world."

**A TURN FOR THE BETTER IN
AUSTRIA'S RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL**
By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, April 16 (JTA) -- Austria's relations with Israel have taken a turn for the better, both politically and with respect to trade, according to Gideon Patt, Israel's Minister for Commerce and Industry, who arrived here yesterday at the head of a trade delegation.

Patt, the first Israeli government official to visit Austria since the 1973 Yom Kippur War, said he left for Austria with misgivings because of the long strained relations between the two countries. "But now those feelings have been replaced with good ones," he told a press conference.

Since Chancellor Bruno Kreisky left office last year, to be succeeded by Chancellor Fred Sinowatz, Austrian-Israeli relations have improved, at least in atmosphere and the tone of talks is much more friendly, Patt said.

He noted that Sinowatz has promised that he would stress the principle of Israel's right to exist at all his meetings with Arab diplomats, and in fact did so recently in Abu Dhabi during a visit to the United Arab Emirates. Kreisky, though Jewish, had been consistently critical of Israeli policies and maintained cordial relations with Arab countries and with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

Austria To Undertake New Initiatives In The Mideast

For that reason, Austrian initiatives in the Middle East were often suspect in Israel. But Austria will soon undertake new initiatives in the region. Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc told a press conference here that the government expects to increase its activities in the next few months to contribute toward an easing of tensions in the Middle East.

Lanc, reporting on Austrian foreign policy during 1983, would not specify what the new initiatives might be. But he made it clear that Austria views the Palestinian question as the basic problem to be resolved in the region and hinted that whatever new initiatives might be taken will be aimed in that direction. The war in Lebanon was a distraction, Lanc said. "Maybe now there will be a time of thinking instead of fighting."

He stressed that for Austria to play a mediator's role in the Middle East, it must be accepted by both sides. But more important than mediation are internal changes in the positions of both sides. "There was no movement in Israel in that respect and not enough movement on the Palestinian side, so we have to wait," Lanc said.

He will leave next Saturday on a 10-day tour of the Arab Gulf states, accompanied by Austrian businessmen. But the main purpose of his trip will be political, Lanc said. "We want to get new information about the political views of these states that help us prepare future initiatives for the Middle East."

Efforts To Arrange Prisoner Exchange

Asked if he would visit Israel, Lanc said he hadn't been invited but added that such a visit would be useful even if there are policy differences. He spoke in some detail of Kreisky's recent private visit to Egypt. He stressed that the retired Chancellor no longer represents Austria in an official capacity but he does have input with respect to policy.

Lanc hinted that Austria is continuing its efforts to arrange a prisoner exchange between Israel and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, a pro-Syrian terrorist group headed by Ahmed Jibril. Jibril's forces hold two Israeli soldiers captured in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Patt told reporters here that his visit is aimed at expanding Israeli-Austrian trade relations. A mixed commission will begin to function next fall when Austria's Vice Chancellor, Norbert Steger, visits Jerusalem at the head of a delegation of businessmen and industrialists.

Austria's trade with Arab countries has been much more extensive than with Israel. But the sharp devaluation of Israeli currency has led to an increase of Austrian exports. Patt hinted that Austria may act as a mediator to initiate trade between Israel and the Arab countries.

On another matter, he denied emphatically that Israel has been supporting Iran in its war with Iraq. "May God prevent an Iranian victory. It would threaten Saudi Arabia and Israel," he said.

**PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA TO INTRODUCE
LAWS OUTLAWING ALL FORMS OF
RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo of Argentina said here that the government of President Raul Alfonsin would introduce by the beginning of next month in the Argentine Congress a series of laws outlawing anti-Semitism, racism and all forms of discrimination based on religion, race, and sex.

"There will be strong penalties for public discrimination, and these laws will govern the behavior in the entire Argentine society," Caputo told a delegation of American Jewish Committee leaders at the Argentinian Mission to the United Nations. The delegation was headed by Rita Hauser, chairperson of the AJC executive committee and a prominent international lawyer. The meeting was arranged by Dr. Marc Tanenbaum, director of the AJC's International Relations Department.

Discussing foreign and domestic policy issues, in response to a series of concerns expressed by the AJC delegation over anti-Semitic violence in Argentina as well as over the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Argentina and other Latin American countries, Caputo said:

All Forms Of Terrorism Condemned

"The government of President Alfonsín condemns all forms of terrorism. I can assure you that both internally and externally, we will insist on all legal means to combat terrorism. We have suffered from all forms of terrorism; it is not an abstraction to us; we know it firsthand. It is an absurd contradiction for us to fight terrorism internally and allow it to go on internationally. Terrorism must be solved by law."

Jacobo Kovadloff of Buenos Aires, the AJC's director of Latin American affairs, reminded Caputo about the forcible closing of the AJC's offices in Buenos Aires in June 1977 under the threat of rightwing death squads. Kovadloff, who at the time headed the AJC's offices there, was forced to flee the country.

Caputo responded by saying: "We invite the American Jewish Committee to return and reopen your offices. It would be a good symbol. The reasons which prompted the closing are finished. We not only welcome your return but pledge to give you all the assistance you need to reopen and function in Argentina."

In answer to criticisms over past votes of Argentinian representatives to United Nations bodies who supported anti-Israel resolutions, including the infamous 1974 General Assembly resolutions equating Zionism with racism, Caputo said: "We will seek to rectify our votes on these issues. We will change the erratic, irrational, and improvised character of Argentina's foreign policy. We will not vote at the UN or elsewhere just because others want us to."

CATHOLIC NUN SAYS 'DON'T GO TO OBERAMMERGAU'

TORONTO, April 16 (JTA) -- A Catholic nun is urging people not to go to the West German village of Oberammergau in Bavaria this summer to see the "Passion Play." "To go would be to participate in a play more of prejudice than of piety," Sister Mary Jo Luddy of Toronto wrote in a column recently in the Toronto Star.

Oberammergau "has become a place of prejudice rather than of piety," she wrote. "Why? Because of the anti-Semitic content of the play produced there. Hitler himself recognized this. The play was a favorite of his. He believed the drama provided the religious underpinning for his racist anti-Jewish policies."

Ever since 1634, the people of Oberammergau have kept a promise made at the time when their village was threatened by a plague "to keep the tragedy of the passion (of Jesus) every 10 years."

Luddy, a member of a Catholic monastic order, Sister of Zion, who on May 3 will receive the Ida Nudel Humanitarian Award from the Committee for Soviet Jewry, Ontario Region, stated in her column:

"It has taken the murder of six million Jews for Christian theologians to recognize the implications of what has always been the dominant theme of the Oberammergau production: The evil Jews crucified Christ the good. Unfortunately, this play never ended when the final curtain fell. The next acts were played out in reality. The presentation of Jews as Christ killers has, throughout the centuries, served to legitimize the crucifixion of Jews -- by Christians."

1984 Version Has Only Cosmetic Changes

During the last 20 years, Christian and Jewish groups "have labored long and hard to correct the distortions present in the Oberammergau production, and there has been some progress," Luddy wrote. "The 1980 production was less obviously anti-Semitic." But, she added, while the Bishops of Bavaria have expressed their desire to have changes implemented, "the producers of the 1984 play have made only cosmetic changes."

Concluding her column, entitled "Don't go to Oberammergau," Luddy stated: "The Oberammergau play is a significant example of a kind of popular Christian teaching which has resulted in the belief that the only good Jew is a crucified Jew. This teaching must change. It is not only a question of the justice which Jews deserve. It is also a question of the salvation of the soul of Christianity."

ADL OFFICIAL REJECTS OFFER BY BLACK MUSLIM LEADER FOR A MEETING

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA) -- Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, has rejected an offer by Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan that they hold a meeting because his continued threats and public utterances "have created an atmosphere far more conducive to fear and divisiveness than to rational discourse."

In a letter to Farrakhan, the ADL leader said his initial reaction to a meeting had been "affirmative because I too felt that conversation among reasonable people, no matter their differences, is constructive." Farrakhan made his request for a meeting two weeks ago while Perlmutter was out of the country.

Perlmutter went on to say, however, that upon returning to the city and reading Farrakhan's new threats directed against Washington Post reporter Milton Coleman and his wife, he had been convinced that there was "no value" in it.

Perlmutter was referring to Farrakhan's "we will punish-you-with-death" threat against Coleman for revealing the anti-Semitic "Hymietown" remarks made by Rev. Jesse Jackson. Earlier, Farrakhan had used threatening language against Jews in connection with the Hymietown remarks. It was following Perlmutter's criticism of those threats that Farrakhan sought a meeting.

Perlmutter termed the recently reported Farrakhan praise of Adolf Hitler as an "incredible and deplorable ignorance of history."

ISRAELI SPOKESMAN DENIES REPORTED REQUEST FROM NICARAGUAN REBEL GROUP FOR FUNDING FROM ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA) -- A spokesman for Israel's Embassy in Washington has denied any knowledge of a reported request from the largest Nicaraguan

rebel group for funding to help fight the Nicaraguan government. The report, carried in the Los Angeles Times, quoted an unidentified official of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front as saying that the Front's leader, Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, had begun searching for alternative sources of funding because of the Congressional moves to limit further CIA expenditures for the rebel forces fighting the Sandinista government.

"We have looked for private money, but there isn't enough," the unidentified rebel official reportedly said. "We need a government. We think the Israelis would be the best, because they have the technical experience."

According to the account by the Times, Israel has supplied arms in the past to other Nicaraguan rebel groups and "might be willing to provide funding as a favor to the Reagan Administration which is providing more than \$2.6 billion in aid to Israel this year, and to punish the Sandinistas for their ties with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the rebel official said."

The Israeli spokesman, Victor Harel, denied that Israel was currently providing aid to rebel groups fighting the Nicaraguan government.

A BILL TO PUNISH ANYONE DENYING NAZI GENOCIDE OR CLAIMING THE HOLOCAUST WAS A HOAX COMES UNDER FIRE FROM LEFT AND RIGHTWING GROUPS
By David Kantor

BONN, April 16 (JTA) -- A government-sponsored bill that would penalize anyone who denied Nazi genocide or claimed the Holocaust was a hoax came under fire from both right and leftwing elements on its first reading in the Bundestag. It is also opposed by Jews who see it as a watered down version of legislation first proposed by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt when his Social Democratic Party (SPD) governed West Germany.

One of the main points of contention over the draft law is its equation of Nazi crimes against Jews with crimes by "other totalitarian regimes" against Germans. This is directed primarily against the Soviet Union and its Eastern bloc allies. The law as written would make it an offense to deny that genocide was also committed against Germans.

According to Manfred Schmidt of the SPD, the government bill is a farce. He faulted Justice Minister Hans Engelhard for failure to specify what war crimes the government has in mind when it seeks to punish individuals who publicly claim those crimes were never committed.

Schmidt also charged that Engelhard, a member of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), a coalition partner with the ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU), had been forced to make far-reaching concessions to rightwing elements in the government. The original draft, aimed at effectively combatting neo-Nazi propaganda, lost its character, he said.

More Pros And Cons

But Eicke Goetz, of the Christian Social Union (CSU), the Bavarian partner of the CDU, defended the draft law. He contended that it would be a mistake to penalize only those persons who deny crimes against Jews and not those who deny crimes against Germans. According to Goetz, people who say the expulsion of millions of Germans from Eastern Europe after World War II was "just an act of resettlement" deserve the same penalties

as those who claim the Holocaust never occurred. Otto Schilly of the opposition Green Party, a coalition of ecologists and pacifists, objected to the law in principle. He said that while many of his party colleagues support the idea of tightening existing laws against neo-Nazi propaganda, the proposed new legislation reflects a typical German belief that this objective can be achieved by imposing still more regulations. Neo-Nazism should be opposed by political, not legal means, Schilly said.

The Jewish community is urging Parliament to adopt the original law proposed by the Schmidt government. They point out that unlike the new version, the SPD bill would have punished not only written but verbal neo-Nazi propaganda. The Jewish community is also strongly opposed to any comparison of the Holocaust with crimes committed by other regimes against Germans.

The Munich-based neo-Nazi weekly National Zeitung condemned the draft law as the product of pressure on the government from "Zionist quarters." However, it praised Chancellor Helmut Kohl's regime for seeking to punish individuals who claim that no crimes of the magnitude of genocide were perpetrated against Germans.

POC GOES ON HUNGER STRIKE

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA) -- Zakhar Zunshain, a Soviet Jewish activist being held incommunicado in a Riga jail, began a hunger strike yesterday to protest the refusal of the prison authorities to provide him with a pencil and paper to write to his lawyer, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported here today.

The 33-year-old physicist was charged last month with "defaming the Soviet State," an offense under Art. 183-1 of the Latvian Criminal code which carries a maximum penalty of three years in a labor camp, the NCSJ reported.

ELIAV FORMS OWN KNESSET LIST

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA) -- Aryeh Eliav, a former leader of the Sheli Party and a former Secretary General of the Labor Party, announced the formation of his own Knesset list, saying the doors of his "home party," Labor, have been closed to him.

Speaking at a news conference in Tel Aviv yesterday, Eliav said he had waited for a call from the Labor Party to rejoin its ranks. But when the invitation failed to appear, he said he decided to run in the July 23 elections on his own.

He said his list, "Aryeh Eliav for the Knesset," would advocate his past political views which include the call for the establishment of a Palestinian state, side by side with Israel.

Eliav, among the more prominent Israeli doves, left Labor after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, expressing disappointment with the party's failure to meet social and political challenges.

Prior to the 1977 elections, he, along with Uri Avneri, Matti Peled, Yaacov Amon and other prominent leftwing leaders formed the Sheli Party which called for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank. However, the party performed poorly in the elections, bringing about Eliav's departure from Sheli and the eventual split of the party into two groups. He has devoted much of his time to voluntary educational work in development towns, and was involved in the secret negotiations that led to the release of Israeli prisoners from the captivity of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

A PROFESSOR WHO PUTS HIMSELF ON THE FRONTLINE FOR ISRAEL AND JUDAISM
By Gil Sedan

MIAMI, April 16 (JTA) -- One usually does not look for adventure in the background of a university dean. That's usually saved for novelists.

But Dr. Ralph Lowenstein, dean of the College of Journalism and Communications at the University of Florida, is a novelist -- and one of the few Americans to have served as a combat soldier in Israel's War of Independence 36 years ago.

His students would find it hard to believe. The dean of one of the largest schools of journalism in the U.S. looks 10 years younger than his 54 years. And a lot of wars have passed by the boards since 1948. However, Lowenstein has always been on a fast track. At the age of 24, he was the holder of two university degrees and a veteran of two armies during two wars. After service in Israel, he also served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

A native of Danville, Virginia, Lowenstein joined the Israeli army in Paris after his freshman year at Columbia University. At 18, he was the youngest American in the army when he arrived on a D. P. ship from Marseilles in July, 1948. Ten days after arriving in Haifa and being smuggled ashore past UN observers, Lowenstein went into combat with the 79th Armored Regiment as a half-track driver.

The Israeli Experience Is Central

"Central to whatever I am or will be," Lowenstein says, "is that Israeli experience. As a very young man, I had the opportunity to put my life on the line for an ideal I believed in deeply. Nothing else in life could ever be more challenging."

He adds: "I never really considered that I had done a lot for Israel. Rather, Israel had done a lot for me. Israel had given me a feeling of worth, and a feeling of confidence. These were to stay with me the rest of my life."

Lowenstein returned to the U.S. in 1949, graduated with his Columbia class by going to school in the summers, and then received a master's degree from the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. He was later to get a Ph.D. in journalism from the University of Missouri.

After working as a reporter in Virginia and Texas, he became a journalism professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. Later he was on the faculty at the University of Missouri, and was a visiting professor at Tel Aviv University from 1967 to 1968. He has been dean at the Florida university for the past eight years.

And Lowenstein still has those old feelings of worth and confidence. His students have won the National Intercollegiate Writing Championship for six consecutive years, and his college was recently voted one of the seven best journalism schools in the nation by the Associated Press Managing Editors.

Unlike many Jewish faculty members, Lowenstein strongly identifies as a Jew. He is advisor to the Jewish Student Union at the University of Florida, and for many years was chairman of

the faculty Advisory Committee for UF's Center for Jewish Studies. He serves on the state Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and received the State of Israel's 30th Anniversary Medal for his leadership in the United Jewish Appeal over the years.

If someone is needed to step forward and demand that Jewish students be permitted absences on the Jewish holidays, it is likely to be Lowenstein. If there is a hostile anti-Israel letter in the newspaper, it is usually Lowenstein who writes the answer. If one needs a classroom lecture on Israel, or a person to debate a pro-Arab speaker, it's usually going to be Lowenstein.

"There are 236 million Americans out there fighting for their own interests," Lowenstein says. "Very few of them care about Israel. If they did, the six million Jews in this country would not have to be so single-minded about Israel. But since they aren't, we are -- and I need make no excuses for it. The survival of Israel is more important to me than any other issue on the American political scene."

Lowenstein's two children attended Israeli public schools during his year as a visiting professor in Israel, and his daughter later attended the Hebrew University. Both children are now married and are attorneys in Miami.

His wife, Bronia, is also a "small-town" Jew -- but this time really small. Hers was the only Jewish family in a town of 200 persons in New Mexico. Bronia has been a Hadassah leader in the three cities in which the Lowensteins have lived.

Lowenstein wrote a novel in 1966 loosely based on his experience as a soldier for Israel. Entitled "Bring My Sons From Far," it later went into two paperback editions entitled "A Time of War."

RABIN OUTLINES PLAN FOR WITHDRAWAL OF IDF FROM LEBANON IN 3-6 MONTHS

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA) -- Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin has outlined a plan by which, he says, the Israel Defense Force could be withdrawn completely from Lebanon in 3-6 months. He was sharply critical of the government for "wasting" a year negotiating its pact with the government of President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon when it should have concentrated on building up the south Lebanon army.

According to Rabin, the May 17, 1983, withdrawal and security agreement which the Gemayel government has since repudiated was "a piece of paper lacking in any practical meaning from its inception."

In a weekend radio interview, Rabin, a former Chief of Staff and a member of the Labor Party leadership in the upcoming election campaign, said the IDF could be replaced by a strengthened south Lebanon army which would be responsible for the security of Israel's northern borders.

He proposed that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) replace the IDF in the Lebanese port city of Sidon and serve as a buffer between Israel and Syria. The IDF should be used to "win wars quickly, not to try to impose political solutions," Rabin declared, an apparent criticism of the war aims of the Likud government when Israel invaded Lebanon in June, 1982. Instead of building up the south Lebanon army, the government wasted a year on a "practically meaningless pact with Beirut ... We lost a full year because the government policy was locked into the agreement ... If we had used the year to encourage the residents of south Lebanon to cooperate with us, we would be in a far better position today."