

WEST BANK SETTLERS DECIDE TO PROVIDE LEGAL AID TO SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF JEWISH UNDERGROUND
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA) -- West Bank settlers, reversing an earlier decision, decided last night to provide legal aid to suspected members of a Jewish terrorist underground currently under investigation. About 50 leaders of settlements in Judea, Samaria, Gaza and the Golan Heights, met to consider the matter.

Twenty-five suspects have been taken into custody since security forces foiled an attempt to sabotage Arab-owned buses in East Jerusalem April 27. Most are said to be residents of the West Bank and Golan Heights and some reportedly are linked to leaders of the Gush Emunim.

Report Levinger Is In Solitary Confinement

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the Gush leader in Hebron, was arrested Sunday night for questioning about his alleged links to the underground. He is still incarcerated, reportedly in solitary confinement.

Levinger, 48, the father of 11 children, is reported by the media to be suspected of having had advance knowledge of violent acts against Arabs carried out or planned by the underground. His son-in-law was one of the first suspects arrested when the investigation began.

Last night's meeting of the Council of Settlements in Judea and Samaria was to have been held at Kibbutz Kfar Etzion. It was moved to nearby Yad Shapiro because the kibbutz members charged that the Gush Emunim has not forcefully condemned the terrorist underground.

CABINET ASKED TO RECONSIDER MOVE TO ESTABLISH TWO NEW SETTLEMENTS ON DISPUTED LAND IN WEST BANK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA) -- Justice Minister Moshe Nissim asked the Cabinet today to reconsider yesterday's decision by the Ministerial Settlement Committee to establish two new settlements on disputed land in the West Bank. Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir has also intervened.

Nissim questioned the legality of the decision because ownership of the land allotted for the settlements has not been determined by the courts. The settlements, to be known as Neriya and Yaariv, are slated for western Samaria. Nissim's concern stems from several cases in which developers sold West Bank land to Israeli customers who discovered later that it did not legally belong to them.

As a result of such scandals, the government tightened controls over West Bank land sales to protect buyers. But the Ministerial Settlement Committee, chaired by Science Minister Yuval Neeman, acted yesterday, for the first time, without ascertaining the legal status of the land involved.

The committee also approved three other new settlements--Hachlil near Hebron, Migdalim in eastern Samaria, and Adam, north of Jerusalem. These and other settlements serve as bedroom communities for Israelis who live on the West Bank and work

in Israel. But financial difficulties must be overcome before they can be built.

Matityahu Drobless, co-chairman of the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Department, said it would be impossible to establish Hachlil and Migdalim without more government aid.

DESPITE RAUFF'S DEATH, WIESENTHAL CENTER WILL STILL PRESS VATICAN TO CONDUCT PROBE INTO CHURCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES INVOLVING RAUFF
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- The Simon Wiesenthal Center said today that it will continue to press the Vatican to conduct an investigation into church-related activities in Italy involving Walter Rauff, the Nazi war criminal and inventor of the mobile gas vans, despite his death at the age of 77 yesterday in Chile of a heart attack.

"It does not put the matter to rest," said Gerald Margolis, director of the Los Angeles-based Wiesenthal Center. He said the Center will continue to urge Pope John Paul II to open Vatican archives and investigate what the Center alleges was church aid to Rauff after the war and help for him in fleeing Europe to safe haven in South America.

The Center just last week released 43 pages of documents, some of them previously classified by U.S. government intelligence agencies, which provide additional information linking Rauff to important figures in the Catholic church in Italy during and after the war. Rauff told the Chilean Supreme Court in 1962 that he was provided aid and shelter by the church.

Sense Of Frustration In Israel

In Israel, the reaction to Rauff's death was a sense of frustration that war criminals continue to remain free without being brought to justice for their war crimes. "It is a pity that this man will not be brought to justice," said Avi Pasner, spokesman for Premier Yitzhak Shamir. "It is shameful. We hope that other war criminals who are still hiding will not escape their punishment."

Gideon Hausner, chairman of Yad Vashem and prosecutor of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann at his 1961 trial, express similar frustration that Rauff never was brought to justice. He said Rauff was one of the privileged war criminals to have died in his own bed, escaping justice for many years.

Rauff Built Mobile Gas Vans

Rauff is held responsible for the death of an estimated 200,000 Jews in Europe who were killed in the mobile gas vans he designed which channelled exhaust fumes back into the air-tight vehicles. Known as "black ravens," the vans were sometimes disguised as Red Cross vehicles. They were used primarily in the early stages of the Holocaust before the construction of Auschwitz and other death camps which carried out Hitler's final solution on a larger scale.

Born in Kothen, Germany, on June 19, 1906, Rauff joined Hitler's Nazi police at the age of 31. He moved up to the rank of colonel in the SS and later served in Tunisia and Italy before being arrested in Milan where he was the police chief in the war's last

stages. He was sent to the Rimini detention center, but soon escaped and at the end of 1946 went to Naples. In testimony before the Chilean Supreme Court, Rauff said he was aided in Italy after his escape from Rimini by a Catholic priest and sheltered in "convents of the Holy See" for some 18 months.

He was reunited with his family and travelled to Syria, then to Ecuador in 1949 and finally to Chile where he lived since 1958. He maintained his German citizenship. In 1963, the Chilean Supreme Court rejected a request for his extradition from West Germany on the basis that Chile's 15 year statute of limitations had expired.

Chile Refused To Extradite Rauff

Rauff, who suffered from lung cancer in recent years, had lived primarily in Santiago and was rarely seen in public. Last February, Beate Klarsfeld, the famed Nazi-hunter, was arrested outside Rauff's home in Santiago during a demonstration urging the Chilean government to extradite Rauff to West Germany. Israel also sought his extradition.

But despite the international efforts to have Rauff brought to justice, Chile President August Pinochet would not act on the requests. He maintained in an interview last March that "the highest court in the land decided Rauff could stay." While he said he regretted Rauff's actions during the war, Pinochet said: "But that was a long time ago. I can't do anything about it once the courts have decided."

ROSENNE: PROSECUTION OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS IS NOT FOR VENGEANCE TO ASSURE HOLOCAUST HORRORS WILL BE REMEMBERED AND WILL NOT REOCCUR
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 15 (JTA) -- Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne stressed today that Israel executed Adolf Eichmann and the United States is prosecuting Nazi war criminals living here "not for vengeance" but "to leave the following generations the memory" of the horrors of the Holocaust and "the hope that it will never happen again."

Rosenne's statement came as he received from Attorney General William French Smith microfilm records of six cases against Nazi war criminals conducted by the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) which are to be placed in the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. The presentation was made at a ceremony in Smith's office attended by about 25 persons, including several Holocaust survivors.

Microfilm Contains Important Testimonies

Smith said the microfilm contained "important testimonies and documents that set forth in graphic detail the destruction of European Jews at the hands of Nazis and their collaborators. They will serve as additional proof of what happened during the days of the so-called final solution" and will "remind us that it should never happen again."

Rosenne, in expressing gratitude to the U.S. government, said he was accepting the documents not only for the State of Israel but also on "behalf of the six million Jews, among them more than one million children, that died in the concentration camps and the gas chambers."

But the Ambassador added that "unfortunately an attempt is being made to deny the Jewish people the right to its history" by claims that Jews were not really murdered and gassed. He said in the last years alone, there had to be testimony in trials in Europe

to prove the Holocaust really happened. Neal Sher, director of the OSI, said the documents include testimony of actual mass murderers who provide "incredible evidence of the horrors of the past."

Sher said that the OSI is "unique" in the Justice Department since it "goes all over the world in search of evidence." He said the first place it went to was Israel where many Holocaust survivors live and where Yad Vashem proved invaluable in providing needed documents and evidence.

Pays Tribute To Survivors Who Testified

Smith paid a special tribute to the many Israeli Holocaust survivors who testified. "It is painful for someone to have to re-live that terrible time," he said. But he noted that "these survivors have served as important witnesses in many OSI cases."

Mark Talisman, vice chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, noted that before the OSI was established "there were many who were fearful of starting such an effort over so many years because they were fearful it will be better to leave these things unsaid." He said the accomplishments of the OSI have been a demonstration of the "best of American democracy and jurisprudence." He said it has been "the best effort of our democracy to ensure the future of our children."

Sher told reporters that the OSI has about 30 cases pending and is investigating numerous others.

CONSERVATIVE RABBIS URGED TO TAKE LEAD IN DEVELOPING A NEW BLACK-JEWISH COALITION

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., May 15 (JTA) -- Conservative rabbis were urged today to assume a leadership role in developing a new Black-Jewish coalition to combat the social, educational and human problems confronting the nation.

Rabbi Arnold Goodman, president of the Rabbinical Assembly (RA), reminded the delegates attending the 84th annual convention of the RA at the Concord Hotel here that "we were in the forefront of working with Black leaders in the '60's," recalling that in 1963, 22 members of the RA during the group's annual convention flew to Birmingham, Alabama, to help Martin Luther King fight for equal rights.

"We must unite together as a strong force on the American scene," Goodman declared, noting that Blacks and Jews comprise 15 percent of the voters in this country. He conceded that there were differences between the two groups but asserted, "Let us work on the things we can agree upon and talk openly and freely about our disagreements."

Rhetoric Should Not Obscure Historical Ties

Goodman pointed out, "Despite the rhetoric of Jesse Jackson and Louis Farrakhan, there are great historical ties between Blacks and Jews. These must be strengthened so that together we can realize the full potential of American democracy."

Jackson created a furor in the Jewish community with his references to Jews as "Hymies" and to New York City as "Hymietown." Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, a Black Muslim organization, and a leading supporter of Jackson, warned Jews not to harm Jackson, threatened the life of Washington Post reporter Milton Coleman for disclosing Jackson's remarks, and acclaimed Hitler as "a very great man." Jackson said he does not agree with Farrakhan's statements but has refused to disavow his support.

Goodman, in his address, admonished his colleagues for their "deafening silence" in failing to speak out as

a body against the anti-Semitism that has been injected into the Presidential election campaign. He stressed that the RA should not engage in partisan politics but merely speak out on the issue.

Goodman also expressed disappointment with the other two Democratic Presidential hopefuls, Walter Mondale and Sen. Gary Hart for their failure to respond forcefully to the anti-Semitic remarks. "We must be quick in demanding that anti-Semitism be repudiated without reservation or equivocation," Goodman declared. "We dare not be unconcerned or silent."

FIVE-DAY MULTI-MEDIA FESTIVAL MARKS ISRAEL'S 36TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- Celebrities from throughout the United States attended a gala buffet supper at the New York Hilton last night to mark the beginning of a five-day multi-media festival entitled "Voices of Zion" in celebration of Israel's 36th anniversary. Afterwards, the celebrities attended the festival's premiere at the Carnegie Hall Cinema. The festival is sponsored by the World Zionist Organization-American Section.

Bernice Tanenbaum, chairperson of the WZO-American Section, presented awards to 11 distinguished leaders of the entertainment community with the Israel Humanities Achievement Award in recognition of their valuable contributions to their art and to the State of Israel. The awards by the WZO-American Section and the WZO's Information Department in Jerusalem, were given to:

Elliot Gould, David Steinberg, Stanley Kramer, Robby Benson, Lillian Hellman, Alan King, Fritz Weaver, Melissa Gilbert, Tony Roberts, and Roberta Peters. A special award was presented to NBC's Pia Lindstrom in memory of her late mother, Academy Award winning actress Ingrid Bergman. Raya Savidor, wife of Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor, represented her husband at the ceremonies.

Guests attending the festival at the Carnegie Hall Cinema were able to view three new Israeli produced photo and art exhibitions. "In My Heart, Jerusalem" is a collection of 53 photographs of the city taken by internationally acclaimed photographer Peri Ferag. "Prisoners of Zion" explores the problems of Jewish dissidents in the Soviet Union. "Drawings in a Moscow Kindergarten" displays the art work of Jewish youngsters denied their religious freedom and identity by the Soviet government. This exhibition was smuggled out from the Soviet Union.

The festival, which runs from today through Friday, will include showings of numerous films, including Exodus, Cast a Giant Shadow, Garden of the Finzi Continis, The Diary of Anne Frank, Last Metro, Fiddler on the Roof, and Judgement at Nuremberg. A video center has been set up in the theater and will run continuous showings of Golda, Image Before My Eyes, and Masada.

ISRAEL'S C.O.L. INDEX IN APRIL SOARS BY 20.6 PERCENT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA) -- The cost-of-living index in April soared by 20.6 percent, the highest increase ever for that month and the second highest monthly increase in Israel's history, according to figures released today by the Central Bureau of Statistics. Economists warned that if the present trend continues, the inflation rate for 1984 will reach an unprecedented 406 percent.

The cost-of-living index rose by 263 percent during the past 12 months. In April, 1983, it was 13.3 percent. The all-time record increase was registered last October when the cost-of-living rose by 21.1 percent, triggering a sharp reversal of the Likud government's economic policies, including a 23 percent devaluation of the Shekel and drastic reductions in subsidies for food, fuel and other basic commodities.

With elections less than two months away, the government and opposition each blamed the other for the alarming rise last month which was much higher than Treasury and bank officials had forecast. Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad said the increase was largely due to the failure of Histadrut to agree to an economic package deal.

Histadrut and Labor Party spokesmen charged that failure of the government's economic policy was responsible for the runaway inflation. Finance Ministry sources said the increase was also due in part to the government's efforts to balance Israel's foreign trade deficit and foreign currency short-fall, efforts which they claim are showing success.

The record inflation rate for April apparently forced the government to reverse its earlier rejection of Histadrut demands for payment of a special cost-of-living allowance with May salaries, due on June 1. Deputy Premier David Levy said tonight that Cohen-Orgad has agreed, at his urging, to an advance payment. But by the time the workers receive the payment, their salaries will have lost one-fifth of the original value.

MONDALE MEETS WITH AVITAL SHCHARANSKY

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- Democratic Presidential hopeful Walter Mondale met last Thursday with Avital Shcharansky, wife of Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky, it was reported by Rabbi Israel Halperin of Tel Aviv who accompanied Mrs. Shcharansky at the meeting in Mondale's Washington office.

According to Halperin, the plight of Shcharansky and efforts to release him were discussed during the one-hour meeting. Halperin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Mondale's aide, David Ishin, will come to Tel Aviv at the end of the month to further discuss the Shcharansky case with Halperin.

KESSAR IS NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF HISTADRUT; SUCCEEDS MESHEL

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA) -- Yisrael Kessar, a 53-year-old Yemen-born Jew, was appointed by the Histadrut Executive Committee today as the new Secretary General of the trade union federation. He was also named chairman of the Hevrat Ha'ovdim, the Histadrut holding company and will head the Lavon Institute, the research institute of Histadrut.

Kessar, who was brought to Palestine from Yemen by his parents at the age of two, succeeds Yeroham Meshel who is retiring after nearly 10 years as the head of Histadrut. Meshel had been grooming Kessar for some time to take over the office. The younger man served previously as Deputy Secretary General and head of Histadrut's trades union department. He also served for a time as Histadrut Treasurer.

Kessar was appointed in an open vote. The Likud minority faction walked out of the Executive Committee meeting after their demand for a secret ballot was rejected.

HISTORIAN OF THE HOLOCAUST SAYS TWO FORMER NAZIS 'OF MAJOR RANK' HAVE FOUND REFUGE IN BUFFALO

BUFFALO, N.Y., May 15 (JTA) -- A historian of the Holocaust charged that this city had provided refuge for two accused Nazi war criminals who, he said, "may be considered of major rank."

Charles Allen, Jr., who has been investigating and writing about Nazi war criminals in the United States since the 1960's, told a conference of the Upper New York Region of Hadassah, that the Justice Department "had targeted a member of the medical facility at a Buffalo-area university for possible denaturalization proceedings for having allegedly concealed his complicity in the persecutions of Nazi Germany."

According to Allen, charges against this professor of medicine, whom he declined to identify to avoid hampering the Justice Department's investigation, "indicate his involvement in medical experiments carried out on inmates at a Nazi concentration camp." The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), charged with prosecuting suspected Nazi war criminals in the U.S., has been working on the case for more than a year, Allen said.

Background Of Findings On The Professor

Allen, who was delivering an address titled "The Holocaust's Legacy: Do Justice," said he first came across the charges against the medical professor during his research on the world-renowned physiologist, Dr. Hubertus Strughold. In the mid-1970's, Allen uncovered evidence that Strughold helped formulate some of the "scientific" concepts that were carried out by others in medical experiments against Russian POWs and Jewish prisoners in the Dachau concentration camp from 1941 to 1942.

Strughold, who came to the U.S. in 1947 and was naturalized in the early 1950's, Allen said, became the chief medical scientist of the U.S. Air Force, a consultant to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) during the Apollo moon shots, and worked as an informant for the CIA.

Allen, who indicated that he would shortly publish his findings on the Buffalo medical professor, said the charges against him were made originally by professional colleagues in the medical field who alerted Allen to his activities in Buffalo.

Identifies Another Former Nazi

Allen also told the Hadassah conference that a long-time Buffalo resident, whom he identified as Walter Dornberger, had been a former Nazi Wehrmacht General and operational commander of the so-called "German rocket scientists" at the infamous slave labor tunnels of Dora-Nordhausen where the V-1 and V-2 missiles were built "under conditions which survivors called 'a hell worse than Auschwitz'."

Dornberger at first was considered a major war criminal by the British, according to Allen, but he was given over to the Americans under a program called Project Paperclip who brought the Nazi General to the United States along with Werner von Braun to create the U.S. rocket program for space travel. Allen said Dornberger came to the U.S. in 1949 and was naturalized in the early 1950's.

Allen, who gave the Nazi Party, SA and SS affiliations of von Braun, contended that both he

and Dornberger were "effectively war criminals in every respect" and that the "glamour" and "honors heaped on both Germans" were part of "the Cold War hype" that "enabled the United States to use Nazi war criminals and collaborators to 'fight Soviet Communism'." Allen called such usage of Nazis "dangerous and sentimental nonsense."

Dornberger, Allen pointed out, became "an affluent and influential member of the military-industrial complex," noting his directorships in Bell Aircraft Company, Northrop, Lockheed and other defense corporations. "Dornberger and von Braun created the Nazi V-1 and V-2 programs on the backs of some 60,000 slave laborers, nearly 47,000 of whom were worked to death" in the projects created by these "men of science," Allen asserted.

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Was 'Revolutionary Act'

Dealing with the tragedy of the Holocaust, Allen called the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising "a truly revolutionary act," the first civilian uprising against the Nazi occupation of Europe, in which "an extraordinary coalition of Jewish fighters from the Communist left to the Bundist right" demonstrated what resistance could mean.

He took to task certain historians who perpetrated the myth that "the Jews of Europe went to their slaughter like sheep." Not only the Warsaw Ghetto fighters but "many other Jewish-led partisans fought successfully in the guerrilla warfare of World War II," Allen said.

He also emphasized that "commemoration of the Holocaust martyrs implied implementing the justice which they themselves consciously bequeathed us: racial and religious equality, human compassion and peace. If you honor the six million, then you must honor their everlasting moral instructions."

Following Allen's speech, a woman from Buffalo rose and said, to vigorous applause: "I was in the Warsaw Ghetto. We did fight back. Even after the uprising. Wherever we could. We survivors are not passive, not paralyzed by trauma as many say we are. We are activists, fighters and committed to life."

REAGAN READS RABBI'S WORDS

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- When President Reagan addressed the "Baptist Fundamentalism '84" convention last month in Washington, he said he "wanted to do something different."

Addressing approximately 20,000 Christians, headed by the Rev. Jerry Falwell, Reagan spent the remainder of his time reading an article stressing the importance of America as a nation based on pluralism, where citizens could take pride in their particular religions, and yet work together "when the time came to help others, to comfort and to ease pain."

The Office of the Fleet Chaplain Commander of the Sixth Fleet reported here today that the words were from an article written by Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff, the Navy chaplain who was present in Beirut at the time of the truck bomb attack on U.S. forces last October 23.

Resnicoff, part of a three-man Jewish-Catholic-Protestant chaplain team on the staff of the Sixth Fleet Commander, had arrived in Beirut days earlier to lead memorial services for a Jewish marine killed by sniper fire. On the morning of October 23, he, along with Father George Pucciarelli, a Navy Catholic chaplain, was among the first on the scene to begin rescuing and comforting the wounded. The article read by Reagan will appear in the summer edition of Outlook, the magazine of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism.