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KAHANE GROUP BARRED FROM JULY 23 KNESSET BALLOT; BAN FIRST FOR JEWISH LIST By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) — The Central Elections Committee voted 18-10 today to bar Rabbi Meir Kahane's extreme rightwing Kach list from participating in the July 23 Knesset elections. There were seven abstentions.

The decision was the first time in Israel's history that a Jewish political faction was banned from an election. An Arab "Socialist List" was banned 19 years ago on grounds that its objective was to undermine the existence of the State. Supreme Court Justice Gavriel Bach, chairman of the Elections Committee, maintained that Kahane's list undermines the principles of democracy itself. Kahane said he would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

The ruling against Kach indicated to some observers that the Elections Committee will also bar the Arab-Jewish "Progressive List for Peace" which calls in its platform for creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel reduced to its pre-June 1967 borders. The list is headed by an Arab nationalist attorney, Mohammed Miari and its second spot is occupied by Gen. (res.) Mattityahu Peled, long active in the Israeli peace movement.

Want Progressive List Off Too

The Committee is scheduled to begin consideration of the "Progressive List" application later today. It is strongly opposed by the Likud, Tehiya and other members of the Committee. The attitude of the Labor Alignment is not certain. Defense Minister Moshe Arens has declined to outlaw the list, although he may under the law on national security grounds.

Tehiya MK Geula Cohen claimed that "If we do not ban the list, the PLO will have for the first time a representative in the Knesset." Miari was on the "Socialist List" banned nearly two decades ago.

The bid by Kach was supported by Tehiya, the National Religious Party, Aguda Israel and Tami, all members of the Likud-led coalition. It was opposed by the Labor Alignment, Shinui, Civil Rights Movement, and the Communist Party, Likud was split. Some supported Kach but six abstained.

Anti Democratic Statements

Bach denounced the Kach list after hearing testimony from Kahane. The American-born rabbi who founded the Jewish Defense League convinced him that he should not be allowed to run in the Knesset elections, Bach said. He cited Kahane's description of Israel's Declaration of Independence granting equal rights to all citizens as a "schizophrenic document" and his call for the deportation from Israel of the Arab, Druze and Circassian minorities.

"Only in very extreme cases should one ban a list because it is a basic democratic right to allow the expression of views, even those which are detestable," Bach said. However, the line must be drawn somewhere. "If a man such as Kahane enters the Knesset and enjoys immunity, anti-Semites

throughout the world will no longer need the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. If ever a democracy protecting itself had the right to ban a list, this is the case," Bach said.

Kach ran in both the 1977 and 1981 elections but failed both times to win enough votes for Knesset representation.

KAHANE'S U.S. SUPPORTERS PROTEST

NEW YORK, June 18 (JTA) — Shifra Hoffman, a member of the Jewish Defense League and the Executive Board of the American Friends of (Rabbi Meir) Kahane to the Knesset, charged here today that the decision by the Central Elections Committee in Tel Aviv to bar Kahane's Kach party from participating in the July 23 elections "was prompted by Kahane's strong showings in the polls."

She said that supporters of Kahane will demonstrate this evening in front of the Israeli Consulate here to protest the decision against Kach.

In a statement issued here on behalf of the American Friends of Kahane, Jews and non-Jews alike were asked to protest the decision. The statement, as read to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on the phone by Hoffman, said in part:

"In a state which prides itself on having in the Knesset Arab and Communist representatives, it is the height of hypocrisy to bar the Kach party. We feel this odious decision was prompted by Kahane's strong showing in the polls. We therefore call upon everyone who wants to see Israel to remain as a true democracy to urge the government of Israel to rescind the decision."

PLEA BARGAINING GETS REDUCED SENTENCE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) — The prosecution agreed today to reduce charges against another suspected member of the Jewish terrorist underground among the 22 currently on trial for murder or other acts of violence and planned violence against Arab civilians.

The suspect, identified only as defendant No. 16, is the fourth among the 27 men originally indicted to confess to lesser offenses. One of them, Noam Yinnon, who was tried separately, was sentenced a week ago to 18 months imprisonment after plea bargaining. Two others, Gilad Peli and Yosef Zuria, were convicted last Thursday and await sentences.

As a result of plea bargaining, the Prosecution submitted a new charge sheet against defendant 16 accusing him of conspiracy to commit a crime and illegal possession and transfer of weapons in connection with a plot to blow up the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aksa Mosque, Islamic shrines on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Charges of membership in a terrorist organization and damage to army property were dropped.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has rejected an appeal by Capt. Aharon Gilla for release from custody pending trial. He and another army officer, Maj. Shlomo Levytan, have been implicated in the car bombings that maimed two West Bank mayors in June, 1980. They will be tried separately from the other suspects.

The trial of the 22 suspects opened in district court here yesterday. The court is considering a defense motion for a three month postponement and is expected to rule favorably inasmuch as the prosecution has offered no objection.

HURWITZ STRESSES ISRAEL WELCOMES SUPPORT OF RIGHTWING CHRISTIANS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) — Premier Yitzhak Shamir's advisor, Harry Hurwitz, declared here that Israel welcomes the support of rightwing evangelical Christians in the United States and had high praise for Rev. Jerry Falwell, leader of the Moral Majority.

Hurwitz, a former information officer in the Likud government, was strongly backed in his views by Alieck Resnick, president of the Zionist Organization of America. Hurwitz was a speaker at the ZOA's Presidential Leadership Conference here yesterday when he was asked about the emerging alliance between some Jewish conservatives in the U.S. and militant Christian fundamentalists.

"Christian fundamentalists are by and large supporters of Israel and we are not selective when it comes to mobilizing support," he told the ZOA gathering. He lauded Falwell for testifying before a Congressional committee in favor of pending legislation requiring the U.S. to move its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The move is opposed by the Reagan Administration.

Resnick declared, "We welcome, accept and greet such Christian support for Israel without involving ourselves in their domestic agenda."

At another session, Minister of Commerce and Industry Gideon Patt, stressing that he spoke "hypothetically," said that none of Israel's overseas creditors is likely to contemplate the bankruptcy of Israel. Unlike many countries with significant foreign debts, he noted, Israel does not owe most of its debt to commercial banks which sometimes view forced bankruptcy as necessary to secure their investments.

Israel owes 73 percent of its overall debt to the United States, West Germany and to holders of Israel Bonds. None are likely to foreclose, Patt said, adding: "This, of course, is only hypothetical since Israel has maintained a meticulous record of debt repayment."

JEWISH GROUPS URGE U.S. NOT TO CUT OIL RESERVE

NEW YORK, June 18 (JTA) — Three American Jewish organizations have urged the Reagan Administration and Congress to maintain the strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) supply level at 186,000 barrels per day and not reduce it by 41,000 barrels as the Administration has proposed.

It is essential for the United States "to develop a clearly defined and equitable policy concerning use of the strategic petroleum reserve in the event of a possible emergency," the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said in a joint statement.

They added that the reserve "is only one element in a necessary coordinated international effort to cope with possible disruption of oil supply."

The statement was signed by Howard Friedman, president of the AJCommittee; Theodore Mann, president of the AJCongress; and Kenneth Bialkin, the national chairman of the ADL.

Contingency Plan Urged

"The current warnings about an oil cut off as a result of the Iran-Iraq war underscore the need for the U.S. to be adequately prepared," the statement said. "Therefore we urge the U.S. and its industrial allies, who are far more dependent on Persian Gulf

oil than is the U.S., to intensify their deliberations to produce an agreement on a timely and effective contingency plan."

In order to stem any spiraling of oil prices caused by a possible oil supply shortage, the three spokesmen said that "the U.S. should be prepared to make early and aggressive use of the strategic petroleum reserve," mentioning the sale of options on domestic reserves as one means to get oil into the market. In addition, they recommended that a test draw-down auction of the SPR be tried as soon as possible.

Furthermore, Congress was urged by the three national Jewish organizations to pass provisions offering financial assistance for the elderly poor and for low income families in the event of higher oil prices.

A package of amendments to the Emergency Preparedness Act of 1984 that call for the maintenance of present levels of strategic reserves, the establishment of options selling and financial assistance for the poor has been introduced in the Senate by Bill Bradley (D. N.J.) and is now being considered by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

NY GOVERNOR SIGNS LAW REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF FOREIGN GIFTS TO SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, June 18 (JTA) — Governor Mario Cuomo signed Friday a bill requiring public disclosure of gifts by foreign sources of more than \$100,000 to New York state institutions of higher learning.

The new law requires the state's colleges and universities not only to inform the State Education Department of grants from foreign sources which exceed \$100,000 in any given year, but also about the accompanying conditions and purposes of the gift.

The new law will ensure that such grants "do not undermine academic integrity" according to Avron Brog, chairman of the NY State Public Policy Committee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The measure was drafted by the ADL, Brog said.

He said the ADL became concerned several years ago by reports of large gifts from Middle East countries being made to American colleges and universities which contained conditions which he said breached academic responsibilities. He said some tried to control the hiring and firing of faculty, admission of students and what fees should be charged. Other gifts appeared to have been made on condition certain public stands or actions be taken by the recipient school.

Declaring that, in some cases, "undisclosed strings were attached to foreign gifts," tainting neutral administration and unbiased scholarship, Brog said that this meant, in effect, that the public was deceived, the quality of education undermined and the students given distorted information.

One of the targets of the measure was understood to be offers of contributions from Arab governments which required recipient schools to give the donor the right to name faculty members or to set up study centers at the schools.

The measure was approved last month in the State Senate by 52 to six and by the Assembly, 139 to zero.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish community leaders from throughout North America joined recently (June 12) in an international satellite teleconference linking 19 regional centers in the U.S. and Canada and a studio in Israel to discuss and prepare for the forthcoming Jewish Agency Assembly. It was coordinated by the Council of Jewish Federations in close cooperation with United Israel Appeal and United Jewish Appeal.

HISTADRUT, PRIVATE SECTOR AGREE ON 15.9 PERCENT C.O.L. INCREASE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 18 (JTA) — Histadrut and private sector employers signed an agreement last night for the payment of a 15.9 percent cost-of-living increment on June salaries, due July 1. Agreements with private employers are automatically accepted by public sector employers, including the government.

The June increase includes a 4.5 percent increase still due on May salaries plus 11.4 percent which represents 80 percent of the 14.3 percent rise in the consumer price index last month.

Last month's inflation rate, which exceeded the most pessimistic projections, has brought inflation to the fore as the most serious immediate problem facing Israel's economy. Former Finance Minister Yigael Hurwitz, who is running for the Knesset, warned yesterday that "financial chaos will break out" unless run-away inflation is halted.

If the economic situation continues to deteriorate, inflation in September and October will hit 20-25 percent for an annual rate of about 1,000 percent, he said. It is presently at an annual rate of about 400 percent. Such a development would require the payment of wages and salaries on a weekly basis, resulting in "chaos," Hurwitz warned.

Hurwitz was forced to resign as Finance Minister in 1982 when his Cabinet colleagues in the Likud government failed to support his efforts to reduce expenditures. His successor, Yoram Aridor, was replaced last year, by Yigal Cohen-Orgad, the fourth Finance Minister since the 1981 election.

Hurwitz has formed a new party, Ometz (Courage) which will seek Knesset representation in the July 23 elections. He said that if elected he would strive for the establishment of the broadest possible national government and institute drastic spending cutbacks to save the economy from collapse.

ROSENNE, SHULTZ MEET By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 18 (JTA) — Meir Rosenne, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, met for nearly two hours last Thursday "in a very cordial and warm atmosphere" with Secretary of State George Shultz, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the Israeli Embassy said today.

The luncheon meeting at the State Department was at the invitation of Shultz. Rosenne later met for 45 minutes with Vice President George Bush to discuss current events in the Middle East in a meeting that was also described as "very cordial" by an Embassy official. A State Department spokesman had no comment today on the content of the meetings last week.

CANADIAN JUDGE ORDERS TRIAL FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER CHARGED WITH ANTI-SEMITISM By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, June 18 (JTA) — James Keegstra, a dismissed high school teacher from Eckville, Alberta, has been remanded for trial on charges of violating Canada's anti-hate laws.

Judge Douglas Crowe ruled after a nine day preliminary hearing in Red Deer, Alberta, that he had heard sufficient evidence to warrant trial. He was

referring to testimony by former pupils that Keegstra used his classroom to preach virulent anti-Semitism and incite hatred of Jews.

No date was set for the trial which is not expected to begin until the fall session of the courts. The anti-hate provisions of Canada's Criminal Code were enacted 14 years ago, in July, 1970. So far there have been no convictions under the statute.

Sherron Wolny, now 19, an honors graduate and class valedictorian of the Eckville high school, testified that Keegstra referred to Jews as "thugs" and "money thugs." "You got a better mark if you wrote what Mr. Keegstra said" on examinations, she told the court.

Blair Andrew, 17, who appeared as a defense witness at the hearing, said he believed Keegstra and to this day lives in fear of Jews, though he also feels ashamed. He said he was taught in Keegstra's class, when he was 13, that there was "a Jewish conspiracy to take over the world" and that "your average Jew was a criminal gutter rat and cut throat."

Another former student, Trudi Roth, said Keegstra taught that President Roosevelt was a "dupe of Zionism" and committed suicide when Stalin refused to "make him President of the world." She said that when she wrote an essay on Zionism based on an encyclopedia article, Keegstra gave her a failing mark and warned her to base her essays on his notes, not other sources.

Dana Kreil, 19, also a defense witness, said Keegstra referred to an "elite group" of about 7-8 percent of all Jews as being responsible for plots and atrocities. These "elite" were described by Keegstra as "Bolshevik Jews," "Zionist Jews" and "Khazar Jews." The Khazars were a Central Asian people whose rulers converted to Judaism in the eighth century.

Twice during the hearing defense counsel Douglas Christie read long passages from the Talmud. Danny Desrosiers, 19, said Keegstra contended that the Talmud gave Jews the right to kill or steal from gentiles.

Crown Prosecutors Bruce Fraser and Larry Philippe introduced essays written by three students which praised Hitler and said Judaism was the enemy of Christianity. Ms. Wolny testified that she was taught in Keegstra's class that Jews paid for Lincoln's assassination, provoked World Wars I and II and the Russian revolution and plan to control the world by the year 2000.

Keegstra was fired from the Alberta school system on the complaint of parents that he was indoctrinating their children with anti-Semitism. Several of the parents testified at the hearing. None are Jewish and no Jews live in Eckville. Keegstra, who served as Mayor of Eckville, was defeated in a re-election bid last year. While his teaching was not a campaign issue, the voters were reported repelled by his views and angered by the disrepute he brought on their town, a farm community of about 900.

NEW YORK, June 18 (JTA) — A leading educator reported that missionaries and cult leaders are reaching out not only to "vulnerable" Jewish youths on area campus colleges but are seeking also to influence Jewish senior citizens in nursing homes and hospitals. This disclosure was made by Dr. Seymour Lachman, chairman of the task force on missionaries and cults of the Jewish Community Relations Council. He spoke at the spring luncheon of the Women's League of the National Council of Young Israel.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA FINDS 'CONVERGENCE' BETWEEN EXTREME LEFT, RIGHT IN ANTI-SEMITIC IDEOLOGY

By Sam Lipski

MELBOURNE, June 18 (JTA) -- An international seminar on "Anti-Semitism and Human Rights" concluded here this week with warnings from several speakers on the "trans-ideological convergence" between extreme right and extreme left in contemporary anti-Semitism.

The seminar, sponsored by the University of Melbourne and the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs, brought together international scholars and Australian experts in the first such seminar held in this country.

Amongst the overseas guests were the Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth, Immanuel Jakobovits; Zwi Werblowsky, professor of comparative religion at the Hebrew University; Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Dayan Centre on Middle Eastern Affairs, Tel Aviv University; Emanuel Litvinoff, Anglo-Jewish writer and authority on Soviet Jewry; Dr. Stephen Roth, director of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, London; and Shimon Samuels, director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in Paris.

Papers were sent by a number of invitees who could not attend. They included Dr. Allan Gerson, special assistant to the U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations, Dr. William Korey, director, international policy research, B'nai B'rith International, and Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the ADL.

Australia Proposes Anti-Racist Laws

The two-day conference discussed the historical contemporary dimensions of international anti-Semitism, neo-Nazi movements, the emergence of anti-Zionism, the role of the Soviet Union, relationships with the Christian churches, the Islamic revival, attitudes in the Arab world and the problem of the United Nations.

In the session dealing with "the Australian experience" leading Australian lawyers examined proposals now before the Australian Parliament for legislation making incitement to racial hatred and group libel an offense.

Special attention was given to the "new revisionism", the claims by the neo-Nazi right and its pseudo-academic supporters that the Holocaust never occurred.

The co-chairmen and founders of the Australian Institute, Isi Leibler and Richard Pratt said they were greatly encouraged by the unexpectedly high degree of interest the seminar had aroused in Australia.

Leibler, president of the executive council of Australian Jewry, is a member of the World Jewish Congress Governing Board. Pratt, who is active in the United Israel Appeal-Keren Hayesod is also a co-chairman of the WJC International Institute of Jewish Affairs.

'Barometer of Tolerance'

Summing up the conference Leibler said that anti-Semitism provided a "barometer of tolerance" which affected all of humanity. Tragically it remained "the abiding prejudice" and served as a constant reminder of the need for vigilance.

In addition to being the first conference of its type to be held in Australia, the seminar represented a number of other "firsts" for Australian Jewry. It

was the first public project of the recently formed Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs, a privately funded organization modelled on the WJC Institute in London. Its aim is to co-ordinate research on anti-Semitism and prejudice in Australia and to provide a forum for debate on related issues.

The seminar was also the first occasion in Australia on which rabbis joined Jesuit fathers, Catholic theologians, Anglican priests and United Church ministers on the same platform to discuss Christianity and anti-Semitism.

Attended by academics, clergy, and representatives of the media from all over Australia and New Zealand the seminar attracted wide media coverage, was featured on national television and was the subject of editorial comment in a number of leading newspapers.

The seminar was held in the midst of a controversial public debate in Australia about the increased level of immigration from Asia in recent years. The growing number of Asian migrants, mostly Indochina refugees and their families, has been used by a number of extreme right-wing racist groups to step up hate propaganda. Many of these groups have a long history of anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism.

Although there was general agreement that the amount of anti-Semitism in Australia was and is very low by international standards, some speakers pointed out that Australia was not immune to the disturbing growth of anti-Semitism found elsewhere.

Dr. W. Rubinstein of Deakin University, Melbourne, noted that extremist groups on the anti-Semitic far right, the anti-Zionist far left, and some mainstream churches friendly to the PLO and hostile to Israel, provided the current sources of Australian anti-Semitism. There has also been a reported increase in incidents of vocal abuse, swastika daubings, and even physical violence against Jews in known Jewish neighborhoods in Melbourne.

NAZI HUNTER DENIES MENGELE HIDING

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 18 (JTA) -- Tuvia Friedman, who heads the Nazi war crimes documentation center in Haifa, claims that the notorious Auschwitz doctor, Josef Mengele, is not hiding out in the jungles of Paraguay but in fact makes frequent visits to the United States.

Friedman told a press conference last week that Mengele has assets in the millions of dollars in the U.S. and maintained that a combined effort by the governments of the U.S., West Germany and Israel could effect his capture.

Friedman did not deny that Mengele lives in Paraguay. He did not refer to the press conference held in New York earlier by Vienna-based Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal who urged the U.S. to pressure the Paraguayan government to locate and extradite Mengele. But Friedman's remarks were somewhat at variance with Wiesenthal's which gave the impression that Mengele was protected by Paraguayan authorities and dared not leave that country.

Mengele, who was known as the "angel of death" for his inhumane experiments on Auschwitz inmates, lives at a hotel in the Mennonite village of Valendam in Paraguay, according to Wiesenthal.

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CHICAGO (JTA) -- June 24 to July 1 has been designated International Week of Solidarity with the Falasha Jews of Ethiopia. All over the world, Jews and concerned citizens will be showing their support for the dying community of Ethiopian Jews.