



CANADA TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS THAT MENGELE APPLIED FOR ENTRY IN 1962
By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced yesterday that he has ordered an urgent investigation of reports that Dr. Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz "Angel of Death," applied for entry into Canada in 1962.

He told Parliament that he has directed Justice Minister John Crobie and Solicitor General Elmer MacKay to sift investigation records for evidence that Mengele, one of the most notorious Nazi war criminals still at large, sought a visa at the Canadian Consulate in Buenos Aires under the alias Joseph Menke. There is no knowledge that he ever entered Canada.

MacKay, speaking after the Prime Minister, said all restrictions on the publication of incriminating documents now in the possession of the U.S. State Department in Washington will be lifted for the Canadian government so that a thorough investigation can be conducted.

OSI Also To Investigate U.S. Role

In Washington, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Elliott Abrams, said yesterday that the Reagan Administration agrees that the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) look into reports that Mengele was arrested by American authorities in the U.S.-occupied zone of Vienna in 1947 and then released.

This was indicated in Army intelligence documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. The documents reportedly mention that Mengele may have sought entry to Canada from Argentina under an alias in 1962 and that U.S. intelligence was informed of his visa application.

The U.S. reportedly supplied the Canadians with information about Mengele but subsequent follow-up, if any, has not been revealed. U.S. intelligence has established that Menke was an alias used by Mengele.

'Repugnant And Repulsive In The Extreme'

Mulroney told Parliament in Ottawa that the idea of Canada as a refuge for Mengele was "repugnant and repulsive in the extreme to our citizenship."

Canada's former Solicitor General Robert Kaplan, now a Liberal MP for Toronto said yesterday, "It looks as if he has slipped through the fingers of Canadian officials. I'd like to know why. I'd like to know how high it went in the Canadian government," he told reporters. However, he said he doubted Mengele actually entered Canada.

The West German government issued a warrant for Mengele's arrest in 1959 but there is no evidence that Canada's Department of External Affairs informed Bonn of his whereabouts in 1962.

In 1966, the Canadian Jewish Congress submitted a report to the Ottawa government on Nazi war criminals hiding in Canada. The list contained about 14 names, mostly of Estonian and Lithuanian origin. But no action has been taken to denaturalize the suspects and the statute of limitations has since precluded it.

RENEWAL OF U.S.-USSR ARMS TALKS SEEN AS LEADING TO MORE EMIGRATION AND LESS OPPRESSION FOR SOVIET JEWS
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- Optimism was expressed here yesterday that despite the almost total shutoff of Soviet Jewish emigration and the officially-sanctioned anti-Semitism in the USSR, including physical violence against Jews, the renewal of United States-Soviet arms talks could lead to increased emigration and less repression for Soviet Jews.

This feeling as well as the need to continue the struggle here was expressed to the more than 150 aides of U.S. Representatives and Senators who attended the biennial Congressional briefing of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews on Capitol Hill. Many Congressmen and Senators also made appearances.

Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, stressed that the issue of Soviet Jewry has been raised by the Reagan Administration at every high level meeting with the Soviet Union, including the meeting in Geneva earlier this month between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. He said the issue will be raised at the forthcoming nuclear arms talks.

Issue Is Not A Pro Forma Matter

Abrams said the issue, which was also recently stressed by the U.S. at the bilateral trade talks in Moscow, is raised "not as a pro forma matter, not as something which you tag on at the end, but as something that you put in at the beginning so that they know you care."

For this reason, Abrams said he was pleased that President Reagan had named Max Kampelman as the head of the U.S. negotiating team for the upcoming arms talks with the Soviet Union since, as head of the U.S. delegation to the Madrid talks reviewing the Helsinki agreements, Kampelman had been outspoken in his criticism of Soviet human rights violations including those against Soviet Jewry. "He (Kampelman) does not put human rights to the side, the cause of Soviet Jews to the side," Abrams said.

Sen. John Heinz (R, Pa.) also stressed that he hoped the appointment of Kampelman "will send a signal to the Soviet Union" that they will not be "let off the hook" when it comes to Prisoners of Conscience, refuseniks, and Soviet Jews. Rep. Jack Kemp (R, NY) said the appointment was "not only propitious but providential" since "there is no stronger voice on behalf of human rights" than Kampelman.

1985 May Be A Better Year

Avital Shcharansky, wife of imprisoned Soviet Jew Anatoly Shcharansky, noted that on the second day of the Shultz-Gromyko talks, the Soviet government announced that Shcharansky's mother and brother could visit him for two days in his prison camp, something they have not allowed in the eight years he had been imprisoned. She said he also now began receiving the medical treatment and medicine he has needed.

Avital Shcharansky added that she believes that 1985 will see an improvement in conditions for Soviet Jewry as the USSR seeks to renew relations with the United States. Stuart Eizenstat, the UCSJ's legal council, and a former assistant to President Carter, also said that 1985 was a "time of hope" because "emigration has so

directly related over the years to the state of U.S.-Soviet relations." He said the arms talks could result in greater Jewish emigration.

But Morey Schapiro, president of the UCSJ, said 1984 saw the "ghost of Stalin walking again" in the Soviet Union with new cultural pogroms, especially against teachers of Hebrew; trumped up charges against Jews, and physical violence. Abrams said that the threat of violence has become so serious that Jews seeking to emigrate now face not only the loss of jobs or education opportunities but the loss of a limb or an eye or even their lives.

Urge Continuation Of Effort For Soviet Jewry

Speaker after speaker urged a continuation of the effort for Soviet Jewry. Rep. Dante Fascell, (D.Fla.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, stressed that as Soviet Jews face increased anti-Semitism "their only hope is that you have not forgotten them." Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R. NY), who recently returned from a visit to the USSR, said Jewish activists told the visiting Congressmen that the more Americans speak up the better it is for Soviet Jews.

Rep. Charles Rangel (D.NY), one of the leading Blacks in Congress, said all issues of human rights are connected. Jews and Blacks "can't enjoy the luxury of being angry with each other for too long, as long as we know that our people have felt the same type of persecution and we don't see any immediate future where this is going to go away."

Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn) and Rep. Sander Levin (D. Mich.) are co-chairman of the UCSJ's Congressional Call to Conscience during the present Congress. In existence since 1976, the Call to Conscience provides a means for members of Congress to speak weekly on specific cases of Soviet Jews.

AGREEMENT REACHED ON NEW EIGHT-MONTH ECONOMIC PACKAGE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24 (JTA) — A new eight-month economic package that will focus more on reducing the government's expenditures than reducing the rate of inflation will take effect next month when the current wage-price freeze package expires.

Agreement was reached on the salient points of the new package at a grueling 15-hour meeting of top government officials with representatives of Histadrut and the Employers and Manufacturers Association which ended after dawn today. Premier Shimon Peres presided, and Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Economics Minister Gad Yaacobi were the principal participants on behalf of the government.

Under the new package, State subsidies for basic goods and services will be reduced from the present 100-300 percent range to a maximum of 25 percent, with subsidies for many items much lower. Subsidies for electricity and water will be virtually eliminated. The Treasury is expected to save about \$1 billion a year.

Interim Price Hikes, Subsidy Cuts

Although the new package will not begin until February 5, interim subsidy cuts and consequent price hikes took effect at midnight last night. The prices of gasoline, kerosene, fuel oils, cooking and heating gas rose 25 percent, on top of the 10 percent fuel price increase allowed by the government last week. The cost of electricity and water will go up by 50 percent once the new package is ratified by the Knesset's Finance Committee.

The prices of non-subsidized goods are expected to increase by an average 10 percent next month and will go up by about five percent a month thereafter. Further increases in the cost of subsidized goods will depend on the rate of inflation and the cost of the Dollar.

The new economic package will be in effect five months longer than the wage-price freeze instituted last November. The freeze reduced the rate of inflation to an 18-month low of 3.7 percent in the second half of December. But the price hikes already introduced will send the January c.o.i. index back up to about 10 percent. The figures will be announced on February 15.

Wage-earners will be compensated by cost-of-living allowances, although at a lower rate than before, an extra five percent rebate on their income tax and a payment equivalent to about \$10 at current prices.

Several components of the new package have yet to be worked out. Talks will be resumed at the Prime Minister's Office in Tel Aviv this evening, with Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kessar and Eli Hurvitz, president of the Manufacturers Association.

WJC CONCLUDES IN VIENNA MARKS FIRST SUCH MEETING OF JEWISH LEADERS THERE

VIENNA, Jan. 24 (JTA) — Delegates from Jewish communities throughout the world, including Eastern Europe and Cuba, have begun streaming into town for the three-day meeting of the World Jewish Congress Governing Board, from January 26 to 28. This is the first time that leaders of world Jewry are assembling here since the end of World War II.

The decision to hold the WJC Board meeting in Vienna, said WJC president Edgar Bronfman, represents "a determined effort on the part of both the Jewish people and the government of Austria to forge a new relationship in which the realities of the future will supercede — though not neglect — the traumatic events of the past." The meeting will be opened by Chancellor Fred Sinowitz.

The more than 200 delegates and observers at the meeting from the Jewish communities of nearly 70 countries in North and South America, Western and Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia will set policy for a global Jewish agenda for the next year.

The delegates to the weekend conference — among them representatives from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia — will hear reports and establish policies on a variety of issues of worldwide Jewish concern. These include the emergency airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel, endangered Jewish communities, Soviet Jewry, the Middle East, the United Nations, the Third World, East-West relations, anti-Semitism, Christian-Jewish relations, and human rights.

Highlights Of The Conference

Highlights of the meeting will include a report by Ambassador Moshe Gilboa, director of world Jewish affairs in Israel's Foreign Ministry, on the situation of Ethiopian Jewry. He will also discuss the current conditions of Jews in endangered communities.

Premier Shimon Peres of Israel will deliver a major policy address on the Mideast via live satellite TV hook-up from Jerusalem. The hook-up will enable delegates to engage in a back-and-forth discussion with Peres.

The direction of Christian-Jewish relations will be addressed by Msgr. Jorge Mejia, the director of the Vatican Commission on Relations with the Jews, and the Primate of Austria, Franz Cardinal Koenig.

The WJC Governing Board will consider policy recommendations on the problem of the absence of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel. Also addressing the meeting is Ambassador James Jonah of Sierra Leone, Assistant Secretary-General of the UN, who served as Secretary General of the organization's World Conference Against Racism in 1983 in Geneva. Jonah will focus on the struggle against apartheid and racism.

Elie Wiesel, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, will speak on the legacy of the Holocaust, as delegates consider a series of proposals for commemorative events to mark the 40th anniversary of the Liberation. Another highlight of the meeting is Bronfman's "State of World Jewry" address — an assessment of the conditions of Jewish communities around the world and of his talks with 22 heads of state in the past year.

ORT SCHOOLS STRESSING HI-TECH TRAINING AND JEWISH EDUCATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA) — ORT (Organization For Rehabilitation Through Training) is expanding sophisticated computer and robotics training courses at ORT schools in Israel, the U.S., France, Italy, Latin America, India, Morocco, South Africa, Great Britain and Ireland while simultaneously putting a renewed emphasis on Jewish education at schools throughout the ORT global network, which serves 116,000 students.

This development will be presented by Alvin Gray, American ORT Federation (AOF) president, at the organization's national conference Saturday night. The conference will mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the American ORT Federation.

Gray, who will complete the second year of his four-year term of office at the conference, notes that, "In the six decades since the American ORT Federation was founded in 1925, AOF has played a major pivotal role in meeting the challenges ORT was called upon to meet, during one of the most chaotic epochs in Jewish history. We are proud partners in the international ORT network which today is providing its students not only with top-flight technical education, but first rate Jewish education as well, in order that graduates of ORT schools will not lose touch with the rich Jewish history of the past as they master the complex technologies of the future."

During the three-day conference, which begins tomorrow, some 500 delegates from American ORT groups throughout the United States will discuss current developments in the various national ORT programs, including the more than 100 schools and training centers in Israel, the largest ORT operation in the network. Some 80,000 students study at ORT schools in Israel, including recently arrived Jews from Ethiopia who attend special ORT training programs in Kiriyat Gat and Natanya.

ORT Schools Counter Unemployment

According to Gray, one of the most serious challenges facing many of the ORT networks is the problem of unemployment. In Israel, where thousands of young men and women newly discharged from the army enter the job market every year with virtually no marketable skills, ORT operates special training programs to prepare them for the jobs that are being created by new high technology industries. Older Israelis whose jobs have been phased out by the new technologies are being retrained for the changing job market as well.

In France, where ORT operates a network of eight schools serving 8,000 students, thanks to the high reputation ORT France schools have earned among employers, virtually all graduates of ORT schools find good jobs soon after graduation in fields ranging from auto mechanics to robotics.

And ORT India, where 800 students study at the ORT school in Bombay, reports that in a country where unemployment has traditionally been endemic, not a single recent ORT graduate is unemployed.

The situation is similar, Gray notes, throughout Latin America, where ORT students number 9,200 in Argentina, 3,000 in Brazil, 1,500 in Chile and 3,200 in Uruguay.

The 1,000 students of the ORT program in Morocco are part of a Jewish community which in recent years has been losing many of its young people as they leave for brighter futures in France or Israel. The sound training in subjects such as data processing assures them of productive lives in whatever country they choose to make their home.

The new computer literacy program in South Africa is in its second successful year. Four elementary schools and six high schools have joined the project which enables students to apply their computer training to the other subjects in their curriculum.

New ORT International Institute In Carmiel

According to Gray, the ground breaking ceremony for the new Max Braude ORT International Institute will take place in Carmiel in Israel's Region 2000 hi-tech development area in February, in conjunction with an American ORT Federation mission to tour ORT Israel schools.

When it opens its doors in 1986, the Braude ORT International Institute will be a two-year technical high school and will feature instruction in English, French and Spanish, as well as in Hebrew, in order to attract Jewish students from the diaspora who will study together with Israeli youngsters. The first such ORT school in the world, it is named for the late Max Braude, director-general of the World ORT Union for some 30 years.

The new Los Angeles ORT Technical Institute is also slated to begin operations in 1986 and will provide high level technical training to the Jewish community of Los Angeles. It will incorporate elements of the other two ORT projects in the U.S., the Bramson ORT Technical Institute in New York and the ORT computer literacy project in operation at the Jewish High School of South Florida in Miami.

Gray's report acknowledges the support of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for its help in funding ORT programs. The ORT-JDC partnership dates from 1947 and during the intervening 38 years JDC funds to ORT have totalled \$93,121,700. Dr. Woody Slater, Budget and Planning Director of the JDC, will make a presentation to the American ORT Federation in recognition of the AOF's 60th Anniversary and to commemorate the nearly four decades of fruitful collaboration between JDC and AOF.

At the national conference banquet, Saturday night, a special presentation of the AOF Community Achievement Award will be made to former New York Sen. Jacob Javits "in recognition of his lifetime of service on behalf of the children of ORT and humanity at large." Javits, a Board member of the American ORT Federation since the 1940's, visited ORT training centers in DP camps in Germany immediately after World War II. His testimony before the Congress helped focus attention to the plight of the refugees and the work ORT was doing to prepare them for their new lives.

CATHOLIC WRITER CHARGES THAT TWO INTERFAITH MEETINGS IN CANADA CAUSED JEWS 'CONSIDERABLE DISCOMFORT'

By Patricia Rucker

TORONTO, Jan. 24 (JTA) — The visit of Pope John Paul to Canada has prompted the editor of an independent Canadian Catholic newspaper to charge that ecumenical and interfaith relations in this country have a low priority within the Roman Catholic Church.

In a major article in the bi-weekly Catholic New Times, Sister Mary Jo Leddy acknowledged that the Jewish participants, among others, in two events during the Pope's visit last September suffered "considerable discomfort."

The events of the Papal visit to which Leddy referred in her article last month were an ecumenical service in St. Paul's Anglican (Episcopal) Church in Toronto and what was publicized as an "interfaith" service in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Edmonton, Alberta. Jews as well as other non-Christians had been invited to participate in the Toronto service to whatever extent they felt they could.

But the tone of the service, which stressed the importance of Christian unity in order to evangelize the world — convert it to Christianity — left non-Christians, in Leddy's words, "decidedly uncomfortable."

Strong Reservations About One Of The Services

She quoted Rabbi Jordan Pearson of Toronto's Temple Sinai, a Reform congregation, as saying: "There was not one moment in which non-Christians could participate in the service." But Leddy has far stronger reservations about the Edmonton service.

By the time the service took place, those attending knew it was not, in fact, an interfaith event, but a Catholic evening prayer service. But non-Christians, including a rabbi, Haim Kemelman, were invited and agreed to attend. They found themselves listening to a homily which referred to God as having "called the (Jewish) people to repentance and promised to establish with them a new and better covenant"

The homily continued: "And how did God establish this New Covenant? With the blood of Jesus, with the blood of the Lamb of God, the blood of the New and Everlasting Covenant, our Savior's blood, which is the price of our redemption."

Writing in The Canadian Jewish News, Kemelman said of the Pope's address: "It was neither ecumenical nor did it contribute to interfaith appreciation and comprehension."

'How Could This Have Happened?'

Leddy, in her article which was captioned "How could this have happened?" offered several explanations. One explanation dealt with organizational confusion. Speeches were drafted by a series of committees at the national coordinating office in Ottawa and then forwarded to Rome for further revisions.

But, Leddy wrote, quoting a "highly-placed source in Rome": "No one thought of ecumenism as a problem area so it didn't get a lot of attention. The top writers weren't put on the ecumenical services Those speeches got lost in Rome."

Leddy also identified another problem: a much deeper theological confusion. "Conducting an ecumenical service for Christians in front of an in-

vised interfaith group was experienced as deeply ambiguous," she wrote. "Was this the work of the Pope himself?" She answers by saying she doesn't think so, referring to a speech he gave in Germany in which he said that the "Old Covenant" had not been revoked.

Identifying those whom Leddy believes were responsible, she wrote: "It may not reflect the Pope's own thinking, but it does reflect the working theology of many Vatican bureaucrats. A clear, passionate commitment did not exist in the area of ecumenical or interfaith relations."

The Catholic New Times has a reputation for being outspoken on issues of peace and social justice, and Leddy herself has participated in peace missions to the Soviet Union and Central America. She is the provincial coordinator of the 100-member North American community of the Sisters of Zion, an order dedicated, according to its constitution, to promoting understanding and justice for the Jewish community. The order has houses in Toronto, Western Canada, Kansas City, Mo., and Brooklyn, N.Y.

AWARD TO NAZI STIRS NEWSPAPER WAR

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA) — A Miami Beach weekly has charged the Miami Herald with having previous knowledge that Miami Beach Mayor Michael Fromberg unwittingly was going to present an award of a gold medalion to a former Nazi SS sergeant at a ceremony last year attended by a large group of Jewish residents of the area, according to a report in a December issue of Editor and Publisher magazine. The Herald denied the charges.

According to Editor and Publisher, the Miami Beach Sun Reporter claimed that the Herald sat on the story until the award was made. Ken Harrel, Sun Reporter news editor, told the trade journal, "What the Herald did, in negligence to being part of the community, they let (the award ceremony) happen to get a good story."

But the Herald's reporter and editors said they had no advance knowledge of the identity of Franz Hausberger who was to receive the medalion from Fromberg in recognition of his work to encourage German tourism.

The Herald said they received a tip shortly before the ceremony regarding Hausberger's past activities. They in turn contacted sources to confirm his identity and sent an additional reporter to the ceremony to join the reporter originally assigned to the story.

The Herald said that by the time the additional reporter, Paul Shannon of the Miami Beach bureau, arrived at the ceremony it had already begun. Shannon said he began speaking to a local rabbi to get a demographic makeup of the audience and see whether there were Holocaust survivors in the audience.

But Harrel claimed Shannon arrived before the ceremony and began asking questions to set up the story. Harrel said, according to Editor and Publisher, that he had spoken to several witnesses who had seen Shannon and another Herald reporter at the ceremony site 45 minutes before the medalion was awarded. "They knew about it and I'd stake my reputation on it," Harrel was quoted as saying.

But the Herald contended that if they had known about Hausberger's past, "we would have run the story in advance and saved everybody embarrassment," Herald assignment editor Ed Wasserman told Editor and Publisher. Fromberg, it was reported, came under sharp attack for the blunder, and, according to Harrel, blames the Herald. The Herald said the Mayor has never complained to the newspaper.