

2 PERSONS WOUNDED IN EGGED BUS ATTACK By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31 (JTA) — A bus driver and one passenger were wounded last night when terrorists opened fire on an Egged bus on the Jerusalem-Hebron highway. Military authorities clamped a curfew on three Arab villages in the area as soldiers began a search for the attackers.

The incident was the second of its kind in two months on the same highway in the West Bank. Terrorists have recently stepped up their attacks on Israeli vehicles in the territory, mainly throwing rocks and an occasional Molotov cocktail. Last night's shooting ambush was the most serious terrorist act in weeks.

The bus was enroute from Jerusalem to the Etzion bloc settlements when it came under automatic fire at about 7 p.m. local time. Bullets pierced the windshield, wounding the driver in the leg and hitting a passenger. The driver was hospitalized. The passenger was given first aid and sent home.

TROUBLE STALKS AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT OVER DEFENSE MINISTER'S PERSONAL WELCOME TO NAZI WAR CRIMINAL By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Jan. 31 (JTA) — Chancellor Fred Sinowatz's Socialist-led coalition government appears to be in serious trouble over the fate of Defense Minister Friedhelm Frischenschlager which will be decided in Parliament tomorrow.

Frischenschlager raised a political storm last week when he went to Graz to personally greet Walter Reder, a Nazi war criminal convicted of mass murder who returned to his native Austria after nearly 40 years in an Italian prison.

Demands for Frischenschlager's resignation are mounting, especially among Socialist members of Parliament and some key Socialist ministers. But Sinowatz, who accepted Frischenschlager's apology for his conduct earlier this week, is determined to retain the Defense Minister in his Cabinet.

To force his resignation would break the coalition between the Socialists and Frischenschlager's Freiheitliche Partei Oesterreichs (Freedom Party) and bring down the government. But the Socialist faction in Parliament is split. Many Socialists have been unhappy from the outset over their partnership with the Freedom Party which has a strong right-wing nationalist faction. The Frischenschlager-Reder affair has become a catalyst for their discontent.

Threats Of Resignations

Sinowatz, for his part, has threatened to resign if Frischenschlager is ousted. So has Vice Chancellor Norbert Steger, leader of the Freedom Party. The outcome of tomorrow's Parliamentary debate is in doubt.

The opposition People's Party has submitted a motion for Frischenschlager's ouster. It insists, moreover, that the vote be by roll-call rather than by party bloc which is the usual practice. The People's Party has sufficient representation to force a roll-call, and many Socialist members support them.

Maria Berger, leader of the young Socialist faction has demanded that party discipline be lifted. In that case, Socialists who have denounced Frischenschlager's action could hardly vote to keep him in the government.

Poll Favors Minister's Retention

Public opinion in Austria favors Frischenschlager's retention in the government by a 45-25 percent margin, according to a poll just taken. It is split along generational lines. A large majority of the respondents under 25 think he should resign.

Italy is involved in the matter inasmuch as it released Reder from jail six months before expiration of his sentence because of an appeal on humanitarian grounds from Austria. Giovanni Malagodi, honorary chairman of the Italian Liberal Party which is linked ideologically to Austria's Freedom Party, has demanded clarification from the latter with respect to its positions on nationalism and even national socialism.

Malagodi said such clarification is necessary to prevent strong protests that could endanger the congress of the International Organization of Liberal Parties scheduled to be held in Vienna next year.

JUDGE RULES THAT ARTUKOVIC IS MENTALLY COMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 31 (JTA) — A federal magistrate ruled yesterday that the Yugoslavian Nazi war criminal, Andrija Artukovic, is mentally competent to stand trial. Judge Volney Brown Jr. heard testimony from the departmental head of internal medicine at Long Beach (Calif.) Naval Hospital, where Artukovic is being cared for while under custody.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center reported that Dr. David Hill said that Artukovic was physically capable of undergoing court proceedings. His opinion was supported by Dr. John Stalberg, a court-appointed psychiatrist who was called upon to determine Artukovic's mental competence.

Stalberg told Brown that the 85-year-old former Interior and Justice Minister in the Nazi puppet state of Croatia was suffering from depression that could be alleviated by anti-depressant medication. Brown decided that since Artukovic's state of health had both good and bad days, he would set aside seven days between February 11-27 to continue with the extradition proceedings.

The magistrate also ordered Hill to report to Artukovic's attorney, Gary Fleischman, on the Nazi war criminal's mental state on these specific days. Senior officials of the Wiesenthal Center, who had been attending the proceedings against Artukovic the past few months, reported that the proceedings were conducted "with utmost fairness."

Hopes Justice Will Be Done

Dr. Gerald Margolis, director of the Center, said "It is our hope that the extradition request will proceed smoothly and that this notorious Nazi war criminal, who has managed to evade justice for over 30 years and who has lived in the lap of luxury, will finally be brought to the bar of justice. His 750,000 victims — mercilessly murdered — were never given a hearing on their physical or mental well-being."

Artukovic was arrested last November by federal authorities acting on a new request for extradition by the government of Yugoslavia. An alien resident of California for over 30 years, he was responsible for the murders of 700,000 Serbs, 40,000 Gypsies, and 25,000 Jews in Croatia where he was also in charge of the notorious Jasenovac concentration camp. Until his arrest, Artukovic had successfully evaded all legal moves against him since 1951.

BARBIE'S LAWYER CHARGED WITH SLANDERING THREE LEADERS OF WARTIME FRENCH RESISTANCE MOVEMENT By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 31 (JTA) — Jacques Verges, the lawyer defending Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, has been formally charged with the slander of three prominent leaders of the wartime French resistance movement.

Justice Ministry sources said, however, that the charge will not prevent him from serving as Barbie's counsel when the former gestapo chief in Lyon is brought to trial, possibly late this year or in 1986.

Verges, who volunteered to defend Barbie shortly after he was brought to France from Bolivia in January, 1983, has threatened to expose "who were the real killers" of Jean Moulin, the French resistance leader whose murder has been laid to Barbie.

He also implied that Jewish collaborators prompted Barbie to deport children from the Jewish orphanage at Izeu and to order the mass arrests of French Jewish community leaders in Lyon.

The charges of slander were brought against Verges by Raymond and Lucie Aubrac who, close associates of Moulin at the time of his arrest, and Gen. Pierre Emile de Benouville, a wartime resistance leader who has maintained close connections with French Jewish organizations.

Barbie was imprisoned in Lyon two years ago for "crimes against humanity" which itself is unenforceable under French law. Specific charges will be drawn up by the prosecutor, based on evidence amassed by investigating magistrate Christian Riss.

Riss submitted his findings several weeks ago and the trial was expected to start sometime next fall.

But Justice Ministry sources told the French news agency, Agence France Presse, yesterday that it might not open until 1986 because additional legal work is required.

FOUR RABBIS AMONG SEVEN ARRESTED AT DEMONSTRATION AT SOVIET UN MISSION

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA) — Four rabbis were among seven persons arrested as they sat in the street in front of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations to protest the KGB's continued arrests and searches of homes of unofficial Jewish teachers. The seven were charged with disorderly conduct and ordered to appear for a court hearing February 27.

The protest action, several days ago, was organized by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) as the first in a series at the Mission under the name "Operation Redemption."

The seven arrested were Rabbis Lewis Frishman of Temple Beth El in Spring Valley, NY; Jeffrey Hoffman of Congregation Sons of Israel in Upper Nyack, NY; Michael Katz of Temple Beth Torah in Westbury, Long Island; and James Michaels of the Whitestone Hebrew Center, NY; Tod Jacobs and Tom Rose, journalism students at Columbia University who had just returned from the Soviet Union

where they met with Jewish refuseniks; and Glenn Richter, national coordinator of the SSSJ. The seven demonstrators were joined by Rabbi Avraham Weiss, chairman of the SSSJ. He was one of the six rabbis arrested earlier this month while staging a sit-in at the offices of Tass, the Soviet news agency. Charges of criminal trespass against them were dismissed in City Criminal Court.

The group at the Soviet Mission stated that they were there "because the Kremlin is engaged in a systematic campaign of spiritual genocide. As such, there can be no 'business as usual' for Soviet officials in the United States."

The group pointed to the arrests of unofficial Jewish educators such as Yuli Edelstein, Yakov Mesh and Alexander Kholmiansky, and the arrest last week of Dan Shapiro of Moscow, coordinated with searches of six apartments of unofficial teachers. They also focused on "a new wave of KGB physical brutality, an increased anti-semitic campaign in the Soviet media, and the slashing of emigration by 98 percent since 1979."

AUSTRIA PROMISES TO RETURN ART LOOTED BY NAZIS TO JEWISH OWNERS By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Jan. 31 (JTA) — The Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria expressed satisfaction today with the government's promise to restore paintings and other art objects looted by the Nazis to their rightful Jewish owners or their heirs and to use the proceeds of an auction of unclaimed property for the benefit of surviving Jewish persecutees in Austria.

Dr. Israel Miller, president of the Committee, said after a meeting with Chancellor Fred Sinowatz, that he was assured that the government has no wish to profit from Nazi thefts. Sinowatz said the government shortly will prepare and make available a full inventory of artworks in its possession. Procedures for filing claims will be announced and a valuation of the objects will be undertaken.

Many looted items were restored to their owners shortly after World War II. But a substantial collection of unclaimed items remains in government hands. Most of these are presently stored in a former monastery in Mauerbach, near Vienna or are on display in State museums.

Some unclaimed paintings hang in Austrian embassies in various parts of the world. Some art experts who were allowed recently to inspect the items in Mauerbach said they were mostly of mediocre quality and relatively low value.

Pleased By Chancellor's Response

Miller said he assured the Chancellor that the Claims Committee will use all of its resources to inform potential claimants of the Austrian government's decision. "We are pleased with the Chancellor's response to our specific representations and to his acceptance of the principle that heirless Jewish property should be utilized for the benefit of Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution in Austria," Miller said.

The Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, founded in 1952, represents 22 major international Jewish organizations throughout the world. It is headquartered in New York. Representatives of several of those organizations accompanied Miller at his meetings with Sinowatz.

SHULTZ: U.S. WILL SELL ARMS TO ARABS IN NEAR FUTURE DESPITE THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO DEFER SALE OF NEW ARMS TO THE MIDDLE EAST

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 (JTA) — Secretary of State George Shultz stressed today that while the Reagan Administration has decided to defer the sale of any new arms to the Middle East, including F-15s and other equipment to Saudi Arabia, this does not mean it does not plan to sell weapons to Arab states in the near future.

"I think our interests are arguably served by (the) strength of countries in the Middle East in addition to Israel," he said in response to questions in the opening session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's two months of hearings on American foreign policy.

Shultz confirmed the decision revealed yesterday by Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, while testifying to the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

Murphy said the Administration wants to review "how our various programs in the security field will complement our efforts in the peace process" and "how it can help achieve a general stability" in the Mideast.

The review presumably includes Israel, but Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a press conference here yesterday that Israel has no plans to ask the U.S. for new weapons systems.

Series Of Hearings Scheduled

Shultz's comments came after Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R, Minn.) noted that every four years the Administration presents Congress with a weapons package for Saudi Arabia despite the strong opposition to it in Congress. Boschwitz pointed out that Sen. Richard Lugar (R, Ind.), the Committee's chairman, said he has scheduled the series of hearings in an attempt to achieve a consensus on foreign policy. Boschwitz said that proposing to sell arms to Saudi Arabia would not lead to that consensus.

Says Continued Arms Sales To Arabs Are Needed

But Shultz said "as we study this question, I don't have much doubt in my mind that we will find" that continued arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries are needed. "I can't say at this time specifically what," he added. "But I certainly wouldn't sit here and say that you should expect no proposals introduced."

Shultz said that an "example" of the beneficial effects of past sales to the Saudis and other Arab states is that the "tanker war" in the Persian Gulf was "kept under control in part because some of our friends had the equipment and the capability to use it in a manner that was a challenge" to Iran. "That was a contribution not only to their stability and their security but also to our stability and our security," the Secretary asserted.

Israel's Economy Discussed

Sen. Alan Cranston (D, Cal.) said he believes weapons sales should be deferred as long as the Saudis act in ways that are damaging to both U.S. interests and Israel. He said Saudi "oil blackmail" has been used to enforce an Arab-led boycott against Israel which he said has contributed to Israel's economic difficulties.

But Shultz replied that he did not believe the boycott was responsible for Israel's economic problems. "They are, I believe, largely self-induced," because of poor economic management, he said. "It is perfectly possible to have a thriving prosperous economy in Israel given the quality of the people there and their capabilities."

Shultz said the U.S. is ready to help Israel and will "do what is necessary." But he said Israel has to take steps to improve its economy which he said it is now trying to do. "We are working very closely with the government of Israel and sympathetically," he said.

Rejects Getting Together With The USSR

When Sen. Frank Murkowski (R, Alaska) asked whether if a new Arab-Israeli war broke out the U.S. would have to get together with the Soviet Union to keep it from spreading, Shultz replied, "No, sir." When Murkowski asked for a fuller explanation, Shultz said that "if a war broke out today I think Israel would give a very good account of itself."

He added that if such a conflict arose, the U.S. might discuss with the Soviet Union, as it has in the past, "damage control." But he said he does not "foresee any development that will lead us to want to come together with the Soviet Union for some type of condominium in the Middle East. The way to get at the problem in the Middle East is for, particularly, the Arab states around Israel, to sit down with Israel and negotiate out a peace agreement."

Support For Reagan's Initiative

In his prepared statement, Shultz said the U.S. remains "committed" to President Reagan's September 1, 1982 Middle East peace initiative "as the most promising route to a solution of the Palestinian problem. We will be intensively engaged this year in consultations with our Arab and Israeli friends to explore opportunities for progress." But he also noted that "recent events have reminded us that the Arab-Israeli conflict is far from the only source of tension in that part of the world."

Responding to questions, Shultz said he would press for Senate ratification of the UN convention against genocide. Reagan announced support for ratification last September in a speech to B'nai B'rith International. But the Senate failed to adopt it in its rush to adjourn for the elections. However, the Foreign Relations Committee promised that it will be reintroduced this year.

BEDOUINS WELCOME PERES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres received an enthusiastic welcome in the Bedouin township of Rahat in the Negev, his first visit to an Arab community since he took office last year.

Hundreds of flag-waving youngsters greeted him with songs and beating drums when he arrived at the local school. He told the cheering students, "Before we make peace in the entire region, we must make peace inside the State of Israel, between the young and the old, between Jews and Arabs."

Peres was accompanied by Ezer Weizman, a Minister-Without-Portfolio assigned to the Prime Ministers Office where he deals with matters of concern to Israel's Arab population. There are about 50,000 Bedouins in the Negev. Nomadic by tradition, many have been resettled in townships in recent years because of the need to allocate land for the new Air Force base near Beersheba.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES GERMAN MEDIA FAULTED FOR INADEQUATE COVERAGE OF NEO-NAZI ACTIVITIES

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 31 (JTA) — West Germany's broadcast media is sadly wanting in its reportage of neo-Nazi activities and the police and other authorities are to blame for suppressing and discouraging such coverage, according to academicians and journalists who participated in a discussion of the problem at the Roman Catholic Academy in Schwerte.

They complained, among other things, that the media gave much more attention to leftwing extremism. A television team from WDR, the Cologne-based radio and television station, charged that journalists cannot rely on help from the police or other authorities when they do research on the re-emergence of Nazism in the Federal Republic.

The team, which prepared a documentary titled "The Suppressed Danger," said that on many occasions their attempts at research encountered rejection or disinformation on the part of officials whose job it was to monitor political extremism.

Official Pressure On The Media

Guenther Ginzel, a producer of many radio documentaries on neo-Nazis, said the people responsible for the State-controlled radio and television stations apparently believe that the "enemy" is entirely on the left. "There is enormous pressure not to air material on neo-Nazis," he said.

Ginzel said that many officials feel personally attacked when a reporter equates Nazi ideas with some of their attitudes on issues such as the role of the family, the reunification of Germany, capital punishment and other matters. Therefore, they tend to reject any broadcast on neo-Nazism, he said.

Prof. Hans-Dieter Kuebler of Muenster University made a similar observation. He said there is practically no serious attempt to discuss the ideological origins of neo-Nazi activities.

Eike Hennig, a political scientist from Kassel University, complained that the media reported on neo-Nazism in this country only when something dramatic occurred. According to Ginzel, neo-Nazi activities not reported include most of what happens in schools.

The meeting ended with a unanimous call on radio, television and newspapers to report "continuously and in detail" on all neo-Nazi manifestations.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA LITTLE OPPOSITION SEEN IN CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM TO WOMEN ACTING AS RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

By Rochelle Saidel

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA) — "I am convinced the mainstream of leadership of the Conservative movement now believes there is no further impediment to women acting as religious leaders in the Jewish community," Amy Eilberg, who this year is expected to be the first woman ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, said here yesterday.

Eilberg spoke with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after teaching a session of "The Liturgy of the Jewish Wedding Service" at the annual Study Day of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Some 300 League members from the New York area attended the study day.

"We can now move forward to incorporate woman leaders into every facet of religious life in our movement, including officiating at weddings," Eilberg

said. "In the Conservative movement there is relatively little opposition to the notion of a woman officiating at a wedding."

Eilberg pointed out that there are still a number of questions regarding women's participation in Jewish rituals which some members of the Conservative movement feel are unsatisfactorily resolved. These questions include officiating at weddings. But most problematic is the acceptance of the signature of woman as witness on a Jewish legal document, she said.

"We live in a Jewish world which is pluralistic, and I believe that this pluralism is a strength. We will learn to move forward with this issue as well," she added.

Sees Difficult Time Ahead

Dr. Neil Gillman, associate provost of the Seminary, told JTA that the large majority of the Rabbinate, the organization of Conservative rabbis, supports full participation by women. He cautioned, however, that Eilberg and the first generation of woman rabbis will have a difficult time.

"We have a major job of reeducation ahead of us," he said. "Symbolically, Amy Eilberg's ordination is an extraordinarily important event. It is the beginning of a process of education that will take a long time."

Rabbi Stanley Schachter, vice chancellor of the Seminary, said that officiating at a wedding will be one of the easiest areas for a woman rabbi to move into in the Conservative movement. "A wedding is fundamentally a public celebration of an enactment between a bride and groom, in the presence of witnesses. The officiator is the equivalent of a master of ceremonies," he said.

The official signature of a rabbi on a ketubah, or marriage certificate, is needed only for civil authorities, Schachter explained. The rabbi is not a witness, and the officiation of a woman rabbi would not affect the halachic question of women as witnesses.

But Schachter added that a wedding is a communal event, and many "rational and non-rational factors" go into the decision to have a woman officiate at one's wedding. "The impediment is primarily inertial — one of tradition and custom," he said.

Eilberg's teaching session on Jewish weddings was followed by a discussion by Dr. Jack Wertheimer, assistant professor in Jewish history at the Seminary, on "The Conservative Synagogue in Historic Perspective." Schachter spoke on "The Seminary at 100: Plans for the 1986 Centennial."

ANTI-SEMITISM IN TUNISIA

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA) — The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today denounced the emergence of anti-Semitism in Tunisia. In a cable to President Habib Bourguiba, Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and the head of its international affairs department, cited two recent instances of anti-Semitic materials being disseminated in that country.

A weekly publication, Annances, in its December 28 edition, published an article saying that "the Jews are willing to tread on the most holy of values for favors, even small ones and they are monkeys and donkeys, even though they seem to have something human about them..." Foxman noted in his cable.

"Secondly, we have learned that a new edition of the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion', the famous anti-Semitic forgery used by the Nazis and others, has been published in Tunis and now occupies a prominent place in display windows of many large Tunis book stores." Noting that incitement of racial hatred is against Tunisian law, Foxman urged Bourguiba to take steps against the spread of bigotry.