

**FORMAL SENATE HEARINGS ON THE MENGELE CASE TO BE CONVENED IN WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 19**

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13 (JTA) -- Sen. Arlen Specter (R. Pa.) announced here yesterday that formal Senate hearings on the Josef Mengele case will be convened in Washington on February 19. Specter, who chairs the juvenile justice sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told a press conference at the Wiesenthal Center that the hearings "come at a time of heightened international interest in bringing the notorious 'angel of death' of Auschwitz to justice and will focus on the testimony of survivors of Mengele's gruesome experiments during World War II."

The Senator added that "We will seek to uncover new leads and information as to the nature and extent of involvement of American, Canadian and other Western governments with the fugitive Nazi war criminal from 1945-85."

**Relevant Documents To Be Released**

Specter also indicated that "a number of the documents relevant to the Mengele case, previously withheld by the U.S. Department of the Army from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, will be released" to his committee.

The documents in question are part of those sought by the Wiesenthal Center under the Freedom of Information Act. The information already released to the Center last month of previously classified U.S. Army intelligence documents suggested that Mengele may have been arrested and freed by U.S. military authorities in Austria in 1947 and that he may have entered Canada under an alias in 1962. Mengele, now 73, was reportedly last seen in Paraguay.

Among those scheduled to testify at the hearings are Rep. Alfonso D'Amato (R. NY); Marc Berkowitz, a surviving twin of Mengele's experiments and president of CANDLES, an organization of survivors of the Auschwitz doctor's experiments; a representative of the U.S. Department of the Army; and Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Wiesenthal Center.

Also invited to testify are Gen. (Ret.) Telford Taylor, who served as a prosecutor at the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal and the recent conference in Jerusalem on Mengele's crimes, as well as representatives of the Departments of State and Justice.

The Justice Department announced last week that it will conduct an investigation into the whereabouts of Mengele. Similarly, it was announced in Ottawa that an independent commission has been appointed to investigate Nazi war criminals living in Canada.

**STATE DEPT. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRAISES ISRAEL AS AN OPEN SOCIETY BUT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF ITS CONTROL OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA**  
 By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (JTA) -- The State Department's ninth annual report on human rights throughout the world again praises Israel as an open society with a democratic government, but with human rights problems because of its control of the West Bank and Gaza.

"Each year we note that despite the tremendous security threat against Israel, it maintains a very vigorous democracy," Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, told a press conference today.

Abrams said that the Department's Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1984 finds that the problems for Israel on the West Bank are the result of its having a military government rule there rather than a democratically elected one. He added that there was an increase in violence in the territories in 1984, but it was occupants against other occupants -- apparently a reference to the Jewish and Arab residents -- and not the military government against the residents.

The 1,450-page report, covering 164 countries, was submitted earlier to Congress. It is the fifth such report submitted by the Reagan Administration.

The section on Israel stresses that "Israel is a parliamentary democracy which guarantees by law and respects in practice the civil, political, and religious rights of its citizens."

**Most Significant Human Rights Problem**

But it notes, "as in 1983, the most significant human rights problems for Israel continued to derive from the strained relations between Israeli authorities and the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories. These problems were exacerbated as a consequence of the activities of Jewish settlers in those areas. During the year, Israeli leaders expressed concern over the potential growth of extreme views and violent actions and their effect on Israeli society."

One problem in Israel itself pointed out by the report is that of the Israeli Arabs who, while having equal rights under the law, "are relatively powerless and tend to feel alienated. Despite some governmental and private efforts to bridge the gap, there is little social interaction with Israeli Jews. Israeli Arabs assert that they are denied equal access to education, housing and other services, and that they are discriminated against in such areas as employment and appointment to government positions."

**No Evidence Of Torture Of Arabs**

While Arabs have frequently charged that Israel tortures Arab prisoners, the report states that "torture is forbidden by Israeli law and there is no evidence that torture is condoned by the Israeli authorities. Several Israeli border and national policemen were convicted of abusive use of force against Arab prisoners during 1984."

The report also notes that U.S. representatives received reports of "cruel or degrading" treatment from several U.S. citizens under arrest, one of them an Arab and the others supporters of Rabbi Meir Kahane, and succeeded in getting conditions improved for them.

The report asserts that while living standards in the occupied territories have "risen substantially since 1967," Israel's economic problems began to affect them last year with less Palestinians working in Israel and a drop in business in the territories.

In addition, the report charges that Israel has hampered economic development on the West Bank, and that the taking of land for settlements or military use has hurt Arab agriculture.

Abrams said there was no way to generalize about human rights conditions in the Arab countries since the level of abuse ranged from Jordan and Egypt, where there was little abuse, to Syria and Iraq which had complete one-man rule. However, he noted that Egypt is the Arab country with the greatest trend toward liberalization. "Egypt is a developing country moving toward political liberalization and greater freedom of expression," the report said.

Several of the accounts of countries gave the conditions of Jews there. In Egypt, the report simply notes that most Jews "emigrated many years ago and those few who remain appear to practice their faith without restriction or harassment from any source."

In Iran, the report, as it did last year, states that the persecution of Jews that existed in the early days of the Khomeini revolution has abated as it has for Christians and Zoroastrians. "They continue to have problems with the regime over religious practices, and some members of all three groups suffer officially-sanctioned job discrimination," the report added.

Iraq's Jewish community "is believed to have decreased from 150,000 following World War II to about 400," the report notes. "It was severely persecuted in the past, but there is no evidence of recent persecution. In 1983 and in late 1984 Western journalists visited the last known synagogue in Baghdad and confirmed that it is still functioning. Only a handful of people, mostly older men, were seen attending services led by two rabbis."

In Syria, "the 3,000-4,000 Jews are free to practice their religion," according to the report. "The situation of the Jewish community has improved in recent years, despite continuing uncertainty over the community's future, and today it enjoys a relatively good standard of living, access to higher education and entrance into the professions."

However, the report notes that only Syrian Jews are routinely required to post a bond of \$250 to \$10,000 if they want to travel abroad. "In recent years, Jews have found it somewhat easier to travel overseas, although an official ban on their emigration has continued. The government continues its policy of not issuing passports to all members of a Jewish family at the same time, although there have been some recent exceptions."

#### Situation in North Yemen and Morocco

In the Yemen Arab Republic, from where most of the once-large Jewish community emigrated to Israel, "the small number of remaining Jews live in peace with the Moslem majority," according to the report. "They practice their religion freely, suffer no unusual economic hardships" and while they maintain contact with Jews from outside Yemen, they may not do so with those in Israel.

The report puts the number of Jews in Morocco at 11-14,000, most of them in the major cities. "The Jewish community operates schools and social institutions, as well as 20 major synagogues," the report said. "Publications in Hebrew are permitted," and "the Jewish community has close ties to communities in other nations including Israel."

In Ethiopia, the report noted the "considerable illegal emigration" by Jews during 1984 since legal emigration is restricted for Jews and other Ethiopians. The report points out that access to the Jewish villages of the Gondar region by foreign Jews and Israelis, which was allowed in 1983, was

shut off for most of 1984, although re-opened to some extent in December. "Ethiopian authorities apparently suspected that foreign Jewish and Israeli visitors provided Ethiopian Jews money and encouragement to leave the country," the report said. "They may also hope to prevent the outside world from learning of the frictions that continue to mark government relations with the Ethiopian Jewish community, resulting from government efforts to prevent emigration, lack of Hebrew instruction, and the resistance of Ethiopian Jews to Marxist-Leninist indoctrination."

The report added that while the Ethiopian Jews, because of where they live, are frequently caught in the cross-fire between government troops and insurgents' stories of genocidal actions by Ethiopian authorities, or highly brutal behavior, appear unfounded."

#### Soviet Jews Faced Very Difficult Year

The human rights report, as in other recent State Department reports, charged that in the Soviet Union, "the Jewish community faced an exceptionally difficult year in 1984 which saw a sharp increase in anti-Semitic propaganda thinly veiled as anti-Zionism" as well as increased discrimination against Jews. The report speculated that there may be "pressure from some quarters to end Jewish emigration completely."

Abrams said that he did not believe that the urging by Reagan Administration officials at their meetings with Soviet officials for improvement in human rights conditions of Jews and others in the USSR has so far had any effect, but "it is hard to measure," he said.

#### THREE ISRAELIS SENTENCED TO 10-14 YEARS IN PRISON FOR TRYING TO KIDNAP A FORMER NIGERIAN MINISTER By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Feb. 13 (JTA) -- The Israeli leader of the international gang caught trying to kidnap a former Nigerian Minister last July has been jailed for 14 years.

A Nigerian secret serviceman was jailed for 12 years and two other Israelis each received 10-year sentences for trying to take Umaru Dikko back to Nigeria where he is wanted for alleged embezzlement by the Lagos authorities.

Alexander Barak, 27, an Israeli businessman who led the gang, was sentenced to 14 years. The other Israelis were Lev Arie Shapiro, 44, a Soviet-born hospital anaesthetist, and Tunisian-born shopkeeper Felix Abutbul. Shapiro's role was to drug Dikko during the airlift to Nigeria.

#### Families Shocked By Sentences

The defendants and their families have been shocked by the severity of the sentences, which are regarded as comparable with those meted out to terrorists. They are expected to appeal.

Justifying the sentences, the presiding Justice said he felt some sympathy for the kidnappers, but added: "It must be made absolutely clear that courts in this country will take an extremely grave view of any attempt to abduct by force and take overseas against his will, a person living lawfully in this country."

The Israel Embassy has so far maintained a strict silence about the case, despite press speculation that Barak was connected with Israeli intelligence.

The kidnap effort was foiled when police at Stansted Airport discovered Shapiro and the unconscious Dikko in a diplomatic crate waiting to be flown to Nigeria.

## 6 IDF SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13 (JTA) -- Six Israeli soldiers were wounded in south Lebanon today, none seriously, when an Israel Defense Force post near Nabatiye was fired on with Kalachnikov assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. According to the unit commander, six terrorists appeared from over a hill and opened fire on the position, cutting an army tent to shreds. The Israeli soldiers returned the fire. An IDF position near Adweir and the IDF liaison office in Nabatiye also came under close-range automatic rifle and rocket fire in two other incidents today. There were no casualties.

The latest attacks occurred as units of the Lebanese regular army were reported to have encamped just north of the port city of Sidon, ready to take over the positions to be evacuated by the IDF. The last Israeli soldiers are expected to be out of Sidon by next Monday.

## SLA Moves Out Of Sidon

But units of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) moved out of Sidon yesterday and out of Jarja, to the south. The SLA evacuation preceded that of the IDF to protect its soldiers from possible reprisals for collaborating with Israel.

About 25 of the SLA men were reported to have deserted the retreating force to remain in Sidon to protect their families. Desertions from the SLA have been on the increase since the IDF withdrawal began.

Large-scale defections are feared by the Shiite Moslem members of the largely Christian force which Israel hoped would patrol a 10-kilometer wide strip along its border after the IDF pull-out from Lebanon is completed.

At the moment, it seems that Lebanese regulars will replace the IDF, at least in Sidon. Two battalions of the Lebanese army moved south from Beirut last night and are bivouacked around the Awali River bridges just north of Sidon. A Lebanese spokesman said the force consists of a 700-800 man armored battalion equipped with French-made MX tanks and an infantry battalion.

The combined strength is about 1,500 men and they are expected to be joined by at least one battalion of the permanent garrison in Sidon within hours of the final Israeli departure.

## Trying To Ensure Safety Of The Population

While the IDF is completing the first stage of its three-stage withdrawal from south Lebanon precisely on schedule, it is trying its best to ensure the safety of the local population and protect its own men. IDF units searched Taura village about 10 kilometers northeast of Tyre yesterday and detained several residents. Taura is a base for Shiite attacks on the IDF.

Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy and other senior officers visited El Khiyan village near the border yesterday. They warned the inhabitants not to allow terrorists or guerrillas to make use of the village for attacks on the IDF or on Israel. Two Israeli soldiers were killed in the border region this week.

## Attacks Won't Affect Withdrawal

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin declared in the Knesset yesterday that recent attacks on the IDF will not affect the withdrawal process. Replying to 12 agenda motions on the subject, he said that the decision to pull out of south Lebanon was the best of available options though not without drawbacks.

Rabin maintained that the escalation of attacks on the IDF was not a consequence of the withdrawal decision, noting that the attacks occurred mainly in those areas still occupied by the IDF.

Rabin disclosed that the Druze in the Shouf mountains are no longer taking steps to prevent the infiltration of terrorists across the Awali River and are even cooperating with their erstwhile enemies, the Shiites. The Defense Minister reiterated that he could not promise that terrorist rockets will never again fall on Galilee. He maintained, however, that it was more effective for the IDF to adopt an offensive strategy of retaliation instead of static defense in which every soldier is a target of terrorist attack inside Lebanon.

## RABIN: ISRAEL IS FACED WITH A SERIOUS MILITARY DILEMMA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13 (JTA) -- Israel is faced with a serious military dilemma, "painful cuts" in its defense budget made mandatory by the country's severe economic situation and escalating terrorism in Lebanon, "the most sophisticated and complex" it has yet faced, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today.

Addressing a conference of Na'amat/Pioneer Women, he said the budget cuts would necessitate the dismissal of between 5,000-8,000 employees of the defense establishment "both military and civilians."

Rabin stressed that the Israel Defense Force has no better option than to withdraw from Lebanon because there is no chance of a stable government emerging in that country. He said Israel tried but failed to reach an agreement with the Lebanese on military withdrawal and security. "Therefore we decided to withdraw" without an agreement.

"We are asked why we withdraw in stages," Rabin said. "It is because we have to see what the situation is after each stage. We must preserve the security of Galilee. We cannot allow the situation to return to what it was before" the IDF invaded Lebanon in June, 1982.

## Consequence Of Defense Budget Cuts

The cuts in the defense budget mean that Israel will be forced to take certain risks with its security, Rabin said. "We are faced at the same time with two seemingly contradictory problems -- painful cuts in the budget and standing firmly against the most sophisticated and complicated terrorism in south Lebanon."

The Defense Minister explained that the problem of terrorism in Lebanon is complicated by the fact that the country has been split and riven by internal ethnic strife for many years.

He described Lebanon as a country where internal terrorism between the various factions has become the most sophisticated terrorism anywhere in the Middle East, and without any connection with Israel. "It is not a simple matter and there is no chance of any change in the near future," Rabin said.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- All Ethiopian Jews who have entered Israel in recent months will be officially registered as Jews, effective April 1, Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz announced Wednesday. He has requested the Absorption Ministry to insert the word "Jewish" in the nationality space on their identification cards. Many of the Ethiopian olim were not registered as Jews when they arrived in Israel.

# **SPECIAL INTERVIEW THE HOLOCAUST AS CHRISTIAN TRAGEDY**

By Aviva Cantor

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (JTA) — Prof. David Wyman, author of "The Abandonment of the Jews" — which documents the "criminal negligence" of the U.S. toward the rescue of European Jews during the Holocaust — said that the Holocaust "is still not perceived by non-Jews as their issue — or their loss."

Wyman was interviewed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at WNET-Channel 13 here before a taping of "Why in the World," a program in which a group of teenagers question leading figures. He said that the four years of writing the book — preceded by 11 of research in 60 archives — were "agony. I had to come face to face with (the Holocaust) and I began to cry for the first time in my adult life."

Wyman said that when he first became aware of the Holocaust it became clear to him that "it was a Christian tragedy as much as a Jewish tragedy. It was Christians who perpetrated it — the Nazis who were the product of Western Christian civilization and those Christians in the U.S. and Britain who stood by and failed in their Christian duty to do everything to stop it and to help those who needed help."

## **Massive Failure Of Christian Civilization**

What that says to him as a "practicing Christian" — he was raised as a Methodist and two of his grandparents are Protestant ministers — is that "here was a massive failure of Christian civilization — a religious failure — a loss of the soul."

Wyman told JTA that while many Jews continue to feel that they did not do enough to help fellow Jews, "most Christians are oblivious. They don't even know they failed."

What he considered most "distressing" was that during the Holocaust, the liberal American Protestants "pushed the issue aside." He cited in this connection the publication "Christian Century," which had, he said, a major effect on social-action oriented clergy and laymen, and which discredited the disclosures in late 1942 by Rabbi Stephen Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, that the Nazis were implementing their "Final Solution."

The publication, he wrote, "defaulted" on the opportunity to become a "leading edge of Protestant-backed pressure for rescue action." Had Christians "risen," as they should have in late 1942, he said, "had the church made a loud noise," the War Refugee Board might have been established in 1943 rather than in 1944, a full year later.

Wyman told the JTA he was "disappointed" at not getting much response — "yet" — from Christians to his book, which was published in November by Pantheon and which has gone into its fourth printing. Of the 200 letters he has received so far, less than 10 percent are from non-Jews. Of those, half are from anti-Semites, including the "Revisionist" historians who propagandize that the Holocaust never took place.

The book documents the obstruction by the State Department of rescue efforts and projects, the silence of organized labor, liberals, intellectuals as well as the church, the lack of coverage by the mass media, the "crisis in leadership" on the part of Congress and the President, and the lack of unity on the part of American Jewry as contributing to the failure of the U.S. to help save European Jews.

The main underlying factor, he said, was "anti-Semitism, which was at a peak in the U.S. during the war." While he estimated that only 20 percent of the society actually wished to harm the Jews, the broad part of the population was characterized by "passive anti-Semitism."

These non-Jews, he continued, could not be appealed to exert themselves to help Jews "because of the ingrained attitudes against Jews in our culture, stemming from 2,000 years of Western civilization." "When they heard about Jews being harmed, he said, "It bounced off them."

Wyman felt, however, that possibly one-third of the nation had some "quality of generosity" and could have been sympathetic to Jews — or any other group in similar straits — had their support been mobilized.

Roosevelt, he said, feared a backlash from the anti-Semites on rescue. Wyman acknowledged there would have been some of this "but just from the fringe." Had he taken the issue to the public via radio and press conferences, had he called upon the churches, had he based his appeal on American idealism and human decency, "he could have built a counter-constituency among that one-third" of the nation, Wyman said.

But, said Wyman, a professor of history at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Roosevelt "didn't have the imagination or the interest" to take action to rescue European Jews. His "indifference" to the mass murder of European Jewry "emerges as the worst failure of his presidency."

## **'AMBASSADORS' TO BE THEME OF UJA MISSION TO ISRAEL MARCH 3-10**

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (JTA) — The United Jewish Appeal's March 3-10 mission to Israel will revolve around the theme of "ambassadors," according to UJA national vice chairman Bernard Borine, who will chair the mission.

"Because our theme operates on several levels, we're calling this event the 'Ambassadors' Mission," Borine said. "In meetings with top-level Israelis, like the one scheduled with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, mission participants will serve as unofficial ambassadors of their home communities all over the U.S."

"When they return home after six intensive days of in-depth study of such programs as the absorption of Ethiopian Jewry and Project Renewal," he continued, "they will be equipped to function as unofficial ambassadors to those communities, well able to report what they have learned firsthand about the services and programs their annual community campaigns support, and about Israel's government, economy and security," Borine added that "this mission will be hosted by several of Israel's past and present Ambassadors."

The projected mission itinerary includes meetings with Samuel Lewis, the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, and Simcha Dinitz, former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., and briefings by Chaim Aharon, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department; Gideon Witkon, the Agency's director-general of Project Renewal; and Menachem Perlmutter, chief engineer for the Negev region for the Agency.

Mission members will visit an absorption center for Ethiopian Jewry, a Youth Aliya village, Project Renewal neighborhoods, and new settlements in the Negev. At Yad Vashem, participants will take part in a special ceremony of remembrance. They will also welcome the Shabbat at the Western Wall.