

SECOND ECONOMIC PACKAGE DEAL IS ABOUT TO BE SCRAPPED BY THE GOVERNMENT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA) -- The government is about to scrap the second economic package deal that took effect last January and revert to an earlier plan which will give it tighter control over prices.

The change of course was precipitated by the 13.5 percent rise in the February price index, compared to only five percent the previous month, an indication that the present plan is not working.

It has come under sharp attack from labor, management and even Treasury officials. Deputy Finance Minister Adi Amoraï affirmed today that the original package deal which imposed a total freeze on prices, wages and taxes was much more effective.

The original freeze was instituted for a three-month period, November-January. It was replaced by the second package which was to have been of eight months' duration and eased up on prices.

Elements Of First Package To Be Restored

Now the government says it will restore elements of the first package. A total price freeze will be introduced for limited periods -- 5-6 weeks -- and prices will be adjusted at the end of each period to reflect real costs. At present, prices increased almost daily, consumers are confused and inflation shows signs once again of running out of control.

Yisrael Kessar, a Labor MK who is Secretary General of Histadrut, demanded today that the Knesset force the government to honor its commitments to wage-earners under the present package. He charged that the Treasury was holding back cost-of-living increments which are overdue and said the workers feel cheated.

It was in response to Kessar that Amoraï conceded that the original freeze package had worked better than the present plan. The economic ministers, meeting with Premier Shimon Peres today, also decided to reintroduce speedy court action against businessmen who inflate their prices.

Fight Against Unemployment

Peres said, meanwhile, that he is determined to avoid unemployment as a means of curing the economy. He told a Labor Party meeting here that experts from the United States presently studying the economy, and a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which concluded its own study here last week were impressed by the fact that Israel is the first country in the world to fight inflation without resorting to mass unemployment.

The jobless rate at present is about seven percent, which many Israeli leaders say is unacceptable by Israel's standards.

ISRAELI OFFICIALS ON THE ALERT OVER FIGHTING BETWEEN RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN SIDON FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA) -- Israeli officials are keeping a sharp watch on events in Sidon where rival religious factions have been fighting for the

past three days. The Israel Defense Force evacuated Sidon, the largest seaport in south Lebanon, a month ago and violence erupted there almost immediately. The latest and most serious battles are between rebel Christian Phalangist forces led by Samir Jeajea and forces loyal to President Amin Gemayel, head of the Phalangist party whom the rebels accuse of being under the thumb of Syria.

Eight persons have been killed so far this week and about 60 wounded. Moslem militiamen who have joined the battle blame Israel for the unrest. The Syrians, like the Israelis, are keeping a close watch on the situation but have not intervened directly so far.

IDF Withdrawal Accelerates

The IDF, meanwhile, is continuing to dismantle and remove stores and equipment from Mt. Barukh in the eastern sector of the front, the northernmost point in Lebanon still under Israeli control. The pace of the IDF's withdrawal has accelerated noticeably in recent days.

At the same time, army engineers are reconstructing and strengthening defenses along the international border which will be the IDF's first line of defense once the evacuation of Israeli troops from south Lebanon is completed.

Premier Shimon Peres said yesterday that the IDF will be out of "almost all of Lebanon" in 8-10 weeks. The border defense will be based, as in the past, on electronic warning devices, minefields and barbed wire barricades, re-enforced by concrete road-blocks. Special measures will be taken to intercept and destroy booby-trapped cars attempting to enter Israel.

ADL SAYS IT HAS INFORMATION ABOUT A NAZI WAR CRIMINAL IN ARGENTINA

WASHINGTON, March 20 (JTA) -- Officials of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith told a Senate subcommittee hearing yesterday that it has obtained information that can clearly establish that Nazi war criminal Walter Kutschmann has been living in Argentina under the alias Pedro Olmo since 1948.

The officials contend that Olmo can be identified as Kutschmann by scars on his upper thigh received when he was wounded while fighting in the Spanish Civil War. In addition, the ADL said Kutschmann has his blood type tattooed under his arm in accordance with SS practice.

Kutschmann, as an SS official, was involved in the mass murder of Polish Jews, including 20 university professors, together with their wives and children. He is allegedly responsible for the assassination of more than 1,500 Jews while chief of Gestapo in Beazany, Poland during World War II.

The ADL officials -- Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of the Latin American Affairs Department, and Elliot Welles, head of the ADL's Nazi war criminals task force -- testified before the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on juvenile justice hearing testimony into the whereabouts of the Nazi war criminal, Josef Mengele.

Mengele, the former doctor at the Auschwitz death camp, is considered the most notorious war criminal still at large. He is believed to be in South America, with the last sighting of him reported in Paraguay. Para-

guay denies that Mengele is living there. He would now be 73 years old. The subcommittee was told yesterday that the Justice Department has enlisted five federal agencies in the search for the whereabouts of Mengele. The FBI, the State Department, the Army and the entire intelligence community are helping the Justice Department, according to Stephen Trott, assistant attorney for the criminal division.

"We also have the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Marshals service assisting our Office of Special Investigations helping us find this man if indeed he is still living," Trott told the subcommittee. The Justice Department began an investigation into Mengele's whereabouts last month.

Argentina Gets Evidence On Nazi War Criminal

Rosenthal and Welles, meanwhile, said the ADL has presented Argentine authorities with evidence to support the allegation that Olmo is Kutschmann, and urging the authorities to apprehend the former Nazi so that West Germany can bring him to justice. A West German court in 1967 issued a warrant for the arrest of Kutschmann, accusing him of being a "murderer" and an "accessory to murder."

Rosenthal and Welles claimed that Kutschmann — who has passed himself off as Olmo, a Spaniard — was detained by Argentine authorities in 1983 for an identity check. Despite the fact that the authorities had available to them extensive information on Olmo's true identity, the ADL said an Argentine judge released him on the basis of his claim that he is actually Olmo, who was granted Argentine citizenship in 1950. The ADL officials said the hearing only lasted a matter of minutes, and no other evidence other than Olmo's assertion was considered.

Argentine authorities should have been aware of the true identity of Olmo for years, Rosenthal and Welles said. In 1975, Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal publicly identified Kutschmann as a Nazi war criminal and photos of him were published in Argentine newspapers and magazines. In a press conference in 1975, Kutschmann claimed that his German accent was due to the fact that he had lived in Germany as a child.

Further evidence of Kutschmann's actual past, according to ADL records, comes from the West German Oram Electric Company, for which Kutschmann had been working in Argentina. A spokesman for the firm in Munich stated in 1975 that Kutschmann revealed his true identity to the firm.

The ADL said Kutschmann's dossier indicates that he was born in Dresden on May 25, 1914, but lived most of his early life in Berlin. He was trained by the Luftwaffe prior to joining the Nazi Party in February, 1940, and the SS in December of the same year.

Involved In Exterminating Polish Jews

As a 27-year-old SS lieutenant, Kutschmann was involved in the extermination of Jewish university professors and members of their families. The Argentine weekly magazine *Gente* reported in 1983 that these executions were part of the Nazi plan to kill some 5,000 Jewish academicians in order "to diminish the intellectual potential of the country."

Kutschmann was subsequently promoted to an SS post in the Galician town of Tarnopol, later becoming chief of the Gestapo in Bezasany, Poland, where he allegedly was responsible for the assassination of more than 1,500 Jews.

According to SS documents, Kutschmann was transferred to France during the closing days of the war but was listed as a deserter in 1945. He reportedly fled to Spain and finally to Argentina where he took on his new identity.

JDC HAS RECEIVED \$1.9 MILLION FOR ITS RELIEF PROGRAM IN ETHIOPIA By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA) — The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has received so far \$1.9 million in cash donations for its relief program in famine-stricken Ethiopia, according to Dr. Saul Cohen, executive vice president of the JDC.

Speaking at a press conference at the Harley Hotel, Cohen said that in addition, the JDC has received donations of 80 tons of goods, such as clothing, medicine and medical supplies, for distribution in Ethiopia. He estimated the value of these goods as being over \$1.1 million.

Cohen said that about \$250,000 was used by the JDC to purchase "Faffa," a high energy food supplement for starving children. The first delivery was made in the Ibenat feeding station in the Gondar region of Ethiopia on March 4, Cohen said. He added that subsequent deliveries of 35 tons a month are planned by the JDC over the next 12 months. The aim of the JDC program is to feed some 7,000 to 10,000 children a day, Cohen said.

According to Cohen there has been in recent weeks a decline in the amount of donations to help the victims of famine in Ethiopia "despite the fact that starvation remains a fact of life" in that country.

Two high school students from Queens, New York were present at today's press conference, representing the students and faculty of Jamaica High School, who raised and donated \$217.34 to the JDC Ethiopian relief program. They came to hear Cohen's report on how the agency used their donations and those of 25,000 other people in New York, in Ethiopia.

AMERICAN HOOPSTER STRIPPED OF HIS ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA) — The Interior Ministry has stripped American-born basketball star John Lee Irving of the Herut-sponsored Betar Tel Aviv Basketball team of his Israeli citizenship, saying Irving presented forged documents when applying for citizenship.

Irving had been signed to play for the Israeli team while in the United States by officials of the National Religious Party-backed Elitzur Sports Club, and had transferred to the Betar Club some time ago. The officials said that Irving presented papers to show that he had undergone official conversion to Judaism, which afforded him with automatic citizenship.

The Black basketball player acknowledged that he did not go through any conversion ceremony, saying he did not need to as his grandmother had been Jewish. He said he did not know the document he had been given to accompany his citizenship request was forged. Irving played basketball in the U.S. at Hofstra University in New York.

Maariv reported yesterday that the U.S. branch of Interpol, the international police organization, had been asked to investigate and had discovered that the conversion certificate had been forged. The U.S. rabbi whose name appeared on the document claims that his signature had been forged, the newspaper reported.

According to Israel Basketball Association regulations, league teams may not engage more than one or two non-citizens, so foreign applicants for team membership must first take out citizenship — a process which is automatic for Jews but can take years for non-Jews.

RABBIS WHO MEET WITH REAGAN SAY THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTANDS AND IS SYMPATHETIC TO SOVIET JEWRY ISSUE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 20 (JTA) -- A group of rabbis who met with President Reagan today to express their "anxiety and concern" about the plight of Soviet Jewry left the White House confident that the President understood and was sympathetic to the issue.

"Hopefully, if there is going to be thaw in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union the issue of Soviet Jews will be one of the items on the agenda," Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, vice president of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), said after he and six others had a brief meeting with Reagan.

Sternstein said the rabbis did not press Reagan to bring the issue up at the Geneva talks on disarmament. But he noted that Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz have raised the issue at meetings with the Soviet Union and that the Jewish community believes that "anything that could be done will be done" by the Administration.

"That does not mean that we insist or demand that it (the Soviet Jewry issue) be linked with agreements on other issues," Sternstein stressed, "but that the issue be there and at every opportunity be made to see what could be done."

Part Of A Congressional Fast And Prayer Vigil

The rabbis were in the White House as part of an all day convocation on Soviet Jewry sponsored by the NCSJ and the Synagogue Council of America. They met with Reagan after being among 200 persons who participated in a rally on the steps of the Capitol as part of the third annual Congressional Fast and Prayer Vigil for Soviet Jews. Some 200 members of the House participated in the vigil and/or fast.

Sternstein said the President appeared knowledgeable about the issue and brought up himself the recent spate of arrests against teachers of Hebrew in the Soviet Union. The rabbis told the President that "the American Jewish community will not rest until every possible effort is exerted on behalf of freedom for Soviet Jews."

This was stressed also at the Capitol rally by members of Congress and leaders of rabbinic and congregational organizations. Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox), said the entire Jewish community is determined not to rest until Soviet Jews have the right to freely worship and to emigrate.

Rabbi Henry Michelman, executive vice president of the Synagogue Council of America, said that all 3,000 congregations in North America will be mobilized in this effort. He added that many in the Christian community "have joined their voices to ours in a single cry of outrage and protest."

Need To Stress Soviet Jewish Issue Cited

Both Reps. Robert Mrazek (D. NY) and John Porter (R. Ill.) stressed the importance of bringing up the Soviet Jewry issue at all meetings with the USSR. Porter added that it should not only be raised but be "part of the substantive negotiations."

Perhaps the most optimistic note came from Rep. Jack Kemp (R. NY) who said, "This can be the year in which we can see a mass exodus" of Soviet Jews "if negotiations follow through the relationship that is beginning to emerge between the United States and the Soviet Union." He did not elaborate.

At the White House, the rabbis presented Reagan with an original silk-screen depicting Soviet Jewry by Selma Hurwitz and an illuminated Passover Haggadah.

In addition to Sternstein those participating were: Bernstein; Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform); Marshall Wolke, president of the United Synagogue of America (Conservative); Rabbi Gunther Plaut, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform); Rabbi Alexander Shapiro, president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America (Conservative); and Rabbi Ira Karinaow of the Union of Councils of Soviet Jewry.

Earlier in the day, the rabbis were briefed on the issue at B'nai B'rith International by Joshua Pratt, a minister counselor at the Israeli Embassy and a former Jewish refusenik, Evgenia Yudbarovsky. Later many of the rabbis who came from across the country discussed the issue with their Senators and Representatives. The day ended with a reception at the Israel Embassy hosted by Ambassador Meir Rosenne.

ENTIRE TALMUD ON TAPE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA) -- The transfer of the entire Talmud to cassettes has just been completed here by Rabbi Shabtai Sabbato, 35, of the World Zionist Organization's Beit Midrash Letorah Yeshiva. The achievement was marked this week at a ceremony attended by the two Chief Rabbis, Knesset members, scholars and WZO leaders.

There are 1,000 cassettes containing 1,500 hours of Talmud study. They will enable busy would-be students to imbibe Talmud study while driving or (on Walkmen) while engaged in other non-intellectual pursuits.

The explanations and commentary offered by Sabbato also enables persons unfamiliar with Talmudic exegesis to follow the Talmudic texts with relative ease. The cassettes come with drawings and diagrams where these are necessary for a fuller comprehension of the subject matter.

According to Sabbato, anyone who listens to the tapes for one hour a day will be able to complete the entire Babylonian Talmud within four years. The universal "Daf Hayomi" -- one page a day -- program takes seven years.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The second International Young Leadership Assembly which concluded at Sdom last week, resolved to establish two new bodies involving Israeli-diaspora relations. The Israel Forum, a voluntary organization, will on a permanent basis, deepen the dialogue between Israeli and diaspora Jews with the aim of benefiting Israeli society. A second resolution called for the establishment of a permanent Jewish Service Force that would recruit Jewish youth overseas for voluntary work in Israel. It is expected to activate thousands of Jewish youths each year.

PARIS (JTA) -- Rumanian Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen was elected to a seventh term as a deputy in the Rumanian National Parliament in Tuesday's elections. Rosen ran as an independent candidate from Bucharest's fifth district which covers what was once the city's Jewish quarter. Rosen was first elected to the Rumanian Parliament in 1957 and has served continuously since then.

ADVISOR TO ISRAELI PREMIER SAYS THE HEAD OF ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD ASSUME LEADERSHIP FOR WORLD JEWRY

By Gerald Reagan

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA) — Avraham Burg, a leader of the Peace Now movement in Israel, who was recently appointed advisor on diaspora affairs to Premier Shimon Peres, told a group of American Jewish leaders yesterday that the head of Israel's government should assume the leadership for world Jewry.

Addressing Jewish leaders for the first time in his new capacity, Burg said it is time for someone to set "the Jewish agenda for the Jewish people." He said this task was best suited for the Premier. Burg's remark was made in one of the calmer moments of an often vehement 90-minute exchange of views with 40 invited Jewish leaders in the headquarters of the World Jewish Congress-American Section.

"How do I make the State of Israel a fact in their life in the same way that it is a fact in your life?" he asked, referring to Jews living outside Israel. "It is time to rethink our priorities. Project Renewal will take a top place," as will Jewish education in the effort to combat assimilation, "the silent Holocaust."

Burg, 30, who was wounded in a grenade attack against Peace Now demonstrators in February 1983 that took the life of Emil Grunzweig, talked about the problem of accommodating Judaism in the formulation of Israel's policies.

"I'd love the Prime Minister to be a rabbi," said Burg, who wears a yarmulke and is religious. "There are issues which touch both subjects — politics and Yiddishkeit," he said. "How do you make territorial compromise the way the Labor Party wants to if it is a Jewish territory?" asked Burg, speaking of the West Bank.

Several in the audience asked him about his affiliation with Israel's peace movement. "As for Peace Now," said Burg, "that's my religion, that's what I want." His activism "is not the issue," Burg maintained. "I'm not the Israeli government. I represent the Prime Minister."

Burg, who has never lived away from Israel, said that what has been called his inexperience with the diaspora can be overcome.

Invitation For Diaspora Jewry Involvement

He said he wanted to extend "an open invitation for involvement" to diaspora Jewry. "What you want to do in the State of Israel, come and tell me," he said. If it is something "that is not beyond the very fabric of Israeli society, you are welcome to try to bring it about."

"I believe there is a diaspora with which we can build a relationship, something beyond the dollar," Burg said, shortly after opening his comments with a defense of his credentials for his new post.

Burg, who is the son of Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg, the leader of the National Religious Party, listened to comments and fielded questions from a broad spectrum of American Jewish opinion ranging from Herut on the right to Americans for Progressive Israel on the left.

Rabbi Joseph Karasick, chairman of the WJC Executive Committee, in calling the meeting to an end, offered his assessment of Burg's candid encounter with American Jewish leaders. "Avraham went in like a lamb and went out like a lion," he said.

PARTICIPANTS IN UJA MISSION TO ISRAEL PLEDGE \$679,295 FOR 1985 REGULAR UJA CAMPAIGN PLUS \$200,310 FOR PROJECT RENEWAL

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA) — Participants in the United Jewish Appeal Ambassadors Mission increased their pledges to the 1985 UJA/Federation campaign to \$679,295, a 32.3 percent rise over their gifts last year, following a call by Premier Shimon Peres to "make a great hope into a new reality." In addition, participants pledged \$200,310 to Project Renewal.

"We are pleased with the fund-raising results," said Bernard Borine of Philadelphia, a UJA national vice chairman and chairman of the mission. "And the mission participants are now well able to serve as unofficial ambassadors of the people of Israel to their home communities, to help bring American and Israeli Jews closer together."

Peres told the 81 participants, who represented 14 local American Jewish communities, that he was confident diaspora Jews will join with Israelis and help Jews everywhere realize a better life.

He acknowledged that Israel has major economic problems, which he said were largely the result of high defense costs. But he noted that the people of Israel were working hard to overcome their problems. He asserted that he is confident they would succeed without endangering national security.

During six days of intensive programming, mission participants were briefed by three former Ambassadors to the U.S.: Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin; Knesset Member Simcha Dinitz; and Avraham Harman, chancellor of the Hebrew University.

They also met with Yaacov Barmore, director of public relations for the Jewish National Fund in Israel, who was Ambassador to the United Nations; Reuven Dafni, vice chairman of Yad Vashem, who was Ambassador to Kenya and Thailand; and Haim Aharon, who was Ambassador to Colombia and is now head of the Immigration and Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency.

The Americans visited Jewish Agency programs in action in Project Renewal neighborhoods directly aided by their home communities; absorption centers for newly arrived immigrants; Youth Aliya villages for distressed teenagers; settlements in the Arava; and facilities of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, all aided by the UJA/Federation campaign.

SOME 200 ISRAELIS LIVING ABROAD ASK TO HAVE THEIR CITIZENSHIP WAIVED

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA) — About 200 Israelis living abroad, most of them in the U.S., have asked the Interior Ministry to waive their Israeli citizenship, the Ministry announced today. They made the request because of the recent steep rise in the travel tax imposed on Israelis going abroad. The purpose is to discourage foreign travel and conserve currency.

Israelis living overseas said the new tax, which applies only to citizens, would make it difficult for them to make their periodic trips home. Each time they wanted to leave they would have to pay the travel tax which amounts to \$150 plus 15 percent of the air fare.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Gen. Amnon Shahak of the Central Command issued a ban Wednesday on political demonstrations in the West Bank. It applies to Jewish as well as Arab residents of the territory but Shahak did not rule out exceptions.