

**BITTER VERBAL BATTLE WITHIN  
THE UNITY GOVERNMENT OVER  
THE LATEST ECONOMIC MEASURES**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA) -- A glimmer of good economic news that emerged with the March statistics just published here failed to quell the bitter verbal battle being waged within the unity coalition government over the latest economic measures.

The principal antagonists are Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy, a rising power within Likud's Herut faction, and Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, a Likud Liberal whose across-the-board price hikes less than a week before the Passover holidays, stirred Levy's wrath. Labor ministers and party officials have joined the fray.

The Cabinet last Sunday approved a new economic package to replace one in effect since January which was not working. It calls for a round of wage and price increases, to be followed by a two month freeze. The ministers left the timing to the Treasury and Modai, arguing that the government could no longer bear the strain of price subsidies, put the hikes into effect as of midnight last Sunday.

He made the move despite pleas by about a dozen fellow ministers to hold off until after Passover, or at least until after the seder next Friday night (there is no second seder in Israel).

**Takes Up Cudgels For The Consumers**

Levy promptly took up the cudgels for the consumers. He spoke Sunday of distraught housewives rushing to the supermarkets the previous night to stock up before the price rises took effect.

He spoke Monday of housewives trying to prepare for the holidays confronted by 20 percent increases in the price of virtually all goods and services. They are spending what remains of their families' last wage packet he said. March wages were paid yesterday.

Levy blasted the Treasury as unfeeling and insensitive. He broadened his attack to include the entire unity government which he claimed has failed to cure the economy and is in grave danger of dissolution. His remarks drew angry rebuttals from Laborites Moshe Shahal and Gad Yaacobi, the ministers of energy and infrastructure and economic planning respectively, who observed that it was the previous Likud government that created the economic mess.

Uzi Baram, Labor Party Secretary General, publicly challenged Levy today to propose formally to his Herut faction's Central Committee that Likud secede from the unity government.

Modai, speaking in his own defense, said it was quite impossible to cure Israel's long-standing economic ills in the 6-7 months of the unity regime. He said he would be happy indeed if the economy could be put right in two years.

Modai and his Treasury aides-- and optimists of all political persuasion -- took some solace from figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. They showed that in March -- for the first time in many months -- the Treasury did not print new money. Moreover, Israel's foreign currency reserves declined last month by only \$55 million, a much smaller decline than in previous months.

Modai said today that these figures do not mean the economy has turned the corner. But they are not entirely coincidental, indicating his policies have had some effect.

**THOUSANDS OF ARABS RELEASED FROM  
DETENTION CAMP; HUNDREDS OF  
OTHERS TRANSFERRED TO CAMP IN ISRAEL**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA) -- Hundreds of Arabs detained in the Ansar camp in south Lebanon have been freed and hundreds of others are being transferred to a new camp inside Israel, the Israel Defense Force spokesman announced today.

Most of those being released are Shiite Moslems who were members of organizations regarded as "hostile" but had not taken an active part in activities against Israel. The decision to release them is regarded as a goodwill gesture to defuse the explosive atmosphere in the region.

Some 40 percent of the Ansar detainees who are being held under the terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention even though Israel does not consider them prisoners of war, had taken an active part in attacks against the IDF.

Another 40 percent had played a "passive" role by supplying the activists with arms and information, and the others, including Shiites and other Lebanese Moslem groups and Palestinians, were detained for membership in hostile organizations.

The detainees transferred to the new Israeli camp were brought south in civilian Israeli buses which had their windows boarded up. They were handcuffed and had their feet bound, and were blindfolded as they were led from the vehicles.

The Ansar prison inmates have received weekly visits from the International Red Cross, and weekly visits from family members.

**JWB JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL AND MAJOR  
JEWISH COMMUNITY GROUPS ISSUE ALERT  
ABOUT MISLEADING 'STORY OF PASSOVER'**

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA) -- The JWB Jewish Book Council in cooperation with major national community relations agencies of the Jewish community issued an alert to parents, rabbis, educators, and book-sellers concerning a children's Passover storybook that includes Jesus at the Last Supper.

In a joint statement, the JWB Jewish Book Council, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York asserted:

"We jointly protest the publication of 'The Story of Passover for Children,' a glossy, full-color paperback marketed by Ideals Publishing Corp., of Milwaukee, a subsidiary of Thomas Nelson, Inc. The publication is misleading. We ask that it be recalled and re-marketed under a title that represents what it is: 'A Christian Storybook of Passover for Children.'

"We affirm that Jewish children should indeed learn about Christian celebration and Christian children about Jewish celebration. But children should be taught in a manner that is open, straightforward, and respectful of the particularity and distinctiveness of our respective religious traditions."

The Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York also endorsed the statement. Blu Greenberg, president of the JWB Jewish Book Council, said, "The story of Passover is central to Jewish history, theology, and celebration. It is the story of redemption from slavery to freedom telling of God's love for the Jewish people. Thus a work that retells this tale is most welcome.

"Not so 'The Story of Passover for Children.' Nestled neatly between the recounting of the Passover story and a description of the way the holiday is traditionally celebrated in the Jewish home -- is the story of Jesus, 'a Jew from Nazareth, (who) ... broke bread with friends at his last supper when Passover prayers were said'."

#### Greenberg Said There Are Three Objections

"First, its target market is the Jewish child. The use of the word Passover, the name of a Jewish holiday, in its title, as well as the fact that it is sold with a companion volume, 'The Story of Easter for Children,' suggests the publisher expects Jewish parents to purchase the Passover book for their children and Christian parents to purchase the Easter book for theirs.

"Second, the recounting of Jesus and the Last Supper has no relevance to the story of Passover and is an intrusion. Moreover, to describe Jesus as a Jew is an oversimplification. Jesus became the central figure of a new religion -- Christianity -- which broke away from Judaism.

"Lastly, planting the seed of Christian ideas in Jewish children in the guise of the Passover story is uncalled for. Mixing Christian and Jewish concepts as though they are one is inappropriate.

"Therefore, we deplore this approach. It is beneath the dignity of the new ecumenical encounter. All who participate in Christian-Jewish dialogue should join in disavowing such a disingenuous approach."

#### Barnes & Noble Halts Sale

Booksellers and publishers are being made aware of the joint action by the JWB Jewish Book Council and the other Jewish agencies, according to Ruth Frank, Council director.

In a late development today, the JWB Council reported that Barnes & Noble book chain said it has asked all its stores to pull the book from the shelves and to halt its sale.

Frank said a one-page list of books about Jewish holidays for children is available free of charge from the Council. To obtain this list, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to JWB Jewish Book Council, 15 East 26th St., New York, NY 10010-1579.

#### THREE GUATEMALAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES PROMISE TO EXPAND RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IF ELECTED

GUATEMALA CITY, April 2 (JTA) -- Three major candidates in Guatemala's first Presidential election in two decades promised to expand relations with Israel if elected. One of the candidates also called for moving his country's Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

Addressing a luncheon meeting of the executive committee of B'nai B'rith District 23 (Caribbean), former Vice President Mario Sandoval Alarcon said he doesn't understand why the present Guatemalan government has not transferred its Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. The right-of-center National Liberation Movement candidate's comments brought cheers from the 150 B'nai B'rith guests.

The candidate of the left-of-center Christian Democratic Party, Vinicio Cerezo, compared Guatemala's struggle for survival, peace and democracy with Israel's formative years. He said that he was inspired by the strong defense of human rights emanating from a nation that had a special awareness about human suffering.

The third candidate, Jorge Serrano Elias of the centrist National Cooperative Front, hailed the close relationship of Guatemala's 179,000-member cooperative farm movement with Israel's kibbutzim. Serrano, a leader of the cooperatives, indicated that his country's farmers had received training in advanced techniques through exchange programs and scholarships provided by Israel.

#### Cite Strong Israel-Guatemala Link

Although all three candidates talked about a strong link between Israel and Guatemala, Sandoval said he was "worried about the PLO presence in creating chaos and terrorism."

A fourth Presidential candidate, who was unable to attend, was Jorge Carpio Nicolle of the right-of-center National Center Union Party.

Among the Jewish leaders at the meeting were Isaac Gilinski of Cali, Colombia, B'nai B'rith District 23 president; Marcel Ruff, president of the Organization of Central American Jews; Jaime Russ, president of B'nai B'rith Guatemala; Warren Eisenberg of the United States, director of the International Council of B'nai B'rith and B'nai B'rith executive committee; and members from Colombia, Costa Rica, Curacao, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela.

#### DULZIN APPEALS TO GORBACHEV: GRANT SOVIET JEWS THEIR RIGHTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, has appealed to the new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, to "open the gates" to Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union, "put an end to anti-Semitism, stop the harassments" and "free the Prisoners of Zion."

In a letter to Gorbachev, in his capacity as chairman of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry, Dulzin wrote: "I appeal to you to grant the Jews of the Soviet Union their rights under the Soviet constitution to preserve their heritage, their language and their culture."

He added: "I want to remind you that the Soviet Union recognized Israel as the historical homeland of the Jews and that the Soviet Union recognizes the principle of repatriation and family reunion." Noting that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany, Dulzin assured the Soviet leader, "These demands are not intended in any way to harm the Soviet State. Do not pass up this historic chance to let our people go."

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BONN (JTA) -- Eli Wiesel, the Jewish writer whose best known works have been on Holocaust themes, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by several members of the Bundestag faction of the ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its coalition partner, the Free Democratic Party (FDP). They wrote to the Norwegian Prize Committee proposing Wiesel for his contributions to promoting understanding and conciliation in the post-war world.

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REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin published April 7, the second day of Passover.

## WJC CHARGES EMIGRE GROUPS ARE THWARTING OSI ACTIVITIES

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration "summarily rejected" a request in 1983 from various Baltic and Ukrainian emigre groups that the United States impose the administrative equivalent of a "statute of limitations" to prohibit the Justice Department from instituting legal proceedings against alleged war criminals in America, according to the World Jewish Congress.

The WJC also revealed today that these same groups and activists are engaged in an "intensive" and widespread campaign--"fraught with ill-concealed anti-Semitism" -- aimed at thwarting the Justice Department's pursuit of alleged war criminals and directed specifically against the Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), the unit responsible for investigating and prosecuting Nazi war criminals in the U.S.

The disclosures were made at a news conference, at the WJC offices here, by WJC vice president Kalman Sultanik and WJC executive director Israel Singer. They released the findings of an investigation revealing the activities of some emigre groups along with excerpts from news articles printed in the emigre news media. Eli Rosenbaum, a former OSI attorney and currently a special consultant to the WJC on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals, also attended the conference.

### A Motivating Factor

A motivating factor behind the activities of the emigre groups, according to Singer, is "the fear that the Justice Department's prosecutors are exposing the American public to the historical facts that Hitler's annihilation of six million Jews was carried out not by the Germans alone, but rather with the extensive collaboration of Lithuanians, Latvians, Ukrainians, Estonians and other Europeans."

The request to the Reagan Administration by various emigre groups that there be a statute of limitations occurred in late 1983 between lawyers representing the Baltic-American Freedom League, the World Lithuanian Community, Inc., Americans Against Defamation of Ukrainians and Americans for Due Process, and officials in the Justice Department, according to Rosenbaum. He said Assistant Attorney General Stephen Trott attended the meetings as did Neal Sher, now head of the OSI.

The WJC contended in its investigation that the "Ukrainian Survivors of the Holocaust" has demanded the Administration "immediately terminate all activities of the OSI." Latvian American newspapers, meanwhile, recently called for the repeal of the 1978 law that provides the only statutory basis for deporting Nazi war criminals, better known as the Holtzman Amendment, named after former Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman. Holtzman is now the Brooklyn District Attorney.

Sultanik said the emigre groups -- and the WJC stressed that these activities cannot be attributed to all U.S.-based Baltic or Ukrainian groups and periodicals -- seek to mask their activities in the guise of anti-Communism. They have assailed the OSI for using evidence obtained from witnesses and archives in the Soviet Union and East Europe.

"This is a patently dishonest exploitation of current East-West tensions," Sultanik declared. "No group is more acutely sensitive than are the

Jews to the indefensible restrictions on basic rights and freedoms imposed on them by the Soviet Union, but the question of evidence involves whether it is supportable on the rigorous testing ground of the courtroom."

This evidence, Sultanik, a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, continued, "has been tested time and again by both government and defense experts and its reliability has been uniformly upheld by Dutch and West German courts and by the overwhelming weight of the U.S. judicial authority."

The WJC released a sampling of writings from the publications of the emigre groups to support its contention that the campaign included anti-Semitism. The WJC cited as an example the Lithuanian-language weekly, Darbininkas, which asserted that "the Jews murdered not six but seventy million innocent people" and has condemned what it referred to as "the Jewish Eichmanns."

In the same paper there appeared a detailed description of the ways in which the OSI seeks to obtain witness testimony from U.S. residents. An advisory placed in the paper by the "Committee to Defend Lithuanian Rights" emphasized that no one need "answer any, even the simplest questions about yourself and others" or cooperate with the OSI in any way.

Furthermore, the WJC asserted that some emigre groups have established various defense funds to pay the legal fees of defendants in Nazi cases which included a fund to aid Hans Lipschis, recently deported to West Germany after confessing to serving as an SS-Rottenfuhrer at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in Poland during World War II.

### Congressional Members Deceived

In addition, the emigre groups, the WJC contended, have deceived Congressional members into acting on behalf of Nazi war criminals. The latest and most publicized case involved a letter Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) wrote at the urging of an emigre group in support of Karl Linnaus who is facing deportation for concealing his role in the executions of 1,000 people at a Nazi concentration camp.

D'Amato later said he had been duped into writing the letter to Secretary of State George Shultz in support of Linnaus, and in a second letter to Shultz affirmed his support for the work of the OSI.

### CHARGES AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS DISMISSED

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA) -- A N.Y. City criminal court judge who yesterday dismissed charges of disorderly conduct against 42 of the nearly 200 persons detained in the March 5 "Operation Redemption" sit-in outside the Soviet Mission to the United Nations, today again denounced the Soviet Union in dismissing similar charges against 35 other participants arrested during the demonstration.

Judge Richard Carruthers again declared he was dismissing the charges against the 35 other demonstrators "in the interests of justice," adding that "the court finds the policies of the Soviet Union to be an abomination." There were 33 rabbis in the first appearance yesterday and 14 today.

Operation Redemption is an on-going series of activities designed to bring about arrests of the protesters at Soviet offices in New York City to protest "the new spiritual genocide of Jews in Russia," according to its sponsors, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry.

## BACKGROUND REPORT THE KIDNAPPING OF LEBANESE JEWISH LEADERS By George Gruen

(Editor's note: George Gruen is the director of the Middle East Affairs Division of the International Relations Department of the American Jewish Committee.)

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA) — Four leaders of the Lebanese Jewish community were kidnapped in a series of abductions carried out by armed men in Beirut over the weekend. The kidnappings have been confirmed by the Beirut police, but no group has publicly claimed responsibility nor have family members been contacted with ransom demands.

According to information obtained by the American Jewish Committee from its Paris office and from other reliable sources in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East, the following is known about the kidnap victims and the circumstances of their abduction:

\* Dr. Elie Khallak, 59, a prominent physician, was kidnapped from his home in West Beirut on Friday night by armed men in uniform.

\* Haim Cohen, an elderly member of the community whose functions include distribution of kosher meat.

\* Elie Srour, 68, whose community functions include preparing the dead for burial.

Both were abducted near the synagogue in the Wadi Abu Jamil old Jewish quarter. They are not wealthy. They were also kidnapped during the Sabbath. Since Srour is Khallak's father-in-law it is quite possible that he was visiting Khallak and they were kidnapped at the same time.

### President Of The Community Dragged Away

Isaac Sasson, the president of the community, was kidnapped by armed men on Sunday. He had been out of the country on a business trip and was dragged away by three armed men when he arrived at the airport in Maslem West Beirut. (This information is different from that in the Associated Press dispatch from Beirut of March 31, which says that he was dragged from his home in Wadi Abu Jamil.)

Sasson, 68, is director of the pharmaceutical department of Khalil Fattal & Fils, a major Lebanese trading company. Friends sought to warn him not to return to his home in West Beirut but to go directly to the relatively safer Christian section of the city, but his abductors, who obviously knew of his travel plans, intercepted him either immediately as he got off the plane or in the vicinity of the airport. Sasson suffers from diabetes.

Khallak and Sasson are well connected in Lebanese society. Khallak's patients include prominent members of the various ethnic and religious communities. He has scrupulously stayed out of politics, and, in fact, the son of one of the Palestine Liberation Organization's leaders was treated by him. Sasson also has contacts among Muslim as well as Christian business circles.

The two led a Jewish delegation that met with President Amin Gemayel on August 23 last year to discuss the deteriorating situation of the dwindling Jewish community, which is now estimated at less than 100.

The Lebanese authorities and friends of Sasson and Khallak inquired about their whereabouts with the various armed militias, including the Amal, the main Shiite militia organization, but no trace of them was discovered.

This has led to speculation that the four Jewish men were abducted by persons connected with the Shiite fundamentalist group, Hezbollah (the Party of God). This group is closely aligned with the followers of Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran and has been implicated in attacks upon American and other Western installations in Lebanon.

Yesterday, rumors were circulating that a fifth member of the Jewish community, Clement Dana, 80, had also been taken captive.

### Fear And Concern Over Kidnappings

This well organized wave of kidnappings has filled the Jewish community with fear and has raised deep concern among Jewish communities around the world. It is to be noted that even during the height of the civil war, which broke out in 1975 and has continued intermittently ever since, the Jewish community as such was not targeted.

Most of the Jewish community has left because of the uncertain economic situation and the physical danger of living in a war zone. There are no special restrictions upon the community, which has been free to practice its religion and was protected by the authorities — to the extent that there was any functioning central authority.

In June 1967 some 6,000 Jews still lived in Lebanon, but because of the psychological, political and economic pressures generated by the Six Day war in the neighboring countries, the Lebanese Jewish community shrank to half by the end of the year. Additional emigration occurred during subsequent periods of turmoil.

By 1981 the community had declined to about 200 and it is believed that the community today is only a fraction of that number, with some estimates as low as several dozen. In many cases most family members have established residence abroad and only the breadwinner remains in Lebanon to continue his business or profession.

### Earlier Abductions Recalled

The first prominent Lebanese Jewish leader to be kidnapped was Albert Elia, the secretary-general of the community, who was dragged into a car as he was walking to his office in the synagogue on September 6, 1971. Subsequent investigations disclosed that the kidnappers had been working for Syrian intelligence. Elia died after having been tortured in the al-Mazeh prison outside of Damascus.

But there were no cases of Lebanese Jews being kidnapped by Lebanese elements until last year. On July 1, Raoul Sabhi Mizrahi, 54, an electrical engineer who ran an electrical supply company, was kidnapped by three armed gunmen from his apartment in West Beirut. There were no ransom demands. He was beaten to death and his body was discovered on July 3.

A group calling itself the "National Resistance Army — The Nation's Liberation Faction" said it had killed Mizrahi "because he was an Israeli agent." His family firmly denied this, but noted that the Amal Shiite militia had warned Mizrahi that his life was in danger if he maintained commercial ties with Israel.

On August 15, three armed gunmen kidnapped Salim Jammous, who had been secretary-general of the Jewish community, from his car near the main Beirut synagogue in the Wadi Abu Jamil quarter. No group claimed responsibility and it is possible that he is still being kept captive. The AJC has been in contact with the U.S. government and other diplomatic and human rights channels in efforts to locate and obtain the release of the kidnapped Lebanese Jewish leaders.