

**WHITE HOUSE INDICATES REAGAN  
MIGHT VISIT CONCENTRATION CAMP  
SITE DURING HIS WEST GERMANY VISIT**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 15 (JTA) -- President Reagan might change his mind and visit the site of a Nazi concentration camp when he goes to West Germany next month, the White House indicated today. (Related stories P. 1 and P. 3.)

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said that White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan has asked Deputy Chief of Staff Michael Deaver to return to Germany to "look at other opportunities" for a Presidential visit. Deaver, who is leaving the White House in May, was responsible for planning Reagan's visit to West Germany.

Speakes conceded that the move was in response to criticism from Jewish groups and veterans organizations over the weekend about the President's plan to lay a wreath at the Bitburg German military cemetery. (See April 15 Bulletin.)

However, Speakes said there had been less than 100 calls to the White House complaining about the planned visit to the cemetery for German soldiers who fought U.S. and Allied troops in World War II.

**Reagan Will Visit The Cemetery**

But Speakes stressed that Reagan "does intend" to visit the cemetery. He said the President received a letter from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl today in which Kohl emphasized the importance for Reagan to "continue with his plans to visit" the Bitburg cemetery as part of the reconciliation of former enemies.

Reagan sees the ceremony at the cemetery where "young Germans" are buried as an "opportunity to demonstrate 40 years of peace in Europe" and a reconciliation that the President wishes to make the theme of his visit observing the 40th anniversary of VE Day, according to Speakes.

At a press conference on March 21, Reagan said he had rejected a proposal to visit the site of the Dachau concentration camp because he wants to mark the anniversary as a celebration and not use it for "reawakening the memories" of the war.

When Speakes suggested today that if "logistics" permit, a visit to a concentration camp site might be one of the proposals, he was asked what has changed the President's views. He replied, "things have happened" since then. He added, "It was fair to say," that by this he meant the criticism first of Jewish groups when Reagan said he would not visit Dachau and then of Jewish groups and veterans organizations to the planned trip to the cemetery.

Bitburg was the staging area for Wehrmacht tanks used against the U.S. and its allies in the Battle of the Bulge in December, 1944. Speakes would not comment on reports that among the German dead in the cemetery are members of the Waffen SS. This group was responsible for the massacre of 115 American prisoners of war during the Battle of the Bulge.

**NUREMBERG WAR CRIMES TRIALS LAWYER  
AND LEADER OF WEST GERMANY'S  
JEWS URGE REAGAN TO VISIT EITHER  
DACHAU OR BERGEN-BELSEN CAMP SITES**  
By David Kantor

BONN, April 15 (JTA) -- Robert Kempner, a Frankfurt lawyer who helped prosecute Nazi leaders at the Nuremberg war crimes trials after World War II, and Werner Nachmann, chairman of the Jewish Community of West Germany, urged President Reagan today to honor the victims of Nazism -- Jews and non-Jews alike -- by visiting either the Bergen-Belsen or Dachau concentration camp sites when he comes to Bonn for an economic summit meeting next month.

Reagan earlier rejected the idea of visiting Dachau, in Bavaria, on grounds that it would sour the spirit of reconciliation 40 years after the end of the war when, according to Reagan, hardly anyone who participated in Nazi atrocities is still alive.

Reagan came under intense fire over the weekend from Jewish and non-Jewish groups, the American Legion among the latter, when the White House announced that he intends to lay a wreath at the Wehrmacht war cemetery at Bitburg.

The German soldiers buried there died during the Battle of the Bulge in December, 1944. Not a few of them may have participated in the massacre of 115 American prisoners of war at Malmedy at the time.

Kempner said Reagan would be responding to the wishes of many Germans who suffered at Dachau or Bergen-Belsen, which is in Lower Saxony. Nachmann called on Reagan to attend memorial services for Jewish and other Nazi victims at a former concentration camp.

He went on West German television to say that a visit to a concentration camp by the President would strike a responsive chord among all Nazi survivors and Jews worldwide. He said it would also be consistent with the U.S. and Reagan's commitment to the existence and well-being of Israel.

Nachmann spoke following a meeting of the Zentralrat, the central elected body of the West German Jewish Community. The West German media which pays little or no attention to decisions of the Zentralrat, gave this particular meeting wide coverage.

**No Official Response From Bonn Government**

The Bonn government has not reacted officially to the mounting pressure on Reagan to reverse his decision not to visit a concentration camp site. But government officials have privately expressed displeasure with the statements by both the West German and American Jewish communities on the subject.

One official told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that those statements were unfair. Speaking to the JTA on condition that he not be identified, the official said: "Later this month, Chancellor Helmut Kohl intends to attend a Jewish memorial service in Bergen-Belsen.

"Kohl has all along shown his sympathy with the Jewish people and with the State of Israel. It hurts him profoundly when he is portrayed as someone who is not deeply committed to Israel," the official said.

### 3 RABBIS AND STATE SENATOR AMONG 37 PEOPLE ARRESTED AT SOVIET FACILITY

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) — Three rabbis and a New York State Senator were among 37 people arrested yesterday after demonstrating outside the Soviet Residence complex in Riverdale to protest against "the new spiritual genocide of Jews in Russia."

The protest and the arrests were the sixth since January of an ongoing series of peaceful demonstrations outside Soviet facilities, followed each time by arrests. More than 250 participants, including 125 rabbis, have been arrested since the beginning of "Operation Redemption" early this year. The demonstrations, cosponsored by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, seek to draw attention to the heightened plight of Soviet Jews.

In yesterday's demonstration, about 175 people, many wearing tallitot and yarmulkas and carrying prayer books and shofars, gathered behind the police barricades near the Soviet Residence complex where hundreds of Soviet officials and their families reside.

The police, who had been notified beforehand of the group's plans, stood silently and respectfully as the protestors sang Hebrew songs and prayers and chanted. They were addressed by Rabbi Avraham Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, who serves as SSSJ chairman; Rabbi Irving Rosner of Congregation Sons of Israel in Yonkers; William Herskowitz of the Greystone Jewish Center of Yonkers; and New York State Senator Abraham Bernstein of The Bronx, all of whom were subsequently arrested.

#### 'You Seek Trade, We Dream Freedom'

Addressing the gathering, Weiss declared: "On this day, as President Reagan begins to prepare for a summit with (Soviet leader) Mikhail Gorbachev, we say to the Soviets: You seek trade, we dream freedom; you seek technology, we demand human dignity; you want dollars, we want emigration." He emphasized the need for a quid pro quo of guaranteeing Soviet Jewish rights for any American cooperation with the USSR.

Bernstein asked, "How as a lawmaker can I break the law?" Answering his own question, the Senator said that "to call attention to a serious situation, one may have to do something extraordinary. We call attention to our concern for Jews in Russia."

The demonstrators carried banners with such slogans as "Stop the persecution of those whose only crime is wanting to be free." Psalms were recited throughout the proceedings and a shofar blew a strong "Tekiah" as on Rosh Hashanah and as used in the gathering of the Tribes of Israel.

#### Who Walks With The Aid Of Steel Crutches

Led by Bernstein, the demonstrators began to march toward the massive iron, wired gates of the Soviet compound singing "Ani Ma'Amin" ("I Believe"), the traditional prayer which was sung by concentration camp inmates as they filed into the crematoria. The group of young and old appeared determined and spirited as they circumvented the police barricades in an orderly fashion.

The demonstration was timed to coincide with the end of the Passover holiday, which commemorates the redemption of the Jews from slavery; the 40th anni-

versary of the liberation of the concentration camps; and the ascension of a new Soviet leader. Those arrested were charged with disorderly conduct and will stand trial June 27. Last week, New York City Criminal Judge Richard Carruthers dismissed charges against 77 of the previously arrested demonstrators, declaring that "the court finds the policies of the Soviet Union to be an abomination." Carruthers said he was acting "in the interests of justice."

#### TRIBUTE PAID TO CHILDREN WHO DIED IN THE HOLOCAUST

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) — The million Jewish children who died at the hands of the Nazis were remembered last night at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center here through prayers, readings, anecdotes, poems and songs.

Sponsored by the Holocaust Survivors Memorial Foundation, the tribute began with a specially-made film of actress Liv Ullman visiting Auschwitz recently. It was interspersed with film clips taken of children during the Holocaust.

The program included a candlelight procession by 200 school children, addressed by Jewish, Protestant and Catholic clergy, and presentations by Giora Feidman, Theodore Bikel, Mary Tyler Moore, Estelle Parsons, Tony Roberts and other performers.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Park East Synagogue, a survivor of the Budapest Ghetto, said that the children who died are dependent on survivors and on future generations to keep their memories alive.

Rev. Michael Cantley of St. Anastasia's Roman Catholic Church in Douglaston, Queens, representing the Bishop of Brooklyn, Most Rev. Frances Mugavero, said that the Holocaust was the result of "the neopagan religion of Nazism." But Jack Eisner, the survivor who is founder and president of the sponsoring group, said that the origins of the Holocaust lay in Christianity's wrongful teachings that Jews are evil and diabolical.

While Eisner credited the Righteous Christians, especially the Danes, who saved Jewish lives, he said that the Holocaust can happen again. "Hitler only lit the match," Eisner said. "I, the survivor, appeal to Christianity and ask for a new deal."

Eisner described as "morally indecent to us" President Reagan's decision not to visit the Dachau death camp during his forthcoming visit to West Germany and a parallel decision, reportedly under review by the Administration, to appear at a cemetery of World War II German dead.

#### WEIZMAN TO GO TO CAIRO AFTER CABINET REVERSES ITS EARLIER DECISION NOT TO APPROVE HIS TRIP

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) — Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman will fly to Cairo tonight, as scheduled, for meetings with Egyptian leaders, after the Cabinet, in a telephone poll today, reversed its decision of yesterday not to approve his trip.

Both the Cabinet's decision Sunday against the trip and today's reversal were carried by a one-vote margin. While an immediate crisis in the Labor-Likud national unity Cabinet was averted, Premier Shimon Peres and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir conceded that the affair has "left a bitter taste."

Shamir, the Likud leader who had battled against Weizman's trip and latterly sought to have it at least postponed, made it clear tonight that he would not force a Cabinet crisis over his defeat in the telephone

poll. Shamir's aides said the issue was "not important enough" to precipitate the downfall of the government. But it was clear to political observers that strains within the seven-month-old unity coalition are more severe than ever and tensions simmering over the Weizman trip may drastically shorten its tenure.

In fact, today's procedure which allowed the visit to take place as scheduled came under sharp attack by Likud spokesmen for allegedly violating the letter and spirit of the coalition agreement.

#### Efforts To Reverse Cabinet Decision

After the Cabinet rejected the trip Sunday -- a severe personal and political rebuff to Premier Peres -- it was agreed to convene the 10-man "inner cabinet" this morning for further discussion. The inner cabinet, comprising senior Labor and Likud ministers, deadlocked 5-5 on the issue. The tie meant that Weizman's trip was off.

It was clear to observers that Peres was prepared to resign if the trip was vetoed. Immediately after a meeting with Shamir he instructed Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin to poll the ministers by telephone.

In the telephone poll, Minister-Without-Portfolio Yigael Hurwitz of the Ometz faction and Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party, both of whom had abstained at Sunday's Cabinet meeting, voted with Labor. So did Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the Shinui faction, who was absent from Sunday's session. Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz of the Shash faction, who is Minister of Interior and was also absent Sunday, voted with Likud.

Economics Minister Gad Yaacobi, a Laborite who is out of the country, assigned his proxy to Hurwitz who duly cast Yaacobi's vote for Labor. The final telephone vote was 12-11 in favor of Weizman's trip.

#### U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL EXPRESSES 'DEEP ANGUISH' AT REAGAN'S PLANNED VISIT TO MILITARY CEMETERY

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- The United States Holocaust Memorial Council met in emergency session today and expressed its "deep anguish" at President Reagan's planned visit to a German military cemetery during his forthcoming visit to West Germany.

But the Council, by unanimous decision, deferred specific action pending a meeting, requested today, between Council chairman Elie Wiesel and the President. The Council will hold a second meeting, scheduled for Thursday in Washington, to review the situation and for Wiesel to report to them "changes which may be made in the plans."

While indicating that the cemetery visit "is unacceptable to us," Wiesel told reporters at a news conference following the Council's two-hour meeting at the Hebrew Union College that he did not believe Reagan was aware of the preparations by the White House staff for him to visit the cemetery, where some 1,800 German soldiers who died during the Battle of the Bulge and later battles are buried.

The Council, in a statement, expressed its "confidence in the personal integrity of the President and urged him to follow his instincts rather than the tragic advice that resulted in the offensive plans."

The White House announced last Friday from Santa Barbara where the President was vacationing,

that Reagan would lay a wreath at Bitburg cemetery when he visits West Germany next month. The proposed visit was immediately denounced by the American Jewish community whose outrage was shared by other Americans including the American Legion.

According to Wiesel, the cemetery contains the tombstones of members of the SS. "These are and were criminals," he said. He suggested that the President, in his efforts at reconciliation 40 years after the end of World War II, might visit a tomb of the Unknown Soldier or a university.

Wiesel, added, however, that he viewed a visit to the site of the Dachau concentration camp as a sign of reconciliation. He indicated that the visit to the cemetery, and the Administration's refusal to have the President visit Dachau, as he had been urged in past weeks, were not linked to one another.

"Whether he goes to Dachau or not is for him to decide," Wiesel said, adding that it represents more than the "Jewish tragedy" of the Holocaust since many persons killed at Dachau were of various faiths and nationalities.

In the telegram to Reagan, Wiesel said, "It is precisely because you have so impressed us in the past with your deep understanding of the need to keep the meaning and memory of the Holocaust alive that we have been so keenly disturbed by your plans."

Wiesel told reporters that some members of the Council had urged "extreme" measures in response to Reagan's planned visit, such as resignation from the Council, while others urged a more moderate position. He said he had been in contact with a "high official" in the White House this morning, although he did not disclose the identity of the official.

Wiesel also sought to separate the controversy over the Bitburg visit from a ceremony this Friday at which Reagan will present the noted author and survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald with a commemorative gold medal for his contributions to world peace and human rights. "To reject such a generous gift may be an insult to Congress and the American people," Wiesel said.

#### Protests Continue

Reagan's planned visit to Bitburg, meanwhile, drew an angry response as far away as Australia where the president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Isi Leibler, urged the President to "reconsider and abandon" the proposed visit. "We feel obliged to emphasize that unlike previous wars, the struggle against Nazism was not merely a conflict between nations," Leibler said in a cable to Reagan. "It was a battle against an evil regime which threatened Western civilization itself."

In urging that Reagan "reconsider" his decision to visit Bitburg and to pay a visit to Dachau, the president of the Workmen's Circle, Dr. Barnett Zumoff, called on the President to reveal "who has ill advised you. The nation has a right to know and to judge their motives."

Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman urged the President "to come to his senses and reconsider his decision." She said: "By electing to honor Hitler's soldiers and refusing to visit Dachau, President Reagan leaves the clear impression that Hitler's war machine is more worthy of commemorating than the suffering of its victims."

## \$1 MILLION PLEDGED FOR ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP, CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

WEST HARTFORD, April 15 (JTA) — Arnold Greenberg, president and chief executive officer of Coleco Industries, has pledged \$1 million to the University of Hartford's Capital Campaign to establish an endowed professorship in Jewish Studies, it was announced here. The gift, one of the largest in the University's history, will also be used to start a Center for Jewish Studies.

University of Hartford president Stephen Joel Trachtenberg said at a press conference last week that while the university has received significant gifts for academic programs in the past, "Never before has the university received a gift quite as significant — in terms of both content and generosity — as the one I am announcing today."

The gift will memorialize Arnold Greenberg's father, Maurice Greenberg, after whom the endowed chair and the Jewish studies center will be named.

"The professorship in Jewish Studies," Trachtenberg said, "will be the first step in the creation, at the University of Hartford, of a Center for Jewish Studies that will serve Greater Hartford, New England, the Northeast, and, as a scholarly resource, the field of Jewish Studies writ large."

### Advisory Board To Define Program

He said an advisory board, to be chaired by an eminent scholar in Jewish studies, is being created to provide full definition of the Center and its program. It is expected that the chair in Jewish Studies and the first stage of the Center will be in place by the fall of 1986.

Approximately \$750,000 of the Greenberg gift will be set aside for the endowed chair. The remaining \$250,000 will be used to start up the Center for Jewish Studies and to launch a major fund-raising campaign on its behalf.

Trachtenberg noted that the University of Hartford has planned and recently announced a broad series of events focusing on the Holocaust of World War II in connection with the launching of the Center for Jewish Studies.

### Series Of Events Scheduled

These events include:

- \* A special convocation June 4 in memory of the Jews who died in the Terezin concentration camp in World War II, and at which Elie Wiesel, the world-renowned writer on the Holocaust will receive an honorary degree.

- \* The opening on June 3 of an exhibition entitled "Image and Reality: Jewish Life in Terezin," at the university's Joseloff Gallery. The exhibition will run from June 3 to July 29.

- \* "Image and Reality," which displays the work of more than 50 adult artists imprisoned at the Terezin camp as well as 25 of the famed children's drawings, also includes camp artifacts, photographs and informational panels prepared by the B'nai B'rith Klutznick Museum in Washington. The Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford will host a simultaneous exhibition entitled "The Precious Legacy."

- \* A six-part summer symposium on "The Holocaust in Historical Perspective," which will be launched June 11 by Dr. David Wyman of the Uni-

versity of Massachusetts, author of *The Abandonment of the Jews*. Other lecturers will include Bishop Peter Rosazza of the Archdiocese of Hartford, the Rev. Clifford Green of the Hartford Seminary, and Dr. David Ruderman, chairman of Judaic studies at Yale University.

### From Immigrant To Phenomenal Success

Maurice Greenberg, after whom the chair and Center for Jewish Studies will be named, came to the United States as a poor, 11-year-old immigrant in 1911. He founded the Connecticut Leather Company during the depression in the 1930's as a wholesaler of shoe repairing supplies.

In later years, his sons Arnold and Leonard built the business, which became Coleco Industries, into one of the most imaginative and successful toy companies in the nation, as evidenced most recently by the phenomenally successful Cabbage Patch Kids products.

Arnold Greenberg serves as a vice chairman of the university's Board of Regents.

### SHRAGA NETZER DEAD AT 87

TEL AVIV, April 15 (JTA) — Shraga Netzer, one of the founders of Mapai and the Labor Party, died at his home in Tel Aviv last Thursday. He was 87. Netzer was born in Sosnitsa, Russia, in 1898 and came to Palestine with his wife Dvora in 1925, after organizing a network of Jewish productive and self-supporting organizations under the new Soviet rule.

Throughout the years when he worked in the Tel Aviv municipality's sanitation department Netzer was an important "power broker" in Mapai, even though he never held a formal position in the party. Despite his friendship with David Ben Gurion, Netzer remained faithful to Mapai when the leader split away to form Rafi. He never sought Knesset membership though his wife served as a Knesset member.

### HERZL'S GRAVE IS SINKING

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) — The grave of Theodor Herzl, the founder of political Zionism, is sinking into the ground and the World Zionist Organization does not have the money to reconstruct it. The grave began sinking several years ago because its foundation was not strong enough.

Prof. Yitzhak Vershovsky, chairman of the WZO's organization and information department, estimated that it would cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 to reconstruct the grave. Addressing the WZO executive committee, he said the Israeli government could not provide the necessary funds. He complained that the government failed to honor its commitment to cover half of the maintenance costs of Herzl's grave for the past several years.

Vershovsky said that he discussed the problem with Leon Dulzin, chairman of the WZO Executive, who, according to Vershovsky, promised that the necessary funds would be found to restore the grave of the Zionist leader.

Meanwhile, the WZO has initiated a series of events to mark the 125th anniversary of Herzl's birth starting in May and concluding July 9 which is Tamuz 20 on the Hebrew calendar, the date of Herzl's death. The ceremonies will include the distribution of 500,000 copies of Herzl's book, "Der Judenstaat" (The Jewish State) published in 1896.