

BONN GOVERNMENT TO LIMIT MEDIA COVERAGE OF REAGAN'S VISIT TO BITBURG AND TO KEEP DEMONSTRATORS AS FAR FROM THE SCENE AS POSSIBLE
By David Kantor

BONN, April 29 (JTA) — The Bonn government is making elaborate arrangements to limit media coverage of President Reagan's visit to the military cemetery at Bitburg next Sunday and to keep demonstrators as far from the scene as possible, as well as counter demonstrators.

It was reported here today that the police have been instructed to keep away protestors against the President's visit to the cemetery where 47 members of the notorious Waffen SS are buried among some 2,000 German war dead. Demonstrations at or near the site are planned by several groups, including Jewish Holocaust survivors and Jewish student groups.

The nature of the measures is not known. But the government appears also determined to head off organizations and individuals who plan to demonstrate against the protestors. Any incidents during Reagan's visit would be a severe embarrassment to the government. They would further damage Germany's image and German-American relations which have already been tarnished by the world-wide controversy surrounding Bitburg.

Hoping For Action From Bitburg Mayor

Although Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who will accompany Reagan to the cemetery has insisted that the visit will take place, officials at the Foreign Ministry here seem to be in a quandary. They are reportedly now openly hopeful that Mayor Theo Hallet of Bitburg will defuse the situation by withdrawing the town's official invitation to Kohl and Reagan.

Hallet, a member of Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), has warned that if the "press campaign" against his town continues, he would convene the town council to decide whether the visit should be cancelled.

According to some German diplomats, such a decision would be a graceful way out, though too late to patch up the considerable damage done so far. Hallet sent a telegram to Kohl today claiming that Bitburg had an anti-Nazi record. He did not elaborate. A similar telegram was sent by Prime Minister Bernhart Vogel of Rhineland Palatinate, the Federal State in which Bitburg is located.

Observers believe that Mayor Hallet and his town council would not act unless there was at least a tacit indication from Kohl that he does not object.

Willy Brandt, chairman of the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD), said today that a better site could have been selected to demonstrate German-American reconciliation 40 years after the end of World War II. Mayor Manfred Rommel of Stuttgart, son of the late Field Marshal Irwin Rommel, said there was still time to find an alternative site.

SOME 4,000 MARK 40th ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF DEATH CAMPS
Pledge Unrelenting Pressure For Remembrance
By Michael Solomon

OTTAWA, April 29 (JTA) — Survivors of the

Holocaust and their children, gathered here to mark the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the death camps, pledged unrelenting pressure for remembrance lest the world forget or deny the terrible events of the Nazi era.

The Canadian Gathering of Holocaust Survivors began here yesterday and will end tomorrow. Some 4,000 participants stood in a cold rain on Parliament Hill yesterday afternoon to witness the kindling of six giant torches symbolizing the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. The flames soared into the leaden skies, casting the buildings of Canada's Parliament, a symbol of Western democracy, in sharp relief.

There were other ceremonies and speeches last night in the packed main hall of the Canadian Jewish Congress Center here.

An Especially Troublesome Time

For the survivors, their children and thousands of well-wishers, Jews and non-Jews, this anniversary is especially troubling. Deniers of the Holocaust have become bolder and more brazen in their propaganda in Canada and elsewhere.

And there seems to be a willingness, if not to forget, than to homogenize the Holocaust as just another incident in the carnage of World War II; manifested at the highest level by President Reagan's determination, in face of world-wide protests, to visit the German military cemetery at Bitburg next Sunday where, in the name of "reconciliation," his presence will honor not just former German soldiers but members of the notorious Waffen SS — the executioners of the Final Solution — who are buried there.

Will Demonstrate In Bergen-Belsen

Two indefatigable Nazi-hunters, French lawyer Serge Klarsfeld and his German-born wife, Beate Klarsfeld, were present at the ceremonies last night. "We shall demonstrate, Beate and myself, in Bergen-Belsen when President Reagan will be there," Klarsfeld declared. Reagan is to visit the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp near Wiemar on May 5, and will go to Bitburg later the same day.

The Bergen-Belsen visit was a last minute decision by his aides to try to mollify the rising anger over Bitburg. Reagan himself, as long ago as last March, rejected a suggestion by the Bonn government that he stop over at the Dachau concentration camp site.

Wiesel: 'Memory Is Our Shield'

A speaker at the outdoor gathering yesterday was Elie Wiesel, an Auschwitz survivor and author who is chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and an outspoken critic of the President's itinerary.

"Memory is our shield," said Wiesel. "Our generation is diminishing. Hence the necessity to transmit to our children the memory of the past. We are gathered here for the sake of our children and of their children. Let us remember that not all the victims were Jews but that all the Jews were victims."

Wiesel added: "Here, in Canada, you have witnessed the outrageous outburst of people who, in their twisted minds dare say that this tragedy did not occur. How does one respond to such ugliness? It is to the honor of Canada that this outrage did not pass unpunished."

Although Wiesel gave no specifics, he was obviously referring to two recent cases that have made world headlines: Ernst Zundel, an anti-Semitic Ontario publisher, was tried and convicted under Canada's anti-hate laws for disseminating literature claiming the Holocaust was a Jewish hoax. He received a light sentence.

Jim Keegstra, a former high school teacher in the Alberta village of Eckville, is currently on trial for preaching the same lie to his pupils over a period of years.

Wiesel, who only a week ago appealed in person to Reagan to cancel his Bitburg visit, also referred, without mentioning his name, to the President's incongruous remark that the German soldiers buried at Bitburg were "surely" as much victims of the Nazis as those incarcerated in the concentration camps.

"Such comparison is inadmissible because the SS symbolized absolute evil. There can be no reconciliation with the SS and what they represent," he said.

Urges Remembering The Righteous Gentiles

Wiesel also called on the survivors and their children to "remember the righteous gentiles, the Allied armies, the Jewish Brigade." He stressed further that "Our passion involves all those in jails in Soviet Russia, all those who want to remain Jews. We are here to say to the world that we, the survivors shall be the first to protest injustice anywhere in the world..."

The gathering on Parliament Hill yesterday was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, including the ambassadors of the U.S. and Israel; representatives of the Canadian government and of war veterans. Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, former spiritual leader of the Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto and now policy adviser to the Canadian government on refugees, read the invocation.

"We speak to our children," he said. "We speak to Canada, we speak to the world because we are the witnesses. Our eyes have seen what eyes should never see..."

United In Commitment

Finance Minister Michael Wilson, speaking on behalf of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney who is out of the country, told the gathering, "We are united in our commitment to ensuring that the legacy of racism, oppression and genocide that the Holocaust represents, is never repeated." He observed: "The shadow of the Holocaust can still stun us into an awful silence. For the dark side of humanity that the Nazi regime represented, is still with us, in the form of anti-Semitism and racism in all its forms. The danger of allowing racism to go unquestioned and unchecked remains. This danger must be challenged. We must accept this challenge because the unspeakable crime of the Holocaust revisits us every time any person is singled out or persecuted not for who they are but for what they are."

Eliashev Ben Horin, the Israeli Ambassador to Canada, told the evening gathering, "We are told that new generations have nothing to do with the Holocaust but it is not only for the sake of the Jewish people that the Holocaust is remembered. Reconciliation is unreasonable if it means erasing our memories."

Beate Klarsfeld remarked that for the German people, remembrance is not a collective guilt but a collective responsibility. Her husband, who is president of the Association of Jewish Deportees from France, said:

"Today in France, the Jewish youth affirms that they are children of the Holocaust. We have made the French government change the books of history and speak loudly to the French young people about the causes of the Holocaust." He added, "We must make Germany create university chairs specializing in the Holocaust."

U.S. AND EUROPEAN JEWS, CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICE IN MUNICH CEMETERY FOR TWO CHRISTIAN ANTI-NAZI LEADERS KILLED BY THE NAZIS By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 29 (JTA) -- Two Christian anti-Nazi leaders of the White Rose resistance movement who were beheaded by the Nazis in 1943 will be remembered this Friday by American and European Jewish and Christian leaders who will gather at the Perlacher cemetery near Munich for a memorial service.

The American Jewish Congress, in announcing the planned memorial service at the graves of the two German resistance leaders, Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie, also announced that a memorial service will be held the same day at the site of the Dachau concentration camp, described at a news conference here today "as the granddaddy of all the concentration camps in Europe."

The communal services are an outgrowth of opposition to the planned visit Sunday to a German military cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany by President Reagan that has aroused intense criticism from Jewish organizations and veterans groups. According to the AJCongress, Reagan's planned visit has resulted in the "diversion of public attention from the true significance" of the anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany and the liberation of the Nazi death camps.

"These are occasions to pledge that the evil unleashed by Hitler will never be forgotten and will never be allowed to be repeated," Theodore Mann, AJCongress president said. "To remember the many thousands of Americans whose lives were lost in the war; to remember the genocide of six million European Jews and the murder of five million Christians, and to honor the memories of those under the control of the Nazis, including the Germans, who were martyred in their attempts to defeat Nazism."

Strength Of White Rose Movement Leaders

Hans Scholl, 25, and 22-year-old Sophie and 24-year-old Christoph Probsp, were tried by a Nazi "people's court" in Munich for their involvement in the distribution of leaflets of the White Rose movement at the University of Munich and in cities in Germany and Austria.

After their trial, on February 22, 1943, all three were executed by guillotine. Several months later three others who had joined them in the same activities, Willie Graf, Kurt Huber and Alexander Schmor-ell, were also tried, convicted, and executed. After their death, a Hamburg group of the White Rose emerged to continue the work of the Scholls and their co-workers. The leaders of the Hamburg group were later tried, convicted and executed.

"It is in order to focus attention on symbols of resistance to evil -- Hans Scholl and Sophie Scholl -- and on symbols of the terrible consequences of evil -- the death camps -- that these gatherings will be held," Mann said.

Among the Jewish groups that have endorsed the memorial service are: World Jewish Congress, United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, Canadian Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, Children of Survivors of the Holocaust, Jewish Labor Committee and Emunah Women.

Other groups include the United Auto Workers Local 259 and District 65, Teamsters Local 840, A., Philip Randolph Institute, The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and the Lutheran Council in the USA.

U.S. HOPES TO REACH DECISION SOON ON FURTHER AID TO ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 29 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that it hopes to reach a decision soon on whether to provide Israel with the \$1.5 billion in additional economic aid sought by the national unity government headed by Premier Shimon Peres.

But State Department deputy spokesman Edward Djerejian would not say whether the decision could come before Secretary of State George Shultz goes to Israel May 9. He said he could not put a "time frame" on it.

"We continue our close dialogue with the government of Israel" on how U.S. assistance can help Israel's economic programs, Djerejian said. "We hope to be in a position soon to reach a decision."

The Reagan Administration has approved \$1.8 billion in military aid to Israel for the 1986 fiscal year, a \$400 million increase, and \$1.2 billion in economic aid, the entire \$3 billion in grants. But the U.S. has refrained from approving additional economic funds sought by Israel because Shultz has maintained that Israel has not done enough to solve its economic problems.

The House, meanwhile, is scheduled to vote on the Foreign Assistance Bill tomorrow which includes its Foreign Affairs Committee's recommendation that the additional \$1.2 billion be included.

Peres' Letter To Shultz

Djerejian refused to comment today on reports that Peres sent Shultz a letter outlining his economic program in an effort to meet U.S. conditions. In an Independence Day interview on Kol Israel Radio last week, Peres said his letter contained responses to 10 questions posed by Shultz. He said he had "no doubt" that the U.S. will provide the requested aid.

"In brief, my answer to Shultz is that we have a forecast regarding inflation for the duration of the package deal, and the forecast for the second quarter depends on whether or not we sign another package deal. I would prefer us to do that in the form of a national agreement, since I believe it is the most secure and the best way."

He said that in a few weeks, "we will launch negotiations with the Histadrut and the employers on an agreement reached of their own free will to curtail inflation. Then we will be able to inform the Americans that we are moving ahead."

Peres said that the Treasury believes that in June, the fourth and last month of the package

deal, inflation which was 24.5 percent when the unity government took office last September, will be down to 4-6 percent. Peres cited inflation as the third step in four major efforts needed to solve Israel's major economic problems. The first, he said, was to cut the government budget even more than it has been cut. "I think we must slash the subsidies and reduce expenditures in the service sector," Peres said.

The second step he outlined was to control and limit imports while increasing exports. Finally, he said, Israel must resume economic growth and establish more industrial plants.

IDF LEAVES TYRE, COMPLETING SECOND STAGE OF THREE-STAGE WITHDRAWAL

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 29 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force announced this afternoon that the IDF today evacuated the coastal city of Tyre, completing the second stage of its three-stage withdrawal from south Lebanon.

It is now deployed in the security belt which roughly parallels the international border and will remain there for about one month. The IDF spokesman said all Israeli troops will be out of Lebanon by June 5, the third anniversary of the start of the Lebanon war. He stressed that they would re-cross the border only if a clear and imminent threat to Israel develops inside Lebanon.

Israel Radio said that the area from which the IDF departed today covers some 400 square kilometers (150 square miles) and contains about 125,000 inhabitants, mostly Shiite Moslems. Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy said he expected that the Lebanese army and the Shiite Amal militia would take over security responsibilities in that area.

He said today's move reduced by half the number of Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. He described the security belt the IDF now occupies as "less problematic" than the regions evacuated over the past few weeks. It is between 8-15 kilometers deep and extends about 12 kilometers along the coastline. Its population is about 110,000, about half of them Shiites.

Withdrawal Is Slightly Ahead Of Schedule

Premier Shimon Peres told reporters in Jerusalem today that the evacuation of Tyre was carried out slightly ahead of schedule. He attributed this to the efficiency of the IDF.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters that the ethnic fighting -- between Moslems and Christians -- that erupted in recent days as the IDF accelerated its pull-out, would not be repeated in the security belt. He said the IDF would prevent ethnic and factional strife which could pose a threat to Israel's security.

The Defense Minister explained that the IDF would remain in the security belt for a month to make sure that local forces will be available and capable of preventing bloodshed.

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, the government has to contend with rising fears among Israelis in the towns and settlements adjacent to the Lebanese border that the IDF pullout will jeopardize their security. Peres said the Cabinet will discuss these problems at a meeting tomorrow with representatives of the northern towns.

COVETED ISRAEL PRIZE AWARDED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 29 (JTA) -- Israel's Arabic television station, a leading heart surgeon and a Yiddish poet were among the winners of this year's coveted Israel Prizes, awarded at the traditional ceremony here last Thursday by Education Minister Yitzhak Navon. The prize ceremony marked the conclusion of Independence Day celebrations.

Arabic TV, in the words of the panel of judges, succeeds in finding the proper balance as a key medium serving Arabs in Israel and in neighboring countries, as well as Arabic-speaking Israeli Jews. The station gives a credible picture of Israeli life and society, the judges wrote, portraying Israel as democratic, progressive and peace-seeking.

An Outstanding Physician Is Honored

In awarding the prize to Prof. Henry Neufeld who heads the department of heart medicine at Sheba Medical Center, the judges wrote that he "is outstanding as a physician, researcher, teacher and administrator."

Neufeld established the first intensive care unit at Sheba Medical Center for victims of heart attacks and trained an entire generation of heart specialists who now lead the field throughout Israel. Neufeld's work, the judges wrote, has contributed to Israel's achievements in reducing the incidence of heart illness in the country's population.

First-Ever Award For Yiddish Literature

Avraham Sutzkever, the noted Yiddish poet whose work is steeped in the culture and the catastrophe of East European Jewry, became the first-ever recipient of an Israel Prize for Yiddish literature. The judges described him as a unique and exalted poet from his early creativity in Vilna to the present day in Israel.

Sutzkever, the author of more than 30 books, including "Lider fun Geta" (Songs of the Ghetto), 1946; "Fun Vilner Geta" (From the Vilna Ghetto), 1946; and "Geheymstet" (Secret Town), 1948, was imprisoned in the Vilna Ghetto during World War II. He helped rescue and hide from the Nazis important items from the archives of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

He escaped from the ghetto and became a partisan, returning after the war to Vilna to retrieve the hidden archival items and convey them to the YIVO headquarters in New York City. Sutzkever settled in Israel in 1947 and two years later became the editor of the Yiddish literary quarterly "Di Goldene Keyt" (The Golden Chain).

(Sutzkever, whose life has been bound up with the history of YIVO, serves, with Saul Bellow, as honorary co-chairman of YIVO's 60th anniversary committee in New York.)

Honored For A Lifetime Of Work

Prof. Baruch Padeh, "a pioneer in the field of public medicine," in the words of the judges, was honored for a lifetime of work in Palestine and in Israel in the medical profession. The judges recalled his involvement in the pre-State kibbutz movement, his work in organizing the fledgling Israel Defense Force's medical corps in 1948 and later as chief medical officer.

Padeh's work more recently as director-general of the Health Ministry and his contribution to the nation's medical developments as a senior physician and head of department in the Tel Hashomer Medical Center were also cited by the judges.

Ben-Zvi Institute Is Honored

Another recipient of the Israel Prize was the Ben-Zvi Institute for the study of Oriental Jewish communities. The Institute was established in 1948 by the man who was later to become Israel's second President, Yitzhak Ben-Zvi. In the 1950's, the Institute became part of the Hebrew University.

After Ben-Zvi's death, special legislation was passed by the Knesset establishing the Ben-Zvi Foundation and the Institute was incorporated into that larger body. Since its inception, the Institute has encouraged researches and publications which have made an important contribution to the study of Oriental Jewry, its culture and its heritage.

Prof. Yehuda Blau, the leading Semitic languages scholar, was awarded the prize for his work in researching ancient Arabic languages and the authoritative books he has written on this subject.

UJA LEADER TELLS JEWISH AGENCY THAT CAMPAIGN '85 HAS ALREADY RAISED \$462.8 MILLION, FAR AHEAD OF '84

JERUSALEM, April 29 (JTA) -- Robert Loup, chairman of the United Jewish Appeal Board of Trustees, has informed the Jewish Agency Executive here that the UJA/Federation Campaign for 1985 has already raised \$462.8 million. This represents a card-for-card increase of 13.4 percent and a dollar gain of \$54.7 million over the amounts pledged by the same contributors last year.

Loup said that, overall, Campaign '85 has raised \$46.1 million more than at the same juncture last year. He added that the campaign is now 64.3 percent completed with Campaign '85 pledges still open by persons who pledged a total of \$226.8 million last year. His figures are as of April 15.

"Many communities will finish Campaign '85 in May and June," Loup said at a monthly meeting of the Jewish Agency Executive. "We think there will be substantial increases in coming months." Loup also reported that cash collection in the first quarter of 1985 totalled \$115.5 million, a 28 percent increase over the \$90.3 million collected last year.

He also informed the 19-member body that \$634.9 million has been raised for Campaign '84, a peacetime campaign year record. Loup said 1984 cash collections totalled \$367.6 million, a \$41 million increase over the \$326.6 million collected in 1983. He added that the \$101.2 million collected last December made it among the best cash collection months in UJA history.

Turning to Project Renewal, Loup said American Jews have now contributed \$159.9 million, including \$8.4 million during the current campaign, to help distressed Israeli neighborhoods directly linked -- financially and by people-to-people friendships -- to American Jewish communities. Loup stressed that, despite other pressing needs which American Jews would help meet, the commitment to Project Renewal was still strong.

"The question is not if funds will be raised for Project Renewal," said Loup, a former UJA national chairman. "The question is only how."