

ISRAEL NOTES WITH 'SORROW AND PAIN' THE 'PAINFUL MISTAKE' BY REAGAN'S VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) — There can be no reconciliation with history; lessons must be learned from it, President Chaim Herzog declared to representatives from 18 countries who gathered at the Presidential residence today to mark the 40th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Premier Shimon Peres, addressing a special session of the Knesset convened for the occasion, said Israel noted with "deep sorrow and pain" the "painful mistake" by the President of the United States who yesterday placed a wreath at the war cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany, where members of the Waffen SS are buried along with other German war dead.

But, Peres added, he regards President Reagan as a true friend of the Jewish people and of Israel. Hatred, he said, should not be answered by hatred "but death cannot obliterate the difference between those buried as murderers and those buried as the murder victims ... no monument can bridge the abyssal gap between those who led to murder and those who died in the murder."

No Reconciliation With Nazism

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin spoke in much the same vein when he unveiled a monument at the Heroes and Martyrs Memorial at the Yad Vashem today before an audience of 3,000. There can be "no reconciliation, not with Nazism, and not with the Nazis," Rabin declared.

The monument, massive granite blocks in the shape of a hexagon, represents the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and is also a tribute to the 1.5 million Jewish resistance fighters and partisans of World War II.

All of these events were held in the shadow of Reagan's visit to Bitburg, juxtaposed with an earlier visit yesterday to the Jewish memorial at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp site. Reagan's act aroused anger and anguish among Jews all over the world and an unexpected controversy among Israelis.

Rabin expressed what was probably the most forceful criticism of Reagan at the Yad Vashem ceremony when he declared: "There can be no reconciliation with Nazism, with the Nazis and all related to them. The American President's historic mistake was to equate the murderers and their victims. He can never be forgiven for that equation -- neither by progressive mankind nor by the Jewish people."

In a radio interview earlier in the day, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the leader of Likud, said Reagan had made "a tragic mistake -- a mistake by a friend."

Israel's 'Mild' Reaction Sparks Criticism

The public controversy here is not over Reagan's act -- Israelis overwhelmingly condemned it -- but over what many perceive to be the government's "mild" reaction to it.

Ariel Sharon, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, an outspoken Likud hardliner, maintained today that had Menachem Begin still been Prime Minister instead of Laborite Peres, there would have been "no stuttering response" to Reagan's Bitburg visit. Sharon accused the Labor component of the national unity government of not knowing how to "stand up to the gentiles."

But Begin, in one of his rare interviews since he retired into semi-seclusion in August, 1983, told the Associated Press that yesterday at Bitburg was one of the saddest days in Jewish history. But he declined to criticize Reagan directly.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein, an ally of Labor, retorted to Sharon. He said the Likud minister should check his own party before accusing others. Rubinstein noted that it was Shamir who rejected a proposal that the Cabinet issue a statement against Reagan's visit to Bitburg.

Shamir, asked by reporters if he thought the government's response to Bitburg had been too tame, replied, "That is a matter of taste and appreciation. I think that what has been said by the government had to be said."

JEWS WERE 'WOUNDED' BY REAGAN'S VISIT TO MILITARY CEMETERY, TWO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS SPOKESMEN SAY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) — Two leading spokesmen for Holocaust survivors said yesterday that Jews were "wounded" by President Reagan's visit to the military cemetery at Bitburg despite the good speeches he made the same day at the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and the U.S. Air Force base at Bitburg.

"In the long run, I'm sure that the wounds will heal," Elie Wiesel, chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, said on the ABC-TV "This Week With David Brinkley" program. "After all he is the President and we must deal with his policies, with his staff, with his Administration." He added: "But the wounds are there and the wounds are deep. I felt excluded, rejected, almost unnecessary when I watched the Bitburg visit."

Wiesel stated that the visit was "totally unnecessary. It could have been a beginning of a new era of reconciliation in the truest sense of the word. There was no need to have it there. The same words could have been spoken elsewhere with the same gestures, and even the same results. I would say with better results."

Jews Refused To Accompany Reagan

Simon Wiesenthal, the Vienna-based Nazi hunter, said on the CBS-TV "Face the Nation" program that he had been asked to accompany Reagan to Bergen-Belsen but had refused as had all other Jews who had been invited. "You cannot neutralize going to concentration camps, a cemetery, then you in the same day going to a cemetery with SS," he said.

Wiesenthal said the German people "absolutely don't need" this type of simple reconciliation. He said 60 percent of today's Germans were born after World War II and 10 percent were children during the war.

"In no country is the distance between the young and the old generations so big like in Germany," he said. He explained that most young Germans know "their fathers and grandfathers are guilty. They shame for this." Wiesenthal added that immediately after the war, most Germans condemned Hitler because he lost the war while young Germans condemn him today because he started it. "This is the big difference," he said.

'There is Pain, There is Anguish'

Also appearing on the ABC program, Hyman Bookbinder, the American Jewish Committee's representative in Washington, said "there is pain, there is anguish" over Reagan's visit to Bitburg. "What could have been a glorious day, a marvelous day, both of reconciliation and memory, has been marred by this 10-minute visit to Bitburg that should not have taken place."

But Bookbinder stressed that "we are grieved today, but we do not love our country any less because of what happened today. We are no less determined as we always have been, to work with this Administration and any Administration in common pursuit of important goals."

A Day Of 'Conflicting Emotions'

Secretary of State George Shultz, who appeared on the CBS program, said yesterday was a day of "conflicting emotions" in which Reagan stressed both that the world must "never forget" the Holocaust and at the same time reconciliation with a democratic Germany.

"The big themes to me are, on the one hand, not let's forget, but never forget, and thereby take out an insurance policy on never again, but at the same time see that you do have the German people, at least the West German people, a free country, a democratic country, join with others to protect that very freedom," Shultz said.

But former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, on the ABC program, said the visit to Bitburg was a mistake which he blamed on the German government. He said that Reagan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl could have honored the dead in Bonn.

Schmidt said there had been "enormous advancements in the reconciliation" since the Marshall Plan. "No, we haven't gone all the way, then there are decades to come and Hitler cannot of course, or must of course not be forgotten, and all the crimes that he committed," he said.

"But any attempts to accelerate this process by dramatic gestures, I think has some risk, as we have been shown in these days." However he added there can never be any reconciliation with the SS. "You don't reconcile with criminals," he said.

However on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," Franz-Joseph Strauss, Minister-President of Bavaria, said today's Germans are allies of the U.S. and "the sons and grandsons of the soldiers of World War II" are now defending the same goals, one of which is to see that there are no more concentration camps which today are being established by the Communists. He said he remembers the Hitler-Stalin Pact which was "a pact to divide Poland."

Richard Burt, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, who is expected to replace Arthur Burns as Ambassador to Bonn, noted on the NBC program that "the West Germans recognize the fact of the Holocaust ... The East German regime says that they have no responsibility for that terrible event."

IDF ENGINEERING CORPS BUILDING NEW SECURITY FENCE ON LEBANON BORDER

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force engineering corps is rushing through construction of a new security fence along the northern border, in preparation for the final pullback within a month of all IDF personnel from the security zone to behind the old international border.

The security zone, which roughly parallels the international border, is between 8-15 kilometers deep and extends about 12 kilometers along the coastline. Its population is about 110,000, approximately half of whom are Shiites.

The new defense line consists of barbed wire, electrified fences, watchtowers with powerful lights and a deep and wide ditch on the Lebanon side of the border, to prevent the entry of suicide bombers driving explosive-laden vehicles.

Three Lebanese ships called at Haifa port last Friday to ferry some 700 Christian refugees who had fled into Israel and the security belt from attacking Shiites, Druze and Palestinian militias, to Beirut. Ferrying the refugees avoided the dangerous roads inside Lebanon along which various militia groups have established roadblocks.

U.S. WARNS ISRAEL AGAINST DEPLOYING NUKES IN ITS DEFENSIVE ARSENAL

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- The United States has warned Israel indirectly against deploying nuclear weapons in its defensive arsenal. The warning came last Friday as State Department deputy spokesman Edward Djerejian said he could not confirm reports that Israel has put up Jericho missiles, which reportedly have the capability to carry nuclear warheads.

Djerejian added that President Reagan, in a statement on U.S. nuclear policy in July 1981, stressed that the U.S. "will seek to prevent the spread of nuclear explosives as a fundamental national security and foreign policy objective. We have urged Israel, as we have urged all other non-nuclear weapon states, to adhere to the non-proliferation treaty and to place all of its nuclear activities under IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) safeguards."

While Israel has not signed the non-proliferation treaty, it has always maintained that it will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East.

HUSSEIN: ANY MIDEAST PEACE TALKS HAVE TO INCLUDE THE PLO AND THE USSR By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan said on Saturday that any Middle East peace negotiations would have to include the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Soviet Union.

His statement appeared to confirm reports that Jordan had failed to win PLO approval of a formula providing for direct negotiations between Israel and a proposed joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that would not include known members of the organization.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy reportedly explored the possibility of forming such a delegation when he visited the region last month. But Hussein made clear in his address by satellite to the Hussein Association of Arab Americans this weekend that Jordan would not agree to any initiative that lacked PLO endorsement.

"It is the consensus among Palestinians that the PLO is their legitimate representative in any negotiations determining their future. We are their partners

according to their choice. We will never take away from them their right to represent themselves," Hussein told the luncheon group of some 1,000 people who responded with several minutes of applause.

Cautions Against Missing An Opportunity

Maintaining that the agreement concluded last February between Jordan and the PLO "holds enormous promise" for a negotiated settlement, Hussein repeated an earlier warning that the initiative could be the last chance for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

"This opportunity should not be missed. It is an opportunity that I know will never come again if we fail," Hussein said.

The February 11 agreement calls for Palestinian self-determination in the framework of "the proposed confederated Arab states of Jordan and Palestine" to be negotiated under the auspices of an international conference, with the PLO represented jointly with Jordan.

It endorses United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for the right of all states in the region to live peacefully within recognized borders. The U.S. has refused to negotiate with the PLO until it recognizes Israel's right to exist and endorses these resolutions.

The PLO has reportedly conditioned its acceptance of a joint Jordan-Palestinian delegation without known members of the organization on U.S. recognition of a Palestinian right to "self-determination."

In his address on Saturday, Hussein said that the Jordanian positions on PLO and Soviet representation "are not fully understood in the United States," and stressed that his country still backs the holding of an international conference with the participation of all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Hussein Expects To Meet Reagan Soon

Despite the indication that Murphy's visit to the region had yielded no results, Hussein said it was "a very useful visit."

"I think that as a result, the United States understands us better, and I hope that we understand the United States better," the Jordanian leader said. Hussein said he expected to meet with President Reagan at the end of the month, when he will be in the country to attend his son's college graduation.

During last week the National Association of Arab Americans had paid commercials on radio opposing aid to Israel, claiming that this aid is being doubled at a time when Americans are being asked to make cuts.

WEIZMAN UNDER FIRE FOR ALLEGEDLY HAVING LEAKED CLASSIFIED GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TO A NEW YORK WRITER By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) -- Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman is under heavy fire from Likud for allegedly having leaked classified government material to a friend of his, New York attorney and writer Leon Charney, during the Israel-Egyptian peace negotiations nearly 10 years ago when Weizman was Defense Minister in the Likud-led government of Premier Menachem Begin.

Likud Knesset activists, apparently backed by their party leader, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, are demanding an investigation. Today, the rightwing opposition Tehiya Party filed a motion of non-confidence in the Labor-Likud national unity government over the matter.

The storm over Weizman arose from Charney's book, "Special Counsel", published eight months ago. It came to attention here last week in an article by Haaretz correspondent Dan Margalit implying that Charney had received from Weizman information on secret Cabinet policy deliberations during the peace talks.

According to the allegations, the information reached the Carter Administration through Robert Lipshutz, President Carter's White House Counsellor, who is a friend of Charney.

Writer Claims He Was Misquoted

Charney, reached in New York, said the Haaretz article misquoted his book and took parts of it out of context. He said he did not name or intend any reference to Weizman but, indeed, to another Likud Cabinet minister. Charney told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he had good relations with Weizman but also with Premier Begin and other ranking Likud politicians.

Despite Charney's denial, Likud MK Michael Dekel formally asked Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir to open an investigation into the relationship between Weizman and Charney. Shamir said he too favored an investigation.

"After reading the book, I am under the impression that there is material to be investigated," he said.

Jerusalem Post correspondent Mark Segal, who collaborated with Charney on the book, was quoted today as having been told by Charney last night "I was never privy to inner deliberations of (Israeli) Cabinet meetings" and that "the particular information mentioned by Margalit came from another Likud source, not Weizman."

Weizman himself has refused to be drawn into the fray, referring his critics to Charney. But associates of Weizman suggested today that Likud was "out to get him" because having quit that party years ago, he is now a close associate of Laborite Premier Shimon Peres and an increasingly popular figure among Israelis.

Peres, for his part, said yesterday that he has full confidence in Weizman and supports him in the controversy.

HIGH INTENSITY SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN ISRAEL BY 1987

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- The Weizman Institute of Science at Rehovot will be breaking ground next week for construction of the Canadian Institute for the Energies and Applied Research which is designed to carry out important work on the use of high-temperature solar energy.

Scheduled for completion in 1987, the facility will provide high intensity solar energy and high temperatures, concentrating solar energy in large amounts. It will be unique in Israel and will have only one other counterpart elsewhere -- in the U.S.

The concentration of solar energy and its delivery at high power will be achieved by using 63 large mirrors, each 56 square meters in area, which will reflect and focus the sun's radiation onto experimental targets. At peak operation, the total reflected power will reach 3,000 kilowatts of thermal energy.

THREE EUROPEAN JEWISH LEADERS EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THEIR VULNERABLE JEWISH COMMUNITIES

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) — While noting that Western European Jewry was reviving its heritage and identity, three European Jewish leaders also expressed concern for their vulnerable Jewish communities at a session of the American Jewish Committee's 79th annual meeting, which concluded yesterday at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

The leaders, Dr. Ady Steg of Paris, president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle (France); Tullia Zevi of Rome, president of the Union of Jewish Communities in Italy; and Samuel Toledano of Madrid, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Spain, agreed that issues and events such as domestic politics, Israel and their European roots had affected European Jewry today.

In examining French Jewry, Steg, former president of CRIF, the central French Jewish coordinating body, said: "The major event in the history of the French Jewish community in the last 40 years was the massive arrival in 1962 of Jews from North Africa. As a result, the Jewish population doubled and Sephardized. The contribution of Jews from North Africa constituted a transfusion for Jewish life as our community became more dynamic, more visible, and even more religious."

He continued: "The Ashkenazi-Sephardi encounter has brought about an unprecedented renewal of Jewish cultural activity in France. For the past 15 years and especially after the election of President Mitterrand, Jews have become more involved in the country's political life, both individually and as a community."

But, Steg added: "The majority of Jews do not participate in Jewish community life and there is no external restraint or curb to assimilation." Concluding on a hopeful note, he pointed out that "Israel constitutes the most solid bond for the Jewish community, and for the first time a generation of young Jews are more Jewish than their parents."

Spain And Israel

The strong bond with Israel also affects Spain's Jewish community and its interaction with the government, said Toledano. Citing the absence of diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel, he said: "This is an aberration that should not be sustained for long."

He called on the U.S. government and friendly European governments to use their influence to help establish this relationship, adding: "The recent re-establishment of Jewish life in Spain meant adding a new page to a glorious book which was thought to be closed five centuries ago. Restoring Judaism had to be done with dignity and pride."

While the blossoming of Jewish life is encouraging, Toledano expressed concern about the anti-Semitism and racial hatreds that, he said, are on the rise in most of Europe. He continued: "Leaving behind outdated religious prejudice of past anti-Semitism, it is now the result of an unnatural combination of extremism of the Left and the Right abetted by Islamic fanaticism that leads to an increase in violent action."

Past Memories Affect Italian Jews

Memories of the past have also affected the situation of the Italian Jewish community and their perspective of Europe, according to Zevi, who added:

"Memory also guides us in facing present problems. It sharpens the antennae with which we pick up danger signals even when these are not directly aimed at us."

"Memory of our own past migrations places us in Europe on the side of today's immigrant. We know by instinct that the future of our communities depends on the democratic future of the countries where we live."

The Italian Jewish leader concluded: "Our Jewish roots are still deep in European soil. In the 1980's Europe's Jews of the first and second generation have learned to co-exist with their Holocaust-syndrome."

ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALISM HITS TWO LONG ISLAND JEWISH COMMUNITIES

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) — Jews in two suburban communities are pondering today whether two vicious acts of anti-Semitism over the weekend were motivated by Jewish protests against President Reagan's visit to the war cemetery at Bitburg, West Germany, yesterday, or whether they were just the latest manifestations of anti-Semitic vandalism that would have occurred regardless of the Bitburg controversy.

A fire at the South Baldwin Jewish Center in Baldwin, L.I., yesterday afternoon was clearly arson and, according to Rabbi David Artz, spiritual leader of the congregation, was a pre-planned attempt to destroy the building.

Earlier, slogans such as "Jews Die", "Jews for Sale" and "We Kill Jews", along with swastikas were found scrawled on the stairwell walls and ceilings of an apartment building in Great Neck, L.I., where the residents are mainly Orthodox Jews.

Det. Carl Mickle of the Great Neck police, said the graffiti appeared "to be the work of teen-agers bent on doing criminal mischief." It was discovered Saturday morning but was not reported by the observant tenants until after the Sabbath. According to Mickle, the vandalism may have occurred last week but was not detected earlier because the residents use the elevators rather than the stairs, except on the Sabbath.

The fire at the South Baldwin temple showed signs of deliberate intent. Artz said hundreds of prayer books and prayer shawls were stacked up in two piles in the sanctuary in front of the podium and set on fire. Also burned were the American and Israeli flags that normally stand on the podium.

The books, flags, carpeting and lecterns on the podium were destroyed but the fire was discovered and extinguished by the local fire brigade before more extensive damage was done. Artz carried the temple's Torahs to safety from the smoke-filled sanctuary.

Harry Okin, president-elect of the congregation, told reporters yesterday, "We have to feel that the fire is quite symbolic. There's so much symbolism here."

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel has been officially notified that it will get the \$1.5 billion in additional aid from the United States. Secretary of State George Shultz sent a message to Premier Shimon Peres, saying that President Reagan would ask Congress to approve the supplementary aid which Israel has requested. Shultz stated that the Reagan Administration appreciated the Israeli government's efforts to undertake economic reforms and praised Peres personally for the way he is dealing with the economy. Shultz's message also praised the government's decision to withdraw from Lebanon and to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East.