

**ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND THE WZO
JOINTLY OFFER \$1 MILLION REWARD
FOR CAPTURE AND ARREST OF MENGELE
By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, May 7 (JTA) — Justice Minister Moshe Nissim announced today that the Israel government and the World Zionist Organization will jointly offer a \$1 million reward for information that would lead to the capture, arrest and trial in Israel of Josef Mengele, the notorious Auschwitz death camp doctor.

In making the announcement in the Knesset, Nissim observed that the capture of Mengele is now more important than ever because of a world-wide trend to play down and even forget Nazi crimes. This was an indirect reference to President Reagan's visit to the Bitburg military cemetery in West Germany where members of the Waffen SS are buried along with other German war dead.

The West German government has already offered a \$300,000 reward for information as to Mengele's whereabouts. Million dollar rewards for the same information have been offered by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center and by the Washington Times, a conservative newspaper.

Mengele, who performed inhuman, crippling and frequently fatal medical experiments on Auschwitz inmates, earning him the title "Angel of Death", is reported to be living in Paraguay, under the protection of the military government there.

The U.S. Department of Justice has said it will make a major effort to track down Mengele, in cooperation with the Israeli authorities.

Reward Committee Set Up

Nissim said anyone will be eligible for the reward except employes of the Israeli government or any other government or of public bodies in Israel. A reward committee has been set up whose findings will be final and not subject to appeal.

The members of the committee include Nissim, Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel, Justice Moshe Landau, former President of the Supreme Court, Moshe Etzioni, President of the WZO's Supreme Court, and former Attorney General Gideon Hausner who prosecuted Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in 1961.

Sharp Criticism Of Reagan

Earlier this week, Nissim sharply criticized Reagan without mentioning the President by name. He said:

"We were recently witness to declarations of reconciliation and conciliation towards those who carried out the greatest atrocities since the dawn of mankind. If the leader of the free world, the head of the greatest friend of Israel, can say that the members of the German Wehrmacht were the victims of the Third Reich to the same extent as the concentration camp inmates, this hair-raising declaration should shock any civilized person."

**BIALKIN; REAGAN'S VISIT TO BITBURG
DID NOT DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE ADMINISTRATION AND U.S. JEWS
By Yitzhak Rabi**

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) — Kenneth Bialkin,

chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, asserted today that President Reagan's visit to the Bitburg military cemetery, where 49 Waffen SS soldiers are buried, did not damage the relationships between the Administration and the American Jewish community. He said the Jewish leadership in America will continue to work hand in hand with the Administration on behalf of Israel and Soviet Jews.

"I would like to think that the relationships (between the Reagan Administration and America's Jews) are not damaged," Bialkin said in a press conference here today. But he was quick to add that Reagan's Bitburg visit "was most regrettable."

Characterizing the visit as an "essentially symbolic act", a result of a "series of mistakes," Bialkin added: "We do not accuse the President of ill will. It was a failure to recognize how deeply we feel -- and millions of Americans as well -- that led to the series of errors he (the President) made."

Asked if he and other Jewish leaders are going to meet with the President soon, as some reports suggested yesterday, Bialkin said that "we would like to meet with him but we did not make any request for a meeting" so far. He said he hoped that when a request will be made it will be granted.

Praises Reagan For Compassion And Understanding

In a low-keyed prepared statement, which he read at the opening of the press conference, Bialkin said that although Jews and many non-Jews were hurt and disturbed by the Bitburg visit, "We must recognize the words President Reagan spoke at the U.S. airbase in Bitburg and Bergen-Belsen, words that confirm our confidence in his compassion and understanding. He may have made a choice with which we disagree, yet we must state honestly that the policies of his Administration have strengthened the safety and security of the State of Israel, and his understanding of the true nature of Arab political leadership has produced a sensible foreign policy in the Mideast."

Continuing, Bialkin stated that Reagan's "commitment to the freedom of Jews living in the Soviet Union, his actions in behalf of Ethiopian Jewry, his sympathy for many of our community's concerns -- all these must not and should not be either forgotten or overlooked. We also join with the President in hailing the development of democracy in West Germany and in rejecting the concept of collective guilt."

But, Bialkin said, the rejection of collective guilt "does not involve forgiveness or reconciliation with the Nazi movement, or those who consciously or willfully advanced or supported it. For them there can be no forgiveness from us."

Bialkin's mild criticism of the President over the Bitburg visit was in sharp contrast to criticism made by Jewish leaders before the visit and indicated a wish to minimize the impact of the event on relations between the Administration and American Jewry.

"We hope to work together with the Administration..." Bialkin stated. "We will, of course, discuss the lessons of Bitburg, but we will also take up the situation of our fellow Jews in Israel and in the Soviet Union. The six million will always be with us. But today our task is to protect those in danger now --

whether from economic hardship or from government oppression. Here is where our energies must be spent and our efforts directed."

WEST GERMANY'S JEWS FEEL POWERLESS AND HELPLESS IN THE AFTERMATH OF REAGAN'S VISIT TO BITBURG CEMETERY

By David Kantor

BONN, May 7 (JTA) — Powerlessness and helplessness were the prevailing mood in West Germany's Jewish community today in the aftermath of President Reagan's visit to the military cemetery at Bitburg Sunday, which was preceded by a visit to the concentration camp site at Bergen-Belsen.

Many Jews noted disconsolately that the Jewish boycott of the ceremonies at Bergen-Belsen did not affect the plans of Reagan and Kohl to go to Bitburg the same day to place a wreath at the cemetery where members of the notorious Waffen SS are buried along with other German war dead.

German Jews also expressed disappointment at Israel's failure to join in the boycott which, they say, largely reduced its impact on the government and the public. Israel's Ambassador to Bonn, Yitzhak Ben Ari, attended the ceremony at Bergen-Belsen with Reagan and Kohl.

One German Jew, identified only as Maria D., told reporters today that the Bergen-Belsen visit was much worse than Bitburg because it was "nothing but tactics." She observed, "They came to Bergen-Belsen only to appease critics ... it was a degradation of the victims of the Nazis."

Media Hails Reagan's Visit

Meanwhile, the West German media is hailing Reagan's visit to Bitburg as a great political success for Chancellor Helmut Kohl, while continuing to lambaste what it calls the "anti-German media campaign" in the U.S. and elsewhere.

A commentator of the State-run television said pictures of the Bitburg wreath-laying by Reagan should convince skeptics that there was nothing wrong with honoring German soldiers who died in World War II. He acknowledged, however, that the feelings of Jewish groups should be respected and warned that the criticism of the Bitburg visit must not serve as an excuse for a new wave of anti-Semitism.

The conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine praised Reagan in a front-page editorial for his "steadfastness" in going to Bitburg. The paper blasted the American news media for alleged anti-German bias, saying many Germans felt humiliated by the wide use of such terms as "Nazi cemetery" to describe Bitburg.

Die Welt said in an editorial that the "unaffected, straightforward and sincere" ceremony at Bitburg will certainly help reduce the criticism of Reagan's visit. Other newspapers, which opposed the visit, have since toned down their criticism and some are now supporting Kohl on the issue.

WEST BANK SETTLERS ACCUSE GOVERNMENT OF PREVENTING ETHIOPIAN IMMIGRANTS FROM SETTLING IN THAT TERRITORY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 7 (JTA) — West Bank settlers are accusing the government of preventing Ethiopian immigrants from settling in that territory for

political reasons. The government has rejected the charges. Omiel Schneller, secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea and Samaria, said today that they have been trying for some time to induce the immigrants, nearly 10,000 of whom came to Israel by airlift from Sudan between November, 1984 and January, 1985, to settle across the "green line" — but to no avail. He charged that Absorption Minister Yaacov Tzur was the main obstacle.

According to Schneller, there are some 250 unoccupied flats in 10 settlements on the West Bank which could house the Ethiopian Jews at a saving of millions of dollars for the financially strapped Treasury. He said government opposition was a "Zionist scandal."

Schneller said the immigrants were not moved to the West Bank partly because the Americans do not want their funds spent in the territories. He did not amplify that statement but asserted it was "about time that Israel behaved as an independent country, not as a protectorate."

Tzur has rejected the charges. He said there was no way the government could prevent the Ethiopians from settling on the West Bank if they wanted to. "This is a free country," he said. He suggested that the accusations against the government stemmed from the difficulties the West Bank settlers were having in attracting new people to the territories.

Several families who came here from Ethiopia several years ago live in Kiryat Arba, a Jewish town adjacent to Hebron.

HOUSE PANEL APPROVES BILL REQUIRING FBI TO COLLECT DATA ON HATE CRIMES

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA) — A bill requiring the Federal Bureau of Investigation to collect data on crimes motivated by racial, religious or ethnic prejudice was unanimously approved by the House Judiciary Subcommittee of Criminal Justice last Thursday. The Hate-Crime Statistic Act would require the Attorney General to issue an annual report summarizing the data on such crimes starting with the year 1986.

"It will give us a better picture of the extent" of such crimes, said David Brody, Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. He said it would also help "to focus public attention" on the situation.

Originally, a bill was introduced to collect this data as part of the FBI's annual uniform crime report. But at a hearing of the subcommittee on March 21, the Justice Department cited technical difficulties in doing this.

The ADL at the hearing then suggested that the hate information could be collected outside of this reporting system. All sides agreed, and the bill was changed to the one approved Thursday.

Brody said the ADL would continue to collect information on anti-Semitic incidents for its annual report for 1985. But he said he was uncertain whether the ADL would issue annual reports after this year since the Justice Department report would be more extensive. (By David Friedman)

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, has been nominated by President Reagan to be Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs. He replaces Langhorne Motley who resigned as head of the Latin American bureau.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES A TALE OF 3 CENTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES

By Aviva Cantor

(Part One Of a Five-Part Series)

VIENNA, May 7 (JTA) -- Jewish youth in Central Europe, like Jewish youth in the West, are beginning to search for meaningful ways to express their Jewishness. The leadership of each of three Jewish communities there -- Rumania, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia -- has chosen a different way to respond to this search.

In Rumania, it is mass aliya with the creation of Jewish consciousness at its core. In Hungary, it is a concentration on the needs of the few who are religious at the expense of the many who could be pulled off the roller coaster of assimilation. In Czechoslovakia, it is the installation of a new and young rabbi who sees his role primarily in the education of the youth.

In all three of these Soviet bloc countries -- recently visited by a 15-member delegation of the World Jewish Congress headed by Frieda Lewis, chairperson of its American Section -- the authorities have allowed the Jewish communities to define themselves only in purely religious terms. There is no secular Jewish organizational life permitted, and no groups of any kind are allowed to organize activities, even classes, outside the official community.

The existence of variations on this theme in the responses of the Jewish leadership in the three countries to the needs of their communities, and especially of their youth, are primarily shaped by four factors. They are: the economic and political realities of the country itself, including the regime's position on Israel; how tight a leash the community is actually on; how the leaders perceive its tightness and the possibility of loosening it; and how far they are willing to go to try to loosen it up.

While Jewish communal officials in all three countries seemed to feel free to speak with a visiting Jewish journalist, only in Rumania did some rank-and-file Jews do so openly and without requesting anonymity -- and then only briefly and in the setting of communal receptions.

The Situation In Rumania

Rumania, with an estimated 25-26,000 Jews in 69 communities (about half of whom live in Bucharest), is a country with severe economic problems. This became obvious to the WJC delegation in the long lines in the street for food staples as well as drastic power conservation measures (in the Historical Museum, the lights were turned on when visitors entered an exhibition room and shut when they left.)

Rumania needs the most favored nation (MFN) status accorded it by the U.S. -- and the good public opinion it believes helps make its annual extension possible. It is also the only Soviet bloc country which maintains diplomatic relations with Israel and allows mass aliya.

It is Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen's acute understanding of these factors and how the interplay between them affects the Jews, plus a willingness to take risks, that are the basis of his successful efforts to stretch the leash step by step to limits unprecedented -- and unmatched -- in Soviet bloc countries.

"The only form of organized Jewish life allowed is religious, and they wanted to limit us to this," Rosen told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "But we

are de facto fulfilling all areas of Jewish life with cultural and social activities, and there is de facto government recognition of this, too."

Activities include over 100 synagogues, 24 Talmud Torahs, Jewish choruses and orchestras, lecture programs, an extensive network of social services -- and aliya. Of the 400,000 Jews left alive after the Holocaust, most -- 96 percent -- have settled in Israel. Rosen believes that Rumania provides the best example of "how we can solve the Jewish problem in a socialist society."

The "good press" Rumania has received, particularly in the U.S., for its policy toward the Jewish community has redounded to the regime's benefit and has, in turn, strengthened its motivation to continue that policy.

Ion Cumpanasu, the Minister for Religious Affairs, assured members of the WJC delegation when they and Rosen met with him, that the special position of the Jewish community would continue. He also conveyed assurances that the government condemned and would deal strongly with any manifestations of anti-Semitism.

The Scene In Hungary

Hungary, with its estimated 80,000 Jews, does not have Rumania's severe economic problems -- in fact, a revival of economic growth was reported for 1984. The general atmosphere seems less tightly controlled -- long leash vs. short leash -- but editors of samizdat (underground) journals have occasionally been placed under house arrest and the papers confiscated.

Hungary broke off diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967. Its official expressions of anti-Israel sentiment are regarded as moderate, but Zionism is illegal. Visiting Israel is such a bureaucratic hassle that few attempt it.

A Significant Breakthrough

In what the WJC regarded as a significant "breakthrough," Moshe Gilboa, director of the World Jewish Affairs Division of Israel's Foreign Ministry, was the first Israeli official allowed since 1967 into Hungary and received as part of the WJC delegation that met with Barna Sarkadi Nagy, the vice president of the State Religious Affairs Ministry.

Ilana Seifert, secretary-general of the Central Board of Hungarian Jewry (MIOK), described the community in terms of social services and religious life -- synagogues, a Jewish high school, several Talmud Torahs, an impressive Jewish museum established in 1932 on the site of the building where Theodor Herzl was born. MIOK publishes a newspaper, "Uj Elet" (New Life). Budapest is also the site of the Rabbinical Seminary, which has been training rabbis of the "Neolog" (semi-conservative) movement since 1877.

But there are no youth choruses or orchestras like in Rumania or any other ongoing cultural activities organized specifically for the young people. Since the regime "does not welcome autonomous movements" and it is "politically risky" to organize, said a young academic, young people cannot meet safely except under the auspices of the official community. This means that unless the community sponsors activities for the youth, they have nothing.

Many young Jews think the community could do a lot more for the youth if it wanted to, even within the bounds of religious activity as defined by the regime. They pointed out that it is important for economic reasons for Hungary to present a good picture to the West, as it still depends on it for foreign trade and credits.

Catholics and Protestants have expanded their activities, but the Jewish community, some feel, is content with a few "showcase" religious and social service programs.

Czechoslovakia's Jewish population, estimated at between 15-18,000, is the most isolated -- despite the influx of tourists visiting Prague in the wake of the recent U.S. tour of "The Precious Legacy" exhibit from the State Jewish Museum. They yearn for visitors.

The general atmosphere in the country seems that of the tight leash kind of control, with the regime fearing a repeat performance of the Dubcek Spring of 1968.

There are no diplomatic relations with Israel, and Zionism is illegal. Travel to Israel is prohibited, except on the invitation of a close family relative. The WJC delegation whose members met with Jan Pudlak, head of the Institute of Foreign Relations, was the first such group to have a meeting at such a senior level since 1968.

The regime is committed to preserving the architectural remains of the 1,000-year history of Czech Jewry. The old Jewish Quarter of Prague's six synagogues, some housing vast Judaic collections, and the haunting cemetery, are all part of the State Jewish Museum complex, established in 1950.

The thousand years of Jewish life in Czechoslovakia are not, however, featured in school textbooks, which include only three to four sentences on "Jews and other victims of the Holocaust." Most Czechs, despite the visits of schoolchildren to the Museum, know little about Judaism. One of the ideas raised during the discussion the WJC delegation had with Pudlak was the holding of an academic conference in Prague on the contribution of Czech Jewry to Jewish history.

The community is aware that what is really needed is an ongoing program of education on Jewish history and tradition, especially for the younger generation.

An important and hopeful development last year was the installation of a rabbi -- the community's first since the previous rabbi died 15 years ago, said Dr. Desider Galsky, president of the Council of Jewish Religious Communities in the Czech Socialist Republic.

Rabbi Daniel Meyer, who returned to Prague after seven years of study in Budapest at the Rabbinical Seminary, hopes to begin Talmud Torah classes for children and a lecture program for adults. These, however, still await official government permission.

In past years, in the absence of such a program, some individual Jews would occasionally take a few children on nature walks, imparting to them a little Yiddishkeit "along the way." One of the Jews told the JTA, "We were like Marranos."

(Next: Bucharest)

U.S. PONDERING WAYS TO MEET WITH JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN DELEGATION

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that it was looking into ways the U.S. could meet with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, although it conceded that the major problem is the "composition" of the Palestinians in the delegation.

At the same time, State Department deputy spokesman Edward Djerejian stressed that such a

meeting would be an "exploratory process" aimed at bringing about direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israelis. Djerejian noted at one point that the Palestinians in the delegation would be "non-PLO Palestinians" but he refused all comment on how the U.S. would determine if any of the delegates were members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

He indicated, however, that the participants may be members of the Palestine National Council which sets policy for the PLO but includes members from the West Bank and Gaza. Djerejian stressed that the U.S. believes that "public discussion will not be helpful" at this time.

Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, during his recent visit to the Middle East, met with Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza and apparently sought to persuade them to provide non-PLO members for the joint delegation. The Palestinians reportedly said the PLO was the spokesman for all Palestinians.

The U.S. apparently believes that if the Palestinian delegates are chosen from the West Bank and Gaza, it will overcome objections to any possible membership in the PLO both for a meeting with the U.S. and for later hoped for negotiations with Israel.

However, King Hussein of Jordan and PLO chief Yasir Arafat, in their February 11 joint agreement, seek an international conference which would include the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and not direct talks with Israel. A Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is seeking meetings with all five powers, but reportedly the Soviet Union has refused to meet with it, apparently to placate Syria which is opposed to the negotiations.

The PLO, however, claims that the Soviet Union is ready to accept a visit from a PLO group.

FULL HOUSE AND SENATE PANEL APPROVE FREE TRADE AREA BILL

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA) -- The House approved by a 422-0 vote today the bill establishing a Free Trade Area between Israel and the U.S. The bill, which would eliminate tariffs and other trade barriers in phases over a 10-year period, was also approved unanimously today by the Senate Finance Committee. The agreement was signed in a ceremony April 22 by Israel Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon and former U.S. Trade Representative William Brock. President Reagan submitted it immediately to Congress which has 60 days to approve it.

SHULTZ ASKED TO APPROVE EXTRADITION OF NAZI DEATH CAMP OFFICIAL TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress has asked Secretary of State George Shultz to authorize the extradition to Israel of a Nazi death camp official now residing in Cleveland so he can be tried for murdering Jews. The former camp functionary, John Demjanjuk, who was known in the Treblinka concentration camp as "Ivan the Terrible," has already been stripped of his American citizenship for lying about his wartime activities. Israel has asked for his extradition so he can be put on trial for the gross atrocities he committed.

Evidence presented by the government in federal district court in Cleveland showed that Demjanjuk not only forced prisoners at Treblinka to enter the gas chambers, but personally operated the motor used to pump cyanide gas into the chambers. The U.S. District Court for Northern Ohio found that Demjanjuk also beat inmates and carried out other tortures, using drills.