

STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS IT'S UP TO MURPHY TO DECIDE WHETHER TO MEET WITH JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN DELEGATION
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (JTA) — It will be up to Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, to decide whether to meet with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation during his current visit to the Middle East, the State Department asserted today.

But Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman reiterated that "no decision has yet been made" on the list of names submitted by King Hussein of Jordan to the United States for its approval of the Palestinian members of the delegation. Nor has Murphy scheduled any meetings with Palestinians, Redman stressed, although State Department officials have pointed out that he has normally met with Palestinians on his previous visits to Amman and Jerusalem.

While Murphy, who met today with Hussein and members of his government, apparently has a great deal of leeway on deciding with whom to talk while visiting Jordan, Egypt and Israel, Redman stressed that he cannot meet with members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Effort To Allay Israel's Concerns

In an effort to allay Israel's concerns about the possible U.S. meeting with the joint delegation, Redman reiterated yesterday that for the meeting to take place it must "clearly lead" to direct negotiations between Israel and the Jordanians and the Palestinians and that that meeting will not be a "substantive dialogue" with the PLO.

But Redman pointed out that the U.S. believes that this leaves a great number of Palestinians with whom the U.S. can talk, including members of the Palestine National Council who are not members of the PLO. He noted the criteria set by Secretary of State George Shultz at a press conference last May when Shultz said, "We are looking for people of good will who are truly dedicated to non-violent negotiated solutions and truly ready to strive for peace with Israel."

Two Palestinians on the Hussein list — Hana Seniora, editor of the pro-PLO Arabic East Jerusalem daily, *Al Fajar*, and Fayed Abu Rahme, a Gaza lawyer — are reportedly expected to be in Amman while Murphy is there. While Seniora said he planned to meet with Murphy, the State Department said it knew nothing about this.

THREE GERMAN ROCKET ENGINEERS, SAID TO HAVE WORKED WITH AN ACCUSED NAZI SCIENTIST IN GERMANY, LATER WORKED IN THE U.S. ON NASA ROCKET TEAM
By Aviva Cantor

NEW YORK, Aug. 14 (JTA) — The World Jewish Congress made public here today the names of three German rocket engineers said to have worked with accused Nazi scientist Arthur Rudolph first at the Mittelwerk underground missile factory — which used slave labor from the Dora-Nordhausen concentration camp — and later, on the Werner von Braun rocket team in the U.S.

They are Gunther Haukohl, Dieter Grau, and Erich Ball. All three were brought to the U.S. after the war under Project Paperclip. This program imported 756 German and Austrian scientists and technical and intelligence specialists. All three are retired and living in Huntsville, Ala., location of the Marshall Space Flight Center where the Von Braun team worked.

Rudolph, the production manager for V-2 rockets at Mittelwerk in the Harz Mountains of Germany, is also a Paperclip alum. Joining Von Braun's rocket team, he became managing engineer of NASA's Saturn Five project, which took astronauts to the moon in 1969 and netted him a Distinguished Service Award that same year.

OSI Ascertain's Rudolph's Background

The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) ascertained Rudolph's Nazi background — he joined the Nazi Party in 1931, became an SS captain in 1940, and holds NSDAP card No. 193418. In interrogations conducted in 1982-83, he was confronted with charges of having worked thousands of slave laborers to death at Mittelwerk during World War II.

Rather than face denaturalization and deportation hearings, Rudolph signed an agreement with the Justice Department, under which it agreed not to prosecute him and he agreed to leave the country and renounce his citizenship, which he did in the spring of 1984. He is living in Hamburg and retains his government pension.

Some members of the Von Braun rocket team have set up an "Old Timers Defense Fund" for Rudolph and clamored for a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on his case. They petitioned President Reagan in July to restore Rudolph's citizenship and welcome him back "in honor."

Attorney Eli Rosenbaum, the OSI prosecutor who had interrogated Rudolph, wrote in a July letter to the Senate committee that, "if such hearings are held it will take me no more than 90 seconds to establish that Rudolph has admitted to committing acts constituting crimes against humanity under the charter of the International Military Tribunal" at Nuremberg.

This was a reference to charges of his having worked slave laborers to death at Mittelwerk. Of the 60,000 prisoners of Dora-Nordhausen, one-third to one-half died from the brutal conditions there, described even by SS men as "a hell worse than Auschwitz."

Rosenbaum, in his letter, called attention to two other Von Braun team members who had worked with Rudolph at Mittelwerk, according to Kalman Sulthanik, vice president of the WJC. Although the copy of Rosenbaum's letter obtained by the WJC had the names blocked out, the WJC confirmed through Congressional sources that they are Haukohl and Grau.

Descriptions Of Two Of The Engineers

Haukohl was described in a 1947 U.S. Army report as an SS member and noted stormtrooper whose record is "indicative of an instilled believer in Nazism . . ." and as a "potential security threat to the U.S." The final "Army report, on him" in 1948, prior to his being brought to the U.S., said "there is nothing in his records indicating he is a war criminal, an ardent Nazi or otherwise objectionable for admission into the U.S. as an immigrant."

Grau has admitted to a reporter for the Atlantic Constitution that he was posted briefly in Mittelwerk for "debugging," uncovering sabotage by prisoners. Punishment for suspected sabotage there consisted of hanging by a crane in the factory's main hall, with the electric crane being slowly raised to prolong the agony.

The WJC has also uncovered a third German scientist, Erich Ball, who was both on the Von Braun team and worked at Mittelwerk, as chief administrator of the factory's main assembly-line. The information came from the factory's captured files, now in the Imperial War Museum in London. Ball, too, is living in retirement in Huntsville, Ala.

'No Question That (Rudolph) Is A War Criminal'

Sen. Jeremiah Denton (R. Ala.), approached for assistance by Rudolph's supporters, told a news conference in June that the FBI has assured him that Rudolph's "history is such that there is no question that he is a war criminal."

Rosenbaum, who is no longer with the OSI, said in his letter that if the Senate Judiciary Committee does hold hearings on Rudolph, it will only be necessary to read the transcript of his testimony taken by the OSI to establish his admission of guilt. The transcript is in the records on Rudolph, sealed as part of his agreement with the Justice Department.

The WJC also stated that the U.S. Army's first report on Rudolph, in 1945, concluded he is "one hundred percent Nazi. Dangerous type. Security threat. Suggest internment."

ARGENTINE OFFICIAL SAYS HIS GOVERNMENT IS TAKING STEPS TO ERADICATE TERRORISM, SOCIAL INJUSTICE

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- Using the expression "never again" so familiar to Jews, Argentina's Undersecretary of Human Rights, Dr. Eduardo Rabossi, assured B'nai B'rith that his government is taking painstaking steps to "eradicate institutional instability, violence, terrorism and social injustice."

At a session of the International Council of B'nai B'rith (ICBB), Rabossi said he saw "no reason for the President or any public official to belong to a specific group." Presently Argentina's Constitution requires the President to be a Roman Catholic, thus barring Argentine Jews, Protestants and others from full citizenship.

Though the human rights secretary stopped short of spearheading the drive for reform, he indicated personal sympathy and noted that advocacy was building for change.

Rabossi described the difficult legislative efforts to "reject state terror which affects the social morale of the country." The steps taken include abrogating the amnesty of former military rulers who are now on trial for massive human rights infringement and crimes, and the strengthening of penalties for advocating anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry.

Stating that in a democracy free speech is a fundamental matter, he stressed that the government is behind the protection of the religious and cultural rights of all Argentines. In this vein, he suggested that the job of the government is to build the people's confidence in using democratic institutions to redress their grievances.

Rabossi, a philosophy professor by profession, spelled out the process of research, judicial and legislative action necessary to construct a system of rule of law vital to democracy.

"Torture is a crime that must be treated like murder," said Rabossi, indicating that the documentation of the crimes against those who disappeared has been published by the National Commission on the Disappeared in a volume entitled "Never Again," which has sold more than 220,000 copies in Argentina. The work is scheduled for publication abroad.

B'nai B'rith complimented his government for the strong stand it took against extremism by working against the Zionism-equals-racism language that was expunged from the final document of the Nairobi women's conference. That language would have perpetuated a lie, stimulated anti-Semitism and denied the Jews the right to an independent state.

The ICBB, chaired by Philip Lax, is holding executive committee sessions in Buenos Aires with leaders from North America, South America and Europe.

Gerald Kraft, president of B'nai B'rith, who visited South Africa, Brazil and Uruguay, meeting with heads of state, is also attending. He was scheduled to meet today with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, who will address B'nai B'rith's District 20 convention here.

PROBE POSSIBLE LAND SALE FRAUD

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- Three Israelis are being held in jail as police continue a large-scale investigation into possible fraud involving land sales on the West Bank. Tel Aviv Judge Binyamin Kohelet said yesterday the alleged land fraud case "could turn out extremely serious, with implications beyond the criminal aspects."

Kohelet made this comment as he ordered one of the suspects in the alleged land fraud case, Michael Oren, held for four days. He was arrested a month ago. At the same time, Judge Uri Strosman of the Tel Aviv District Court extended by 15 days the time two other suspects, Yehoshua Mizrahi and Avraham Selim, will be held in custody. They have already been in jail 15 days.

The police are investigating whether fraud was involved in large sales of land on the West Bank from Arabs to Jewish contractors and companies. Because Arabs are prohibited by Jordan and intimidated by the PLO from transacting land deals with the Jews directly, most of these transactions have taken place through intermediaries, thus creating potential for fraud. The poor nature of land registration in the West Bank has also raised the suspicion that Arabs have sold land which did not belong to them.

Police suspect Mizrahi and Selim of forging documents to enable them to transact illegal land sales on the West Bank. Their attorney, Menachem Rubinstein, presented Judge Strosman with a note Sunday bearing the name of a prominent political personality who, he claimed, gave his blessing to the sales. Rejecting this defense yesterday, Strosman said the "prominent political personality" was neither prominent, nor an elected official, nor a personality.

BONN (JTA) -- Police have arrested three rightwing extremists who menaced people demonstrating against the meeting in the Bavarian town of Passau of the German Peoples Union (DVU), the largest neo-Nazi organization in West Germany, or who resorted to violence there. They also confiscated a number of weapons. Some 1,500 persons took part in the meeting in Passau, which discussed the situation of the neo-Nazi movement in this country. The 15,000-member DVU is headed by Gerhard Frey, the publisher of the National Zeitung of Munich.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
MOSES MENDELSSOHN AND JEWISH VICTIMS
OF NAZISM MEMORIALIZED IN EAST GERMANY**
By Charles Allen, Jr.

EAST BERLIN, East Germany, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- Two major Gedenkstätten (remembrance memorials) have recently been put in place here, the capital of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), that specifically commemorate the great Jewish leader, philosopher and mathematician, Moses Mendelssohn (1729-1786), and those "thousands of Jews" who were deported from Hitler's Berlin to their deaths in Auschwitz and Theresienstadt.

A striking, haunting group of figures -- men, women and children, 13 in all, in varying size and attitude -- has been erected on a large marble slab on the site of what formerly was Berlin's home for the aged in the Great Ghetto.

The July 13th issue of the GDR's Communist newspaper, Neues Deutschland (New Germany), official organ of the Socialist Unity Party (SED), prominently featured a picture of the sculpture by the late artist Will Lamert, under a two-column headline, "Remembrance of the Jewish Victims."

In part, the story reads: "This group of figures serves to remind us of what took place on the Grosse Hamburgstrasse when thousands of Jewish citizens were deported to the fascist extermination camps."

"These figures have been placed on the spot where once stood the oldest Jewish cemetery, destroyed by the Nazis in 1943. Only the grave of Moses Mendelssohn and a few stones are left here."

"Today this is a place of both admonition and remembrance. The Gestapo used the home (1942-1943) for the elderly as a collection point for the Jews' death-transportation to Auschwitz and Theresienstadt."

'Never Fascism Again'

On the day that this reporter visited the site, fresh flowers had been placed at the base of the memorial. One bouquet, covered with a vivid red sash, read in both German and Yiddish: "Forget this Not! Never Fascism Again!"

Some 50 paces to the left of the Jewish Victims Memorial was a large plaque to the memory of Mendelssohn. Under an engraving of Mendelssohn's bust was the following quotation:

"Seeker of truth, lover of beauty, working for the common good, doing one's best."

This was followed by "Moses Mendelssohn, philosopher and friend of Lessing, Founder of the first Jewish School in Berlin. He was born 6 September 1729 and died in Berlin on 4 January 1786."

Elaborate Ceremonies Planned For 1986

The GDR is already planning elaborate ceremonies for the 1986 celebration of the 200th anniversary of Mendelssohn's death.

Both Gedenkstätten were erected by "the city government of Berlin in cooperation with the Jewish Gemeinde (Community) of the GDR."

Mendelssohn of course was the founder of what became the Reform movement in Judaism. There are plans for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to send representatives to the GDR to participate in the Mendelssohn celebrations, starting with the High Holidays of 1985 and continuing through 1986.

An official of GDR's Anti-faschiste Aktion Komitee, the country's single-most prestigious organization of resistance fighters during the Nazi period,

told me in detail of the relationship between Lessing, the German philosopher, and Mendelssohn. Lessing's play, Die Juden (1749), had portrayed a "noble-hearted Jew" that caused much negative criticism, I was told. In Mendelssohn, Lessing found the "embodiment" of his own "lofty bourgeois ideals," said my companion.

In rather detached terms, I was told, "Lessing influenced Mendelssohn who in turn led the Jewish people of Germany into bourgeois assimilation."

No Overt Traces Of Anti-Semitism

My companion, himself a Jew and raised in a religious home, expressed "no problems whatsoever" with devout Jews -- of whom there are very few in the GDR. As for himself, a survivor of the camps and a Communist, "I am an atheist but I think it important to study, appreciate and honor Mendelssohn for his contributions to humanity," he said.

While there is not an overt trace of anti-Semitism in the GDR or, most certainly, no single expression of neo-Nazism (indeed, it is forcefully outlawed), many visitors to the GDR remain skeptical of how deep is such a commitment. There are inconsistencies, most by omission.

In the several handsomely illustrated and moving brochures marking the 40 years of the liberation of Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald, Ravensbrück, and Brandenburg-Görden concentration camps, there is but one reference to Jews as victims categorically singled out by the Nazis.

In the Buchenwald commemorative booklet -- published in the millions in German, English, French and Russian -- there appears on page 8 the following:

"We honor all victims of fascism, our Communist and Social Democratic comrades, our fallen comrades from the resistance put up by the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. The flowers of our wreaths stand in tribute to thousands of people of the Jewish faith who were driven to their deaths in Buchenwald by the racial madness of the Nazi hangmen."

In the other camp commemoratives, there is no such language. Some critics in the West see such omission as tantamount to anti-Semitism.

This is vigorously denied by many in the GDR, especially the leadership of the Anti-Fascist Committee. In conversation with its leadership, I was told that Hitler's victims were honored by nationality.

Situation At Ravensbrück

At the Ravensbrück concentration camp memorial site -- an especially moving place of memory where more than 90,000 were murdered, mostly women and children -- there are plans now for extending special memorials to the "peoples of 20 nations who suffered here."

When I asked if a special memorial for the Jewish victims of Ravensbrück might be included, there was an expression of uncertainty and a reassertion of the customary procedure regarding nationality.

I then pointed out that modest yet nonetheless specific commemoration of the Jews were already in place at Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen. I also pointed out by way of questions the patent inconsistencies in the commemorative booklets.

"Die Endlösung" (the Final Solution), I noted, "was a deliberate fascist genocide which precisely singled out the Jews of Europe, and surely that had a great role to play in the massive terror which the great resistance fighters battled until victory over fascism was accomplished. Is it not proper to acknowl-

edge this basic fact for the sake of what was best in the anti-fascist resistance?" There was no disagreement, but there was an uncomfortable discomfiture on the matter yet to be fully resolved.

ISRAELI ARMY OFFICIAL WILL NOT BE COURT-MARTIALED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- Brig. Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai will not be court-martialed, as Israel's Attorney General had recommended, for causing grievous bodily harm and for conduct unbefitting an officer for his involvement in the deaths of two terrorists who hijacked a bus last April, the Army announced today. Instead, it said Mordechai will be brought before a disciplinary court.

Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir recommended that Mordechai be court-martialed and, in adopting the recommendations of the military commission of inquiry into the bus hijacking, decided that Mordechai, chief infantry and paratroop officer, not be charged with homicide in the terrorists' deaths. The commission found after its one-year investigation that Mordechai was not responsible for the deaths of the terrorists.

Zamir also agreed with the commission's recommendations that five members of the Shin Bet internal security force be brought before a disciplinary court on a charge of conduct unworthy of their position. Three policemen are also to be tried for unnecessary use of force.

Background Of The Case

Last April 12, four Palestinians hijacked a Tel Aviv-to-Ashdod Egged bus near Ashkelon, taking the passengers hostage and demanding the release of Arabs held in Israeli prisons. Security forces stopped the bus in the Gaza Strip at the town of Deir El Balah.

The bus was stormed by Israeli security forces. Two of the hijackers were killed aboard the vehicle, and one woman, an Israel Defense Force soldier who was a passenger on the bus, was killed in the rescue operation.

Reporters later saw Mordechai leading the other two hijackers away from the scene. One paper, *Kotteret Rashit*, violated censorship regulations by printing pictures of this action. The IDF and then-Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who was at the scene at the time, announced that all four terrorists had been killed in the rescue operation.

When pictures and eyewitnesses proved that two terrorists were alive when led away to a nearby interrogation tent, a public demand arose for an investigation.

Three Commissions Investigated The Incident

Three commissions investigated the incident. The first established that the two men had been alive when taken off the bus. The second prepared a file for the Attorney General and the final commission was a legal body appointed by the Attorney General to examine the entire affair and report to him, which was completed last week. Israel Radio reported the commission's findings last week.

The military commission of inquiry found that the death of the two terrorists was caused by blows inflicted on them as the troops stormed the bus. According to the commission, when the two were taken off the bus, still conscious, Mordechai wanted to find out whether they had set a time bomb on the bus, and if so, where it was to be found.

THREE FAMOUS JEWS HAVE BECOME THE ISSUE OF A PUBLIC CONTROVERSY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- Three famous Jews, all of whom have been dead for years, have become the center of a public controversy. The French Minister for Culture has commissioned statues of Leon Blum, Pierre Mendes-France and Alfred Dreyfus but has not yet found what he believes to be suitable sites to erect them.

The Minister, Jack Lang, charges the Mayor of Paris with obstruction, but the Mayor, Jacques Chirac, says his opposition to the chosen enplacements is due strictly to technical and municipal reasons.

The statue of Blum, who served twice as French Prime Minister, first as head of the Popular Front before World War II and again in 1946, was commissioned last year and is now ready. Lang had planned to have it set in the Leon Blum Square, close to the Place de la Republique, which is a traditional Jewish area.

Chirac, who is also one of the main Gaullist contenders for the Presidency, has barred this plan. The Paris City Hall says that the entire square is currently being redesigned in view of massive traffic and several building sites in the area. The renovation will be finished in 1986, according to the city spokesman, when the statue could be erected.

Socialist political sources quoted by the local press say Chirac does not want the statue of a Socialist leader, and one still popular with the masses, on the eve of next year's legislative elections. The site chosen by Lang is right across the city's 11th District Town Hall, which is headed by a Gaullist mayor close to Chirac. The 10-foot high bronze statue is already on display on a temporary location in the gardens of the Louvre Museum of National Art.

Another controversial statue is that dedicated to Premier Pierre Mendes-France. Lang wants it erected on a central Paris Avenue, Chirac has not yet decided where and when the statue will be set. Mendes-France was also a Socialist and the current administration of President Francois Mitterrand often refers to him as a spiritual and intellectual guide. The Gaullist and centrist opposition fears that a statue dedicated to him would eventually benefit the Socialist coalition.

The statue of a third Jew, that of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, who was accused of high treason and rehabilitated nearly a century ago, is the subject of a split between Lang and his fellow Defense Minister Charles Hernu. Lang wants the statue erected within the French military academy, *L'ecole Militaire* -- while Hernu favors the site of the former *Ecole Polytechnique*, an engineering school Dreyfus attended.

The usually reliable weekly, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, quoted Hernu as having told his aides that it would be unwise "to put before the army's eyes the symbol of its past mistake."

The Mitterrand Administration has commissioned some 200 statues and many of these have not yet found a proper site. The City Hall is reportedly reluctant to allocate a site along one of Paris' main avenues to poet Aragon, a life-long member of the French Communist Party, or to philosopher Jean Paul Sartre, the symbol in France of anti-establishment thinking.

Socialist circles point out that right wing writers or politicians, honored by the government, have all found choice spots: former President Georges Pompidou on the City's Central Avenue des Champs Elysees, and former Foreign Minister Robert Schumann in an elegant residential district.