

SHAMIR DENOUNCES AJCONGRESS MISSION TO CAIRO AND AMMAN AND BRONFMAN'S MISSION TO MOSCOW

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA) — Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir has blasted the American Jewish Congress mission to Cairo and Amman this week, and also World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman's mission to Moscow this week. (See related story P. 4.)

In an exclusive interview with this reporter, Shamir spoke of the AJC as a "peanut-size organization," and said Bronfman was "not authorized to negotiate on behalf of Israel or the Jewish people." Shamir acknowledged that his views differed from those of Premier Shimon Peres on this matter.

The AJCongress group met with President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein this week in an attempt to ascertain peace prospects. They reported to Peres in Jerusalem yesterday that both the President and the King were urging that the PLO "should be put to the test" of diplomacy.

The group, led by Prof. Henry Rosovsky, the Harvard savant, issued a statement expressing their conviction that Egypt and Jordan seek to broaden the peace process urgently, "before forces of religious and political extremism make this task impossible." (See September 12 Bulletin.)

Bronfman's visit to Moscow, at the head of a group of Seagrams executives, follows a preparatory visit some six weeks ago by his top WJC aide, Israel Singer, who met with ranking Soviet officials involved with Jewish emigration.

Bronfman hopes to meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev or other politburo members. He reportedly carried with him a letter from Peres to Gorbachev, which Peres conveyed to him two weeks ago. Israel officials said the letter had been "couched in general terms."

See Incursions On Israel's Prerogative

Shamir, interviewed here today, sought to pooh-pooh both missions. But this did not conceal his anger at what he plainly feels are incursions upon Israel's prerogative to speak for itself, and also for world Jewry.

He said he was aware that the Soviets were interested in oil-drilling equipment which the Du Pont Company, part-owned by Bronfman, could sell them. But this gave Bronfman no standing to speak for Jewish issues, Shamir asserted.

Turning to the AJCongress Mideast mission, Shamir remarked: "Who elected them? Who empowered them to enter into negotiations on the Israel-Arab conflict? They merely serve as instruments in the hands of the Arabs to score points against us."

Asked "who elects" other American Jewish organizational leaders, with whom Shamir and his ministry regularly and closely work, Shamir replied: "At least they (the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and other organizations) ask us, consult with us The Anti-Defamation League (of B'nai B'rith) would never have done this, nor would B'nai B'rith, nor the American Jewish Committee."

He singled out for special criticism Howard Squadron, a former president of the AJCongress and a former chairman of the Presidents Conference, who was a moving spirit of the AJCongress mission. Shamir described how Squadron, on a previous occasion, had told him of a lavish welcome he had received in Cairo, complete with motorcycle out-riders. "So what?" Shamir said, "Big deal"

A Matter Of Principle

Shamir said the controversy in Israel over the two missions — Bronfman's and the AJCongress — was "not along ideological lines. I am sure there are a great many people in Mr. Peres' party who would agree with me."

He recalled how forcefully Premier Golda Meir had opposed — and eventually prevented — Nahum Goldmann's proposed visit to Egypt to meet with President Nasser.

It was a matter of principle, Shamir said. "The world must know that Israel represents the Jewish people on Jewish problems. Jewish organizations ought not to undertake political work — except when Israel asks them to."

Sometimes, he noted, where Israel had no access, such efforts were vital and valuable. But otherwise it should be Israel that speaks for Jewry on the world stage.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

RABBI SAYS HER VISIT TO CRACOW FOR BAR MITZVAH CELEBRATION HAD 'LOTS OF PAIN AS WELL AS JOY'

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA) — The Reconstructionist rabbi who accompanied Eric Strom and his family to Poland for the first Bar Mitzvah celebration in Cracow in some 35 years today described the visit with mixed emotions.

"I think the experience had lots of pain as well as joy," said Rabbi Emily Korzenick, in a telephone interview from her home in Scarsdale, N.Y. with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. While visiting the remnants of the once thriving Jewish community of Cracow she said "we were also seeing memorials to that which was."

At the same time, Korzenick appeared to brush aside the significance of the dispute which erupted among Orthodox rabbis here over the prospects of having Korzenick participate in services in an Orthodox synagogue in Cracow. "I had not come there to make waves," she asserted.

Korzenick accompanied Eric Strom on his journey to Cracow for his Bar Mitzvah, an idea that developed after a visit there last April by a group of Federation of Jewish Philanthropies trustees and leaders on a UJA-Federation Campaign of New York trip.

While on that trip, an elderly woman of the Cracow Jewish community asked the Federation leaders to "Send us a Bar Mitzvah. Send us life." Arrangements were made, and on September 2, 13-year-old Eric, his 9-year-old sister, Holly, his parents, Barry and Margery Strom, three of his four grandparents, Korzenick, and Auschwitz survivor Edward Blonder, departed for Poland.

There was some controversy over the selection of the Remu Synagogue in Cracow. The Rabbinical Council of America issued a statement saying "it would be a betrayal of Jewish history" if the Jews of Cracow allowed a Reform or Conservative rabbi to officiate in the synagogue, the oldest in Cracow.

The site was changed before the Saturday, September 7 Bar Mitzvah, either under Orthodox pressure or to accommodate larger crowds — some 150 persons attended the services — to the 130-year-old Temple Synagogue. Korzenick took her place on Saturday morning with the other women sitting in a separate section of the balcony.

Not Prepared To Confront Orthodox Rabbi

She emphasized that they had not prepared themselves to confront the Orthodox rabbi, Nachum Elbaum, a New York businessman and travel agent, who along with an unidentified cantor arrived in Poland shortly before the Friday evening services began. Elbaum conducted Friday night services, and the Saturday morning services. There is no rabbi in Cracow.

Blonder, who served as a translator on the visit, read the Torah portion Saturday. At the closing of the service, Eric signalled for Korzenick to come to the Bima as he was preparing to recite his Haftarah portion, from Isaiah. Korzenick had helped to train Eric in his Haftarah portion.

Korzenick came down to the Bima, she recalled, and had a prayer shawl she was going to place over her shoulders snatched away by Elbaum. Eric's grandfather, meanwhile, handed her another tallit. When she began her commentary, Elbaum said several times, "But ladies cannot speak in synagogue." Korzenick said the elders in the synagogue did not take up the chant.

In her English commentary, Korzenick quoted Isaiah to the effect that "violence shall no more be heard in the land and the sun shall no more go down. Neither shall thy moon withdraw itself for the Lord will be thy everlasting light and the days of mourning shall be ended."

Sees A Future For Jewry In Cracow

But moreover, Korzenick, spiritual leader of the Fellowship of Jewish Learning in Stamford, Conn., the synagogue with which the Strom family is affiliated, asserted that the Bar Mitzvah was an expression of Jewish "oneness and concern."

She said "one thing I did see was little tiny germs of possibility for the future" of Jewry in Cracow. She noted that some 20 young Polish Jews had attended the Bar Mitzvah and that some of the elderly persons in the community have tried to increase the study of Jewish and Yiddish culture.

She also said that during her brief visit, which included a show at the Yiddish Theater in Warsaw, she felt that the Polish government appeared to be encouraging efforts by the small Jewish community. Some 15,000 Jews are estimated to live in Poland. Cracow's Jewish population prior to the Holocaust was some 60,000. It is now several hundred.

Korzenick explained that Polish Jewry is not in a desperate state. They have chosen to stay, she said, though many have family elsewhere, including in Israel. As for Eric, Korzenick said, "He understood he was there as a symbol of joy."

KAHANE PREDICTS HE WILL BECOME THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA) — Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the extremist Kach Party in Israel, predicted today that he will become Prime Minister of Israel because the Israel government is unable to prevent Arab terrorism.

Kahane, answering questions after delivering a speech to a National Press Club luncheon here, said that American Jewish leaders are "terrified" of him and that their greatest fear is that some day they will have to be at "Washington airport to greet Prime Minister Kahane."

In his talk to the National Press Club, broadcast on National Public Radio and C-Band TV, Kahane used humor and a more subdued tone than usual to present his views to what was probably his largest non-Jewish audience ever.

The American-born rabbi, who recently resigned as head of the Jewish Defense League which he founded, strongly denied that he was a racist, declaring that he is against racism "with every fibre of my body." He said he was offended by Israel President Chaim Herzog's recent statement comparing his views with those of the Nazis. He said his policies are not "Kahanism, it is Judaism."

Attitude Toward Arab Population

Kahane maintained that there is a basic "contradiction" between the State of Israel being both a democracy and a Jewish State. He argued that Israel cannot be a Jewish State if the Arab population, having a vote, outnumbers the Jewish population.

Kahane said that is why he wants to expel all Arabs, from Israel proper as well as Judea and Samaria. He said he would allow Arabs to stay in Israel with full personal rights if they would give up the right to vote. But, he said, no self-respecting Arab under the age of 40 would accept this.

At the same time, Kahane maintained that if the Arabs left Israel, the country could remain a democracy for Jews since while he would prefer a Jewish state ruled by the Torah, he would never impose the will of a minority on the majority.

Kahane denounced a law pending in the Knesset outlawing from participation in Knesset elections parties preaching racism or which are opposed to democracy or to Israel being a Jewish State. He called the law, which is seen as aimed at Kach, "stupid and amateurish" and said if it was introduced in the U.S. Congress, American Jewish organizations would be "climbing the walls."

But when asked what he would do if Kach was outlawed, he replied, "If I am banned, like (Charles) de Gaulle, I'll go home to wait for the people to call for me."

Sees No Chance For Present Peace Effort

Kahane said he saw no chance for the present peace effort working since all Arabs, including the moderates, want the return of all the land taken in 1967, including East Jerusalem, which, he noted, no Israeli would accept. He said for this reason he has no objection to Israel talking to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But Kahane warned that if any Israeli government decided to give up any part of the West Bank, he would

lead a massive civil disobedience effort and "I would go down in history as did Dr. Martin Luther King." Kahane maintained that if he was Premier, the U.S. would still help Israel because it was in America's national interest. He suggested that America needs Israel more than Israel needs the U.S. because "on Judgement Day, God is going to ask, did you support Israel?"

At the same time, Kahane said the "best thing the American government can do for Israel is to withhold economic aid and force us to live like we should, not like Rothschild importing color TVs and German cars" but "working hard."

DIVERSE GROUPS RALLY AGAINST KAHANE

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA) — Representatives of Jewish organizations and assorted groups of Palestinians, Palestinian sympathizers, lesbians and anti-nuclear activists converged outside the National Press Club building today in separately-sponsored demonstrations against Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was preparing to address journalists at a press luncheon inside the meeting.

Carrying placards that read, "Kahane Does Not Speak for Me" and "Zionism: Yes, Kahane: No," some 25 demonstrators from the Washington Board of Rabbis, which represents mostly Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist rabbis in the metropolitan area, appeared at the protest with a prepared statement calling Kahane's ideas "antithetical to the essence of Judaism."

"As religious leaders of the Jewish community, we reject Rabbi Kahane as a spokesman for our community and affirm that his message is the very antithesis of Zionism and Judaism," said the statement, read by Rabbis Stuart Weinblatt and Gary Fink. It added that "as Jews, we reject the rhetoric of racism, whether it comes from the extremist Kahane, Prime Minister Botha (of South Africa) or the (Muslim leader) Rev. Louis Farrakhan."

The rabbis were supported in their protest by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, which distributed its own statement denouncing Kahane.

Attitude Of Non-Jewish Groups

The statement by the rabbis, which culminated in a blowing of the shofar as a symbol of the new Jewish year and of "eternal Jewish values of equality and justice," was somewhat overshadowed by the handful of demonstrators from lesbian, anti-nuclear and other groups, who were shouting anti-Kahane slogans nearby, as some 30 members of pro-Palestinian groups prepared to begin their own demonstration which followed that of the rabbis.

Each carrying his own sign denouncing Kahane, or racism in South Africa and Israel, the pro-Palestinian demonstrators were more organized and vocal than the rabbis, but most of the journalists present appeared to have left to hear Kahane by the time their protests got off the ground.

One of the Palestinian demonstrators said he was pleased that Jewish groups were protesting against Kahane, as well. But he added that some of the pro-Zionist placards avoided what he said was the core of the problem. "We believe that Kahane is the true expression of Zionism," the demonstrator told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Correspondent Hamdi Faud, of Egypt's leading semi-official daily Al-Ahram, who was covering the protests and Kahane's address, told the JTA he saw nothing positive in the rabbis' protests or in support of the rabbis' protest.

Faud said "it's a very weak reaction to a criminal act." Asked if he intended to cover the protest in his story on Kahane, Faud shrugged and said "maybe a line or two."

KIRKPATRICK AND OPERATION MOSES SHARE \$100,000 JABOTINSKY PRIZE

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA) — Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, and Operation Moses, the rescue mission that brought 10,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel, are the co-recipients of the 1985 \$100,000 Jabotinsky Prize-Defender of Jerusalem Award.

In announcing the awards at a news conference here today, Eryk Spektor, chairman of the Jabotinsky Foundation said, "We are proud to honor Ambassador Kirkpatrick for her valiant support of Israel and the Jewish people during her tenure at the United Nations. Mrs. Kirkpatrick spoke out tirelessly and eloquently in the face of constant hostility and harassment."

"We are also pleased to honor Operation Moses," Spektor continued. "This rescue mission, which brought endangered Ethiopian Jews to the State of Israel, embodies the spirit of Zeev Jabotinsky, who in the late 1930's warned the Jews of Europe to flee the impending Nazi Holocaust. The award to Operation Moses affirms the crucial importance of rescuing beleaguered Jews of the diaspora."

Spektor announced that the Operation Moses award funds will be used to create 50 Jabotinsky scholarships at Israeli institutions of higher learning for young people brought to Israel by Operation Moses. The scholarship program will be administered by the three Jabotinsky Prize judges who live in Israel. Alexander Grass, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, reacting to the Jabotinsky Foundation's selection of Operation Moses, said, "We are tremendously gratified." He described Operation Moses as "a joint humanitarian effort of the American Jewish community and the people of Israel."

Grass noted that the UJA/Federation Campaign "joined the government of Israel and the Jewish Agency Department of Immigration and Absorption in the reception and absorption in Israel of the Ethiopian Jewish community."

The UJA/Federation conducted special Operation Moses appeals in more than 600 Jewish communities across the U.S. between December, 1984 and April 1985, which raised over \$63 million toward the initial cost of absorbing the Ethiopian immigrants, including housing, medical care and language and vocational training, Grass said.

The 1985 Jabotinsky Prize will be awarded at a ceremony October 30 in New York City. The guest speaker will be Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne.

REMINDER: No Bulletins will be published September 15, 16 and 17, Rosh Hashanah. Best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

On The Eve Of The Reagan-Gorbachev Summit: SOVIET REFUSENIKS FEEL THEIR FATE IS HANGING IN THE BALANCE By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA) — With the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting approaching against the background of a virtual halt in Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, the prevailing feeling among long-time refuseniks is that their fate is hanging in the balance more than ever before.

Accordingly, some who have recently been in Moscow conveyed to participants at this week's meeting of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry a profound sense of urgency, heightened at once by near-despair and a faint glimmer of hope.

"The feeling of my friends in the Soviet Union is that if nothing is done soon, the Jewish national movement may be crushed in the near future," Anatoly Khazanov, who was permitted to emigrate two months ago after a five-year wait, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview.

Bronfman Reported To Be In Moscow

Meanwhile, Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, arrived in Moscow this week, a participant at the World Conference meeting told the JTA. Bronfman, who was invited by the Soviet government early this year, had planned a visit last spring, but called it off because of the death of Konstantin Chernenko.

According to British historian Martin Gilbert, who recently visited the Soviet Union and attended the World Conference meeting that ended Tuesday, Bronfman went to Moscow last Sunday for a two-day visit. No confirmation was obtainable from the World Jewish Congress.

Bronfman's visit would come at a time when the movement for Soviet Jewry is urgently appealing to the Reagan Administration to press the question of Jewish emigration from Russia at President Reagan's upcoming meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Delegates to the World Conference meeting conferred with Reagan on Monday.

Khazanov was one of the signatories of a letter to Bronfman last spring outlining the concerns of refuseniks. In Washington for the World Conference meeting, he said in his interview with the JTA that he had no idea "in what capacity" Bronfman went to Moscow.

Refuseniks Formulate Terms For Exit Accord

At the same time, many of those still waiting to emigrate have taken the step of formulating terms for an exit visa agreement that they would like to see the Administration present to the Soviet Union. The suggested terms were submitted to Gilbert, a professor at Oxford who has been active in the campaign for Soviet Jewish emigration, when he visited the Soviet Union last month.

"There the feeling is that the Administration here must now be programming into its negotiations with Gorbachev and beyond ... a comprehensive exit visa agreement for Soviet Jewry, whereby everybody in refusal will come out according to some agreed upon timetable, whereby everybody who is refused on security grounds will come out according to some internationally recognized timetable," Gilbert told the JTA.

During his two-week visit in Moscow and Leningrad, Gilbert held at least 20 separate meet-

ings with over 50 refuseniks, including Galina Zelichenok, wife of Prisoner of Conscience Roald Zelichenok, and Ina Begun, whose husband Iosef is also imprisoned. Among the specific terms strongly urged by the refuseniks, Gilbert said, was the immediate granting of exit visas to those in refusal for 10 years or more, with those waiting five to 10 years being allowed to leave by the end of 1987.

After that, emigration would be managed according to a controlled rate of exit visas for new applicants, up to an agreed-upon annual limit. One group of refuseniks suggested that the West should propose 50,000 as an annual maximum.

A timetable, possibly based on the length of time already served in prison, was suggested for the POC's as was the immediate granting of exit visas to former POC's who are still waiting to emigrate.

The refuseniks' proposal also suggested that a maximum time period be set for the granting of visas to someone who has held a position regarded as security-related. Gilbert presented the proposed terms to the World Conference meeting.

Only 29 Jews Left In August

Only 29 Soviet Jews — the lowest number in years — were permitted to emigrate to Israel last month. In June there were four arrests of Jewish activists — the most in a single month since the harassment of Jewish leaders in the Soviet Union was stepped up last year.

Reflecting on reasons why the Soviets under Gorbachev have disappointed so many who had reluctantly hoped for an improvement in the situation of Soviet Jewry, Khazanov, a social anthropologist who will begin lecturing at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem this fall, had no pat answers.

"I am not a professional politician. I became a refusenik against my will and I prefer not to be involved in all kinds of political discussions," Khazanov said. "The one thing I know for certain is that if no drastic urgent measures are undertaken on behalf of Soviet Jewry — if the Soviets in one way or another will not be persuaded that they should change their attitude toward the Soviet Jews, the refuseniks — then very sad things might be happening, not only to certain persons, but to the movement in general."

Saying he had little grounds for optimism, Khazanov was hardly wide-eyed over some recent gestures by Moscow toward Israel and Soviet Jewry. These gestures have included a meeting between the Soviet and Israeli Ambassadors in Paris last summer that was subsequently leaked to the Israeli press, and the invitation to Bronfman earlier this year.

Unreliability Of Single Gestures

The unreliability of single gestures as an indicator of where Soviet policy is going was highlighted by Gilbert's visit to the Soviet Union last month. The official biographer of Winston Churchill, Gilbert, who has also written on the plight of Soviet Jews, was invited there for a conference by the Soviet Academy of Sciences — the same institution that revoked Khazanov's membership shortly after he applied to emigrate to Israel.

The invitation was extended to deliver a paper on the Soviet contribution to the Allied victory in World War II. However, Gilbert had only recently been cited by a Soviet prosecutor as a "Zionist conspirator" during the trial of Hebrew teacher Zelichenok in early August. Arrested on charges of defaming the state, Zelichenok was sentenced to three years in a labor camp. Nevertheless, Gilbert said he was "completely free" to meet with refuseniks.