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A LEADER OF WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING AND OF THE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE FROM POLAND

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 15 (JTA) — Marek Edelman, 64, one of the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, has been allowed to emigrate from Poland and will settle in France. French government spokesman Germain Dufaix announced today that Edelman, a surgeon, will join his wife who has been living in France for several years.

Edelman, at the time a young medical student, helped organize and then led the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. He was one of the handful of survivors who managed to flee the Ghetto through the city's sewers and escape. After the war he finished his studies and then worked as a surgeon, mainly in his native city of Poznan.

Although he tried to steer away from politics he became one of the main spiritual leaders of the Solidarity Movement. He was imprisoned in 1981 for his statements in favor of Solidarity and its leader Lech Walesa. A wave of protests throughout the world and inside Poland itself against the imprisonment of a war hero forced the government to set him free a few days later. His wife left Poland at that time and has since been living unobtrusively in France.

It is believed that President Francois Mitterrand personally pleaded his case during his meeting last month in Paris with Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski.

DISPUTE TRIGGERED OVER A MEMORIAL TABLET AND STREET HONORING NAZIS

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Jan. 15 (JTA) — A memorial tablet and a street name honoring Austrian Nazis has drawn the ire of the Yugoslavian government and triggered a dispute in the city of Linz. The two alterations are unrelated but, according to one Vienna newspaper, they show a lack of sensitivity in dealing with the past.

The memorial tablet, at the Austrian Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt, honors Maj. Gen. Alexander Loehr, recognized as the founder of the Austrian Air Force in 1935. In 1941 he gave orders to bomb Belgrade, resulting in the deaths of thousands of civilians. He was executed as a war criminal in Yugoslavia in 1947.

Defense Minister Friedhelm Frischenschlager has refused orders to have the tablet removed. He claims it honors Loehr as the father of the Austrian Air Force, not his wartime activities, and was, in any event, donated by a private organization.

The official Yugoslavian news agency, Tanjug, protested Sunday that the tablet undeservedly honors the fascist "Soldatesca" which laid waste to Europe and is an affront to good neighborly relations between Austria and Yugoslavia.

Frischenschlager, whose rightwing party is a member of the Socialist-led coalition governing Austria, created a furor and a government crisis last year when he personally met and shook hands with Austrian Nazi Walter Reder who returned to his

homeland after more than 30 years in prison in Italy for war crimes. In Linz, a coalition of Catholics, Socialists and Communists are demanding that a street named for a former Nazi mayor be renamed in honor of a local Nazi victim. The rightwing Freedom Party is opposed.

Documents which came to light recently show that Franz Langoth, Mayor of Linz during the Nazi regime, was also an associate judge of the infamous Volksgerichtshof, the Peoples Court, and in that role, shared responsibility for the execution of more than 10 persons.

The citizen groups want the street named for him changed to Franz Jaegerstaetter Strasse, to honor a Catholic farmer who, as a conscientious objector, refused to serve in the Wehrmacht and was sentenced to death by the Peoples Court.

RABIN SAYS SOVIET NAVY HAS INCREASED ITS ACTIVITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN TO DETER ISRAEL FROM ATTACKING LIBYA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (JTA) — Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today that the Soviet Navy has increased its activity in the Mediterranean this past week to deter Israel from attacking Libya. He said Israel was not acting against Libya directly in its war against terrorism.

Libya has been accused by Israel and the United States of supporting the Abu Nidal terrorist gang held responsible for the fatal attacks on El Al passenger facilities at the Rome and Vienna airports December 27. The U.S. has imposed economic and legal sanctions against Libya.

Rabin, addressing a conference of the World Union of Jewish Journalists here, said operations against terrorism is a continuing process that includes both preventive and punitive measures. He added that Israel would not do the obvious nor would it react automatically to every act of terrorism.

Stepped up Soviet fleet activity was also confirmed by the U.S. The Pentagon reported yesterday that two Libyan MIG-25 jet fighters "buzzed" a U.S. Navy surveillance plane over the Mediterranean Monday. The Pentagon said the Libyan jets were in contact with Soviet surveillance aircraft and hinted that Libya and the Soviet Navy might be exchanging intelligence.

Rabin also remarked on the recent confrontations between Knesset members and Moslem militants on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem. He warned against turning the political conflict in the Middle East into religious warfare and urged Israelis not to behave in a way that could provoke Moslem religious sensibilities. "This would be the greatest mistake we could make," he said.

According to Rabin, the Cabinet's decision Monday to submit Israel's border dispute with Egypt over Tabat to binding arbitration was one of the most important decisions of recent years to cement Israel's relations with Egypt.

Rabin referred to another important Cabinet decision in remarks to reporters in Tel Aviv yesterday. It was the first anniversary of the decision to pull the Israel Defense Force out of Lebanon and Rabin noted on the

occasion that not a single civilian has been killed or wounded in northern Israel since the IDF withdrew last June. He noted that two Israeli soldiers have been killed in the south Lebanon security zone. "That is a dear price to pay but it cannot be compared to the human and economic price paid while we were deployed" in Lebanon, Rabin said. He said Israel's position toward Lebanon is "live and let live" but in no case will Israel tolerate terrorist attacks across the Lebanese border.

An explosion heard in several northern border villages Monday was apparently a Katyusha rocket that was aimed at Israel territory but fell short in the security zone. Bad weather prevented the IDF from searching the area to determine where the rocket exploded.

ACTION ON THE MORMON CENTER

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (JTA) — The special ministerial committee established to study the Mormon Center presently under construction on Mt. Scopus is not likely to halt the controversial project, sources close to the committee said this week.

But the panel, headed by Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg, is expected to propose measures that it hopes will end the fierce protests and demonstrations by Orthodox Jews here and abroad who claim the Mormon institution will become a center for missionary activity in Israel.

The project is sponsored by Brigham Young University of Provo, Utah, the educational branch of the Mormon Church, headquartered in Salt Lake City. Mormon leaders have pledged there will be no proselytizing in Israel and agreed to accept an Israeli advisory board of secular and lay religious leaders to monitor the Center's activities.

The committee headed by Burg, veteran leader of the National Religious Party, may propose that the Mormon Center be classified officially as a theological seminary as well as a university. That would put it under the joint jurisdiction of the Education Ministry and the Religious Affairs Ministry.

The Burg committee was set up by the Cabinet two weeks ago after the Labor-Likud unity coalition government came under intense pressure from the religious parties in the coalition to kill the project. It was initiated during a Likud administration, is strongly backed by Likud and Labor ministers, and has received the requisite building licenses from all the relevant authorities.

Its supporters argue that the Mormon Center will not only make an economic contribution to Jerusalem but will stand out as the first major American institution built under Israel government auspices on land conquered by Israel in the 1967 war.

AUSCHWITZ EXHIBITION AT UN DRAWS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 15 (JTA) — Leib Gongola looked at each photograph very carefully and for a long time. Auschwitz and its horrors were in front of him in huge black-and-white photographs, hanging in the visitors' lobby of the United Nations.

"I was there for three years. I remember all," said Gongola, now 61 and living in Brooklyn. And as if to remove any doubt that indeed he was "there," he rolled up his sleeve and showed his tattooed arm: 78389.

Gongola is one of thousands of individuals who have already visited the "Auschwitz — A Crime Against Mankind" exhibition which opened here last month and will close January 31. The exhibition was brought to the UN by the Polish government on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in 1945. The exhibition was organized by the Auschwitz State Museum and the International Auschwitz Committee and sponsored by the UN Center for Human Rights.

The photographs, many of them taken by SS Nazi guards at Auschwitz, some of them by inmates and others by the liberators of the concentration camp, depict the brutality and the systematic murder of millions of Jews and others by the Nazis. In addition, the exhibition includes artifacts of the murdered victims: shoes, suitcases, eyeglasses as well as religious items such as prayer books and prayer shawls.

The exhibition, conceived by the Auschwitz State Museum, opened at the UN on December 10 after months of cooperation between the museum authorities and American Jewish leaders. As a result of the discussions, many of the captions of the photographs clearly state that the majority of those who were murdered by the Nazis in Auschwitz were Jews.

When the exhibition opened, Benjamin Meed, president of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors said, "I am pleased the exhibition is here. I have to commend it." Meed visited Poland in August to review the exhibition before it arrived here. He said that the Polish government was very cooperative and accepted suggestions to underscore the fact that Jews were the main victims of the Nazis.

According to a UN spokesman, about 1,500 visitors come to the UN everyday. All of them pass through the visitors' lobby and it is assumed, therefore, that a great many of them view the exhibition.

NEW PARTY LAUNCHED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA) — The Liberal Center, a new political party concerned with the problems of middle class Israelis and supportive of compromise for peace, was officially launched today by disaffected former members of the Liberal Party wing of Likud.

The Liberal Center is headed by Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lehat; Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives; Yitzhak Berman, a former Cabinet Minister and Knesset Speaker; and Yehezkel Hamelech. They outlined their political credo at a press conference here. Dulzin said the new party would demand its share of Liberal Party funds and property and would go to court if necessary to obtain them.

The new party was formed, its founders said, because of the Liberal Party's drift toward merger with the rightwing Herut, its Likud partner. Lehat said it would speak for a constituency made up of middle class wage-earners and private entrepreneurs. Its domestic program will call for reductions in the size and budgets of the national and local governments, and lower taxes, particularly income tax.

Party Believes In Compromises

On foreign policy, Lehat said, "We are a party which believes in compromises and we are ready to negotiate to try to achieve peace." The party also supports religious pluralism. "We believe that all the different lines and streams in Judaism are equal," he said. "We believe that for the future benefit of Israel we should have a (American-style) Presidential

government," Lehat added. Asked which way the new party would go if it held the balance of power between Labor and Likud, Lehat replied, "Today, in the present political reality, I believe the Labor Alignment."

The fledgling party hopes to attract voters from the Likud Liberals and the more centrist members of Herut as well as independents who are disillusioned with Likud but are not prepared to vote Labor.

KAHANE REPRESENTATIVES CHARGED WITH USING 'QUESTIONABLE TACTICS' TO GET JEWISH PERSONALITIES TO DEBATE KAHANE

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA) — The American Jewish Committee today charged that on at least two recent occasions — representatives of Rabbi Meir Kahane have used "questionable tactics" in efforts to get American Jewish personalities to engage in debate with him. It was unclear, however, whether Kahane was directly involved in the efforts by his representatives here.

Hyman Bookbinder, AJC's representative in Washington, reported that he had received a letter dated January 6 from Madeline Abraham, informing him that Kahane, an Israeli Knesset member, has "agreed to debate you" on the issue, "Do the Arabs of Israel have the right to democratically and peacefully become a majority within the state and thereby do away with the Jewish State?"

The invitation was sent on blank stationery on behalf of a "Public Jewish Affairs Committee (PJAC)." Bookbinder replied to Abraham the following day, saying in a memo he had no intention of debating Kahane. "You must be kidding," wrote Bookbinder.

Subsequently, Bookbinder received telephone calls from reporters in Washington informing him they had received news releases announcing the "debate of the decade" between Kahane and Bookbinder for January 23 at Temple Sinai in Washington. An advertisement for the debate offering tickets at \$6 and \$3 was published in the Baltimore Jewish Times last week.

Protests The 'Debate' Tactic

According to the AJC, Bookbinder telephoned Abraham protesting her action and demanding that she acknowledge that he had refused the invitation. She responded, the AJC reported, by saying she was sure he would change his mind once he thought it over.

Meanwhile, Bookbinder informed Rabbi Fred Reiner of Temple Sinai that he would not accept the Kahane invitation. Temple Sinai has since informed Abraham that the Temple was not available for the debate. The PJAC said it intends to sue the Temple, charging breach of contract.

PJAC Has Miniscule Membership

David Abraham, Madeline's husband and one of only a handful of members of the PJAC, confirmed the sequence of events involving Bookbinder and the invitation sent to him by his wife. He said that the organization was "indirectly affiliated" with Kach, the political party in Israel led by Kahane, though he would not disclose details of this affiliation.

He said the Committee was formed "two or three months ago" with the primary goal of bringing

Kahane's ideas and opinions to the American Jewish community. He said Bookbinder was selected to debate Kahane because he is a prominent Jewish figure in the Washington area.

According to Abraham, in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the PJAC had signed a contract to have Kahane appear at Temple Sinai. He said that shortly afterwards, Madeline Abraham received a telegram informing the group that the facility was unavailable. Instead, he said, Kahane will speak on the same day — January 23 — at the Sheraton Hotel in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The advertisement in the Baltimore Jewish Times declared, "Don't miss the debate of the decade. The Arab state of Israel." It further stated that Kahane would discuss this "historic and explosive" issue with "invited guest" Bookbinder. Abraham said the advertisement was given to the paper before Bookbinder's reply was received.

Similar Play On The West Coast

The AJC also reported that a similar play was being used in at least one other part of the country, in the Los Angeles area, where the "debate of the century" was announced for January 19 between Kahane and Rabbi Harold Schulweis of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino. Like Bookbinder, Schulweis vigorously protested the use of his name in an advertisement, declaring that he, too, had no intention of debating with Kahane.

David Abraham asserted that PJAC had nothing to do with the advertisement involving Schulweis. The West Coast advertisement, in the Los Angeles Jewish Community Bulletin, noted that "an invitation has been sent to Rabbi Schulweis. We cannot guarantee his presence." Readers were urged to call Kach International offices in California for further information.

Representatives of American Jewish organizations have consistently refused to debate Kahane because of what they call his policies of "racism," "demagoguery" and "a perversion of Jewish religious, ethical and traditional values and practices."

"This latest move on his behalf convinces us further that Kahane's appeals to racism and violence are beyond the pale," said AJC executive vice president David Gordis. "He is not representative of the Israelis nor of American Jewry. His words and actions are alien to Judaism, and we continue to reject them and what they stand for as affronts to our history, our tradition and beliefs, and our abiding commitment to brotherhood and peace."

RELIGIOUS ACTIVIST TO LEAVE USSR

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA) — The National Conference on Soviet Jewry today expressed its gratification that Elya Essas, a long-term refusenik and religious activist, was officially notified to report to appropriate authorities to begin processing for departure to Israel. According to the NCSJ, "rumors have circulated for months about such a possibility and considerable concern had developed. While a campaign for the Essas family has been underway for years, it is believed that the final decision to allow the Essas family to leave reflects the intervention of Edgar Bronfman," the president of the World Jewish Congress. He and his associates had intervened on behalf of Essas and others when in the Soviet Union. Essas was involved in teaching Hebrew and Judaic studies during his years as a refusenik. His parents emigrated to Israel in February 1976.

ADL REPORT SHOWS ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS DECREASED NOTABLY IN 1985

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic incidents directed against Jews and Jewish institutions in the United States decreased notably last year, according to the annual audit conducted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The findings, made public today by Nathan Perlmutter, ADL's national director, were divided into two basic categories: vandalism, ranging from swastika daubings to bombings; and personal assaults, threats and harassments.

They revealed 638 reported incidents of vandalism against Jewish institutions and private Jewish homes in 34 states and the District of Columbia, an 11 percent decrease from the 1984 total of 715. The 638 incidents included 6 arsons, as against 9 in 1984; 5 attempted arsons, as against 8 last year; 3 bombings, the same as in 1984; and 3 attempted bombings, as against 1 in 1984.

The report points out that although there were fewer incidents of vandalism, several were particularly disturbing and received nationwide attention. The audit also showed that there were 306 anti-Semitic assaults (such as beatings), threats and harassments (such as abusive mailings and telephone calls) against Jews and Jewish property, a 17 percent decrease from 369 in 1984.

The audit was prepared by the Research Department of ADL's Civil Rights Division from data gathered through the monitoring activities of the agency's 30 regional offices around the country.

Five-Year Downward Trend

Perlmutter pointed out that the new findings reflect a general five-year downward trend, interrupted by a small increase in 1984. He called the current statistics "encouraging" and said they were most likely the result of stricter legislation, vigorous law enforcement and increased educational programs.

He added, however, that while the audit is "a useful yardstick for measuring one aspect of anti-Jewish hostility in the United States, there are other manifestations of anti-Semitism."

Manifestations Of Anti-Semitism

He singled out the following:

- * The criminal conspiracy launched by The Order, a neo-Nazi group committed to overthrowing the government which it declares is Jewish-controlled. Ten of its members were convicted by a Federal Court in Seattle in December (11 others had earlier pleaded guilty) for crimes committed in 1984, including the murder of Alan Berg, a Jewish talk-show host in Denver, and a synagogue bombing in Idaho.

- * The activities of such other organized right-wing anti-Jewish hate groups as the Ku Klux Klan, the Posse Comitatus and the Identity Church which pose continuing dangers despite declining membership.

- * The propaganda of Liberty Lobby and Lyndon LaRouche's organization, even though both anti-Semitic groups suffered significant setbacks in 1985 due to defeats in law suits -- Liberty Lobby lost its suit against William Buckley for calling it anti-Semitic; LaRouche lost his suit against NBC and ADL for defamation.

- * The collaboration of extreme left organizations in attacking the most basic concerns of Jews regarding the security of Israel.

- * The continuing anti-Semitic rhetoric in the United Nations by Saudi, Libyan, Jordanian and other Arab delegates, 10 years after the passage of the resolution equating Zionism with racism.

N.Y., Calif. Had Most Vandalism Incidents

According to the audit, New York and California were again the states with the most vandalism incidents: New York had 199 as opposed to 237 in 1984; California had 85 as opposed to 99 the previous year. New Jersey succeeded Maryland as the third highest on the list and was one of the few states with an increase, 74 as against 56.

The other leading states were Florida with 47, down 4; Maryland, 38, down 31; Pennsylvania, 31, up 3; Illinois 23, up 4; Massachusetts, 22, up 2; Michigan 14, up 7; Virginia 14, up 5; Connecticut, 12, up 7; and Minnesota, 11, down 4. The remaining 22 states and the District of Columbia each reported fewer than 9 incidents.

Across the country, 78 persons were arrested in connection with 48 incidents in 1985. In 1984, there were 84 arrests in connection with 51 incidents. The ADL noted that the overwhelming majority of those arrested continued to be young people no older than 20 years of age.

ISRAELI CONCERT VIOLINIST IS FIRST FOREIGN RECIPIENT OF SWISS PRIZE

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Avraham Confort, an Israeli concert violinist, has become the first foreign recipient of the Recognition Prize awarded annually by the Swiss city of Winterthur for outstanding contributions to the city in the field of art.

Confort, 55, has been first violinist of the Winterthur Symphony Orchestra for 20 years and has performed concerts throughout Europe and the United States. He has also been active in the Lucerne Music Festival and has taught at the Academy in Basel.

Confort was born in Bulgaria in 1931 and came to Israel in 1948 where he lived at Kibbutz Ein-Gev. He began to study the violin at the age of 15, relatively late for a major concert musician. During his military service he played in the Israel Defense Force Symphony Orchestra. He was one of the founders of the Ramat Gan Orchestra and was first violinist with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra.

He first visited Switzerland in 1963, playing in Lausanne. He joined the Winterthur Symphony Orchestra in 1965. The orchestra itself, founded in 1629, is one of the oldest in Europe. The newspaper Neuzürcher Zeitung commented that it was symbolic that the first foreigner to win the Winterthur Prize "belongs to the most ancient nation in the world."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- An association of Jewish writers and journalists was founded here Sunday, named after the late political correspondent of Yedioth Achronot, Arye Zimuki. The new organization will be chaired by Prof. Yitzhak Vershovsky, a member of the World Zionist Organization Executive. The meeting decided to publish a book in the memory of Zimuki.