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FORMER SS OFFICER TO BE DEPORTED AND STRIPPED OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) has rejected the appeal of Reinhold Kulle, a former SS guard leader at the Gross-Rosen concentration camp who was ordered deported in 1984 by the Federal Immigration Court in Chicago. In a rare move, the BIA also took action that is expected to result in the cancellation of Kulle's social security benefits.

Kulle, 65, admitted during his 1983 trial that he had served during World War II as an officer in the "Totenkopf" (Death's Head) division of the Waffen-SS at the notorious Gross-Rosen camp in Upper Silesia.

In affirming the lower court's deportation order, the BIA noted that Kulle's SS service "primarily consisted of being a guard and training guards who made the brutal Nazi concentration camp system achieve its goals." Some 100,000 civilian inmates and Allied POWs perished at Gross-Rosen.

Although the lower court had found Kulle deportable solely on the basis of his "assistance in Nazi persecution," the BIA ruled that the evidence established that he was deportable on the additional ground that he had obtained his U.S. immigration visa by fraudulently concealing his wartime past.

A Special Significance

According to World Jewish Congress general counsel Eli Rosenbaum, who was co-counsel for the government at the 1983 trial while serving as a federal prosecutor with the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, this last aspect of the BIA's decision has special significance. Rosenbaum explained that the finding of fraud means that when Kulle is finally deported, he will lose his entitlement to social security benefits.

The Kulle case highlights the need for the enactment of legislation that would directly revoke the social security benefits of proven Nazi war criminals, Rosenbaum said today. "It is the height of indecency to use the contributions of hard-working Americans, including thousands of Holocaust survivors, to fund the retirement dreams of those who helped perpetrate Hitler's genocidal bloodbath," he asserted.

ISRAELI INTERCEPT KUWAITI PLANE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- A Kuwaiti Airbus 310 passenger aircraft carrying about 110 passengers and crew was intercepted and escorted out of Israeli airspace by military jets after it strayed nearly two miles into Israeli airspace over the Golan Heights, a military official reported here.

The Kuwaiti aircraft was on a flight from Damascus to Kuwait, and according to the official, "crossed the border and penetrated three kilometers into Israeli territory in the area of the Golan Heights." The official said the aircraft was allowed to proceed after it was positively identified as a civilian plane that had strayed because of a navigational error. "It turned back after its pilots realized their mistake," the official said.

MURPHY RETURNING TO MIDEAST IN EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT PEACE TALKS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The U.S. is boosting its efforts to bring about peace talks to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, the State Department announced yesterday.

"The Administration is intensifying its efforts to help the parties reach the negotiation table," State Department spokesman Charles Redman announced in response to a question. He said that in the context of this "intensification," Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy would be going to the region "in the near future."

Calling the new effort "an intensification of an ongoing process," Redman said that Murphy's direct contacts with regional leaders were the main element. But he declined to specify when the Assistant Secretary would leave or what else the "intensification" entails.

One Result Of The Budget-Balancing Law:
U.S. AID TO ISRAEL FOR CURRENT FY CUT
By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- U.S. aid to Israel for the current fiscal year will be cut in order to meet the requirements of the Gramm-Rudman law passed by Congress last month, the State Department confirmed Wednesday.

The new budget-balancing law will force the Reagan Administration to trim security assistance to all countries by a total of \$420 million, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said at a press briefing.

"As a result, every country that receives such assistance from us will see its funding levels cut this year," Redman said.

He added that although the impact of the law on foreign aid levels for this year are still being evaluated, "we expect all cuts to be shared across the board by all countries, including Israel."

Redman was responding to a question apparently raised by a report in The Washington Post Wednesday that Israel might be requested to return some of the \$1.2 billion in economic assistance that it has already received. Like other recipients of foreign aid, Israel is awarded the total amount of economic assistance approved by Congress in one lump sum at the start of a new fiscal year.

According to the Post report, the 4.3 percent reduction that the Administration will apply to each nation's assistance program might force the Administration to request that Israel return \$51 million of what it has already been awarded. If Israel is not asked to give the money back, the same amount might be added to the budget cuts for other aid recipients, the Post report said.

Suggested Amounts To Be Deducted

Citing State Department officials, the report suggested that the \$51 million might be deducted from supplemental economic assistance that was tacked on to the fiscal year 1985 foreign aid bill. Israel has already received half of the \$1.5 billion Congress approved in supplemental assistance, while the other half was to be handed over in 1986.

In addition, Israel has not yet received all of the \$1.8 billion in military aid that it has been awarded for

fiscal year 1986, and the report suggested that the Gramm-Rudman cuts could apply to that part of Israel's aid package as well. When he offered the total figure of \$420 million Wednesday, Redman referred to security assistance.

An Israeli Embassy spokesman declined comment on the State Department's announcement, saying only that the new law was being studied. The assistance to Israel approved by Congress for fiscal year 1986 is to be carried over to the following fiscal year, according to the foreign aid bill. However, Israel has already requested a slight increase for 1987 to account for inflation.

Redman declined to specify today whether his reference to "across the board" cuts meant that all foreign aid recipients would have the same percentage of their aid deducted or if decisions would be made on a case-by-case basis.

PERES-MUBARAK SUMMIT HAS TO AWAIT CLARIFICATION OF PRINCIPLES INVOLVED IN RESOLVING TABA DISPUTE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- A summit meeting between Premier Shimon Peres and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt will not take place before March, Haaretz reported today. The newspaper said Egypt informed Israel that a summit would have to await clear definition of the principles that will govern the arbitration process in the Taba border dispute.

The Inner Cabinet agreed in principle this week to submit the dispute to arbitration, as demanded by Egypt, subject to certain conditions. According to Haaretz, Egypt insists the date must be set for the beginning of the arbitration process before a date is set for a summit meeting.

But senior officials in Cairo have noted that the Cabinet decision served as a good basis for improved relations between Israel and Egypt, Haaretz reported.

Possibly as a result of that decision, Egypt is expected to convey to the Israeli Ambassador in Cairo the report of the inquiry committee set up to investigate the massacre of Israeli tourists at Ras Burka in Sinai last October. Mubarak had contended earlier that Israel was not entitled to receive the report. He made that statement to the Cairo weekly Al-Mussawir in the course of an interview before the Israeli decision on Taba.

Mubarak sent a message to Peres last week explaining that Egyptian law required two weeks between the verdict in a trial and publication of the relevant findings. This Saturday will mark two weeks since an Egyptian soldier, Suleiman Khatar, was convicted of murdering the Israelis and sentenced to life imprisonment. A week after the verdict, Khatar was found hanged in his room at a military hospital, an apparent suicide.

C.O.L. INCHED UP BY 1.3 PERCENT IN DECEMBER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The cost of living index rose by a low 1.3 percent during December, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced today. It was the lowest December C.O.L. increase in 10 years.

Although it was slightly higher than the one percent hoped for and forecast by Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, he hailed it as an indication of the

success of the economic package deal which has kept down prices and wage increases and lowered the annual inflation rate last year to some 160 percent, far below the nearly 300 percent in recent years.

Low monthly increases are anticipated for the next three months before the start of the financial year on April 1 heralds new wage agreements which will now be negotiated.

During the five months since the package deal was introduced, costs have risen by some 14 percent -- an annual inflation rate of 37 percent.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal announced today that the cost of electricity and fuel oil for industry would be reduced at midnight tonight, by three percent for electric power and five percent for the heavy oil.

But Modai responded by saying he would not append what he termed his statutory signature to the price reduction order as it had been decided on by Shahal, sitting alone as the Ministerial Price Committee. Shahal retorted that his order was legal as he had summoned the meeting at a time convenient to Modai and the others, and he was not responsible if they did not show up in time.

ISRAEL AND SPAIN EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE ESTABLISHMENT OF TIES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- Spain and Israel are expected to announce tomorrow the establishment of diplomatic relations between them, informed sources here confirmed today.

The announcement in Madrid is to follow a Cabinet meeting there with a simultaneous announcement in Jerusalem, the sources said. Earlier this week, the Spanish Foreign Minister summoned the Ambassadors of the Arab League states to inform them that his government's recognition of Israel was imminent.

Spain, which became a member of the European Economic Community (EEC) on January 1, has never recognized the Jewish State. Discreet contacts began about 10 years ago, following the death of Gen. Francisco Franco and the restoration of democratic government in Spain.

The contacts accelerated after Shimon Peres took office as Israeli Premier last year. He and the Spanish Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez, are long-time colleagues in the Socialist International. Gonzalez has visited Israel several times. Israel presently maintains a tourism office in Madrid, headed by a diplomatic official. The two countries are now expected to exchange Ambassadors.

CLOSE JEWISH-BLACK TIES STRESSED AS ISRAEL EMBASSY MARKS 57th BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The close ties between Jews and the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were stressed yesterday before a packed standing-room audience as the Israel Embassy marked the 57th birthday of the slain civil rights leader.

"From the moment of his appearance on the public scene, Jews felt -- and we continue to feel -- a unique affinity, a special identification, and a powerful affection for him," Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne said.

Rosenne noted that King's "identification with Moses, the liberator of the Jewish people, was bred in him, and he reached out to the Jews in kinship -- and Jews understood that and responded to it."

This was the second consecutive year that the Israel Embassy has marked King's birthday in association with

the Jewish National Fund which has a 10,000-tree forest in Israel in memory of King. Asher Naim, the Embassy's Minister of Information, said that in addition, a cherry blossom tree had been planted at the Embassy yesterday in King's memory.

Monday, January 20 will be the first time that there will be an official national commemoration of King's birthday and the day is also being observed in Israel with special programs. District of Columbia Mayor Marion Barry expressed his thanks for this and for the naming of a major street in Jerusalem after King.

Other sponsors of the Embassy event were the America-Israel Friendship League, the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission.

Basis Of Jewish Affinity For King

The theme of Jewish ties to King was stressed by the speakers yesterday and by an exhibit, "Hand in Hand for Justice: Jewish Americans and Martin Luther King, Jr.," created by the America-Israel Committee to Commemorate Dr. King of the National Committee for Labor Israel.

Rosenne said Jews were drawn to King partly out of "the age-old Jewish passion for justice and freedom." But he noted that in addition, Jews sensed that King "instinctively understood all that had to be known about the Jewish people — our history, our faith and our hope."

Rosenne stressed that King was "repelled by any form of anti-Semitism," and articulated emphatically and unambiguously Israel's rights as a Jewish State."

King was also one of the first to speak out for Soviet Jewry, Rosenne said. He noted that 21 years ago, when he was an Israeli Consul in New York, he asked King to raise his voice for Soviet Jewry and he responded in a letter to The New York Times calling on the Soviet government to "end all discriminatory measures against its Jewish community."

Barry, who described his participation as a student activist inspired by King, said that "the history of the civil rights movement and this (Jewish) community go back a great deal. In 1964, when we were in Mississippi battling to get Blacks registered to vote, some of our strongest allies were members of the Jewish community."

Isaiah Robinson, vice president of the America-Israel Friendship League, said that when he was the first Black president of the New York City Board of Education, he made his first trip to Israel and came back inspired and changed by what he saw there. He felt students, too, could be changed by a visit and learn that there are things "higher than basketball or drugs."

Robinson said he started the first student exchange program with Israel and the program has grown nationwide, with some 700 American students having visited Israel so far.

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the JNF of America, said the thousands of trees planted in the King Forest embody both the spirit of Israel and of the slain civil rights leader. Calling King one of the 36 righteous, Sternstein said King revered the State of Israel and appreciated what Zionism meant to the Jewish people.

Sternstein said all peoples, not just Blacks, have learned from King. "The Jewish people will stand together, as always, with the Black people, shoulder to shoulder," to carry on his teachings, he said.

Also participating in the program was King's oldest daughter, Yolanda, who choreographed a dance on the theme of her father's "I Have a Dream" speech.

GREEK F.M. SAYS THERE ARE 'CERTAIN CONDITIONS' FOR FULL GREEK-ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Jan. 16 (JTA) — Foreign Minister Karlos Papoulias has scotched speculation that Greece and Israel may be moving toward full diplomatic relations. He told Greek journalists at an interview in Belgrade that there is no question of *de jure* (formal) recognition of Israel by Greece, remarking "we have set certain conditions for this."

The speculation arose following Papoulias' four-hour meeting Tuesday with David Kimche, Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, his first with a ranking Israeli diplomat. Papoulias described Kimche's visit to Greece as routine. He confirmed he had accepted in principle an invitation to visit Israel, but "whether I go depends on a number of factors, and perhaps those factors will be identical with the terms and conditions which Greece sets for a *de jure* recognition of Israel," the Foreign Minister said.

Israel is represented in Greece only at the Consular level. Relations between the two countries have long been strained because of Greece's outspoken support for the Palestinian cause in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Papoulias said his talk with Kimche was to convey the Greek government's views on the "Mediterranean crisis."

He said the extension of full diplomatic recognition to Israel was conditional on the total withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Arab lands occupied since 1967 and the commencement of negotiations between all parties concerned to find a just and permanent solution to the Middle East problem, which, he stressed, includes the Palestinian issue.

Position Based On 'Political Principles'

Papoulias said recognition of Israel by other states would not influence Greece "because our position is one of political principles." He may have been referring to the reported imminent establishment of diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel. Spain has just joined the European Economic Community (EEC) of which Greece also is a member.

Papoulias disclosed that an invitation to visit Tel Aviv had been extended to him when Greece held the rotating presidency of the EEC's Council of Foreign Ministers. He said he would have gone to Israel in that capacity at the time but "unfortunately other Europeans (EEC members) thought that Greece, playing such an intermediary role, would steal the honors from others... so they did not approve such a visit." He said the invitation was renewed by Kimche.

Kimche also announced, after his meeting with Papoulias, that Greece has extended an official invitation to the Israeli Minister of Tourism, Avraham Sharir. Papoulias did not refer to that invitation at his press conference in Belgrade. Sharir would be the first Israeli minister to visit Greece in more than 20 years.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW A MAJOR CONCERN FOR TECHNION By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 16 (JTA) — Prof. Josef Singer, president of the Technion, Israel's famed institute of technology and science in Haifa, warned that the severe cutbacks to the university's operating budget and the growing deficit imposed by Israel's continuing economic crisis might have a long-term effect on the country's economy and its effort to reach economic independence.

Singer, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said that Israel's economic future is dependent on the development of high-tech industries as a source for export and improving the country's balance of payment.

Noting that Technion trains 70 percent of all of Israel's scientists and engineers, and is, therefore, the key to the State's economic and defense needs, Singer said the financial cutbacks represent two unacceptable options: reducing the number of engineers and scientists who graduate from the Technion, or lowering the standard of excellence in teaching and research for which the Technion is known the world over.

High-Tech Industries' Requirements

Singer said that Technion graduates every year about 1,000-1,500 new engineers and scientists. But Israel's needs to develop high-tech industries, he noted, require at least 5,000 additional new engineers in the next decade.

"The question before the Technion is what kind of Technion are we going to have," Singer said.

"Will it be a Technion that keeps its standard of excellence or not? Will it be a Technion that cuts the number of students and teachers, but then won't be able to meet the national needs of economic growth and development?"

Singer pointed out that the training of a student at the Technion is much more expensive than the training of a student in any other university. He said that Technion needs millions of dollars to invest now "in order to have very good new engineers in six or seven years from now."

Singer said that the operating budget of the Technion for 1985/86 is \$64 million. "We need, however, an additional \$7 million to solve our operating needs for the year," he said. He added that Technion has an accumulated budget deficit of \$12 million in addition to the extra \$7 million gap in this year's budget.

"The Technion is one of the best technological institutes in the world, and we want to keep it this way," Singer said.

Singer was in the U.S. to underscore to the American Society for Technion the need to raise more funds for Technion. The American Society for Technion raised approximately \$18 million last year.

ISRAEL MIGHT ASK U.S. TO EXTRADITE MAN IN CONNECTION WITH TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST ARABS IN WEST BANK

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (JTA) — Israel is expected to ask the U.S. to extradite Craig Arthur Leitner, a 24-year-old American wanted here in connection with terrorist attacks on Arabs in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Leitner was arrested in New York yesterday and arraigned before a magistrate in Federal District

Court in Brooklyn, which ordered him held without bail pending an extradition hearing. The heavy-set, bespectacled law student was arrested by a U.S. marshal in his dormitory room on the White Plains, N.Y. campus of Pace University.

Leitner was arrested here in March, 1984, with three other Americans, all identified by Rabbi Meir Kahane as members of his extremist Kach Party. They were charged with the June, 1983 machinegun attack on a bus carrying Arab workers from the West Bank to jobs in Israel and other attacks on Arabs on July 21 and July 31 of that year. The bus attack took place outside Mazra A-Sharkiya village, near Ramallah. Six Arabs were wounded.

Three of the men were tried and sentenced. Leitner reportedly agreed to be a State witness. He was released on bail but fled the country.

U.S. Marshal Victor O'Boyski, who made the arrest assisted by an officer of the New York Police Department's Fugitive Investigation Strike Team, was quoted as saying he began searching for Leitner last March after the Israeli government "asked us to do a discreet inquiry on whether or not he was in New York." Leitner's parents live in Queens, N.Y.

FELLNER APOLOGIZES FOR SLUR

BONN, Jan. 16 (JTA) — Hermann Fellner, a ranking member of the Christian Social Union (CSU), apologized today for an anti-Semitic slur. He handed a written apology to Werner Nachmann, chairman of the West German Jewish community, and several hours later made his amends verbally in the Bundestag.

Fellner is Home Affairs spokesman for the Bundestag faction of the CSU, the Bavarian sister party of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU). He created a furor last week when he remarked in a newspaper interview that Jewish claims for reparations from firms that used Jews as slave laborers during World War II created the impression that "Jews are quick to show up whenever money jingles in German cashboxes."

Fellner said today that he retracted his statement without reservations. Originally, he had defended his remark, cautioning Jews to be more sensitive to the feelings of Germans. He said a politician of his age was entitled to speak out on such issues. Fellner is 35, a member of the post-war generation.

CLARIFICATION ON EDELMAN BY POLAND

PARIS, Jan. 16 (JTA) — The Polish Foreign Ministry in Warsaw issued a statement late yesterday afternoon asserting that Marek Edelman, one of the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, has not been allowed to emigrate to France, but has been granted only a visa to visit his family for 28 days in France, according to the World Jewish Congress' office here.

The 64-year-old Edelman, who helped organize and lead the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, was also arrested in 1981 for his activities on behalf of the outlawed Solidarity trade union. His wife left Poland several years ago, and has since been living unobtrusively in France.

PARIS (JTA) — The Jewish cemetery in Barcelona was desecrated earlier this week. Tombstones were overturned and anti-Semitic inscriptions were daubed, according to Spanish Radio reports.