

**ISRAELI JEW SENTENCED TO DEATH ON DRUG SMUGGLING CHARGE**

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA) — A 43-year-old Israeli, sentenced to death in Egypt for smuggling heroin, is casting a grim new shadow over the already severely strained relations between Israel and Egypt.

Yosef Tahan, of Ashdod, was transferred to death row in a Cairo prison today while Israeli leaders mulled over how to deal with the situation. His sentence must be approved by the Council of Muf-tis (Moslem religious leaders) before it is carried out. The official Egyptian news agency, Mena, reported that a decision would be announced on March 6.

The Egyptian government recently mounted an intensive campaign against drug smuggling and the courts have pronounced death sentences on several foreigners convicted of the crime, but none, so far, has been executed. The possibility that Tahan, the father of four young children, could be the first has given this criminal case a political dimension.

He was arrested at Cairo Airport last August on his way home from Bombay. He reportedly confessed to the Egyptian authorities that he planned to smuggle 1.25 kilograms of heroin into Israel to sell. Drug smuggling is a serious crime in Israel, but there is no capital punishment here.

**Shocked By The Sentence**

Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir said today he was shocked by the sentence and intended to see "what could be done about it." Israeli officials were careful to limit their comments to the humanitarian aspects involved. Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman said today that Israelis involved in criminal activity abroad could not expect Israeli protection.

However, Weizman said if he were asked by the government, he would not hesitate to go to Cairo to exert his influence there to have the death sentence commuted. Tahan's wife, Violet, 35, has appealed to Weizman to use his friendly relations with Egyptian officials to get the sentence reduced or her husband returned to Israel to stand trial here for drug trafficking.

**ISRAELI INSTALLATIONS WORLDWIDE ON ALERT FOR TERRORIST REPRISALS AFTER ISRAEL'S INTERCEPTION OF LIBYAN PLANE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (JTA) — Israeli Embassies and diplomatic missions around the world were put on alert for possible terrorist retaliation as the country's leaders continued today to debate the wisdom of forcing a private Libyan plane to land at an Israel Air Force base Tuesday because top Palestinian terrorist leaders were believed to have been aboard.

The plane, a Gulfstream executive jet enroute from Benghazi, Libya, to Damascus, was released four and a half hours after it was intercepted follow-

ing an identity check which determined there were no terrorists among its nine passengers and three-man crew.

The incident, in addition to being an embarrassment to Israel, raised strong possibilities that terrorists would launch new strikes at Israeli targets. Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi vowed reprisals yesterday. Ahmed Jibril, one of the terrorists presumed to have been on the plane, warned civilians today to stay off Israeli and American airliners.

A spokesman for El Al, Israel's national airline, said today there were no grounds to fear a terrorist response because El Al maintains the most stringent security measures and its flight paths take it far from Libyan airspace.

**Some Cabinet Ministers Not Consulted**

Several Cabinet members stressed today they were not notified or consulted in advance on the decision to intercept the Libyan plane. Premier Shimon Peres told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday that the decision had to be made in a matter of minutes, leaving no time for general discussion. Only he, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy were consulted and all approved the interception.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, said he had not been privy to the plan but would have approved it had he been asked. He said, in an Israel Radio interview, that Israel would continue to act against terrorist leaders by every possible means, and he was convinced they would ultimately be captured and punished.

Rabin made a similar statement yesterday, saying Israel would continue to combat terrorism by every means, even if sometimes it makes mistakes, as it did Tuesday.

**A Major Problem**

But Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman said in a television interview last night that had he been consulted in advance, he would have opposed the interception. He raised what he said was a major problem: What would Israel have done with the terrorists had any been captured?

Putting them on trial, like captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, who was tried in 1961 — and subsequently executed — would only invite more terrorist attempts to seize Israelis as hostages and hold them for the release of the captured terrorist leaders, Weizman said. Others made the same point. Police Minister Haim Barlev noted that the Cabinet has thoroughly debated how to fight terrorism, but has not yet discussed what to do with any terrorist leader who may be caught.

Barlev warned that Israel should prepare itself for the possibility that Syria and Libya would try to take revenge for the interception. The nine passengers in the jet turned out to be Syrian political figures, including the deputy secretary of the Ba'ath Party, who were returning home from a conference of Arab radical groups in Tripoli, Libya.

Peres told the Zionist General Council meeting in Jerusalem today that Israel would never flinch from any measures aimed at preventing terrorism on land, sea or in the air.

#### CIA HELPED MAN IT KNEW WAS A WAR CRIMINAL TO ENTER THE U.S. By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA) — A 75-year-old Westchester County man accused of war crimes and collaborating with the Nazis during World War II was provided entry into the United States nearly 30 years ago by the Central Intelligence Agency, despite agency knowledge of his past activities, it was disclosed here this week.

According to The Village Voice, which made the disclosure, Mykola Lebed of Yonkers, New York, was brought into the country in 1948 under an assumed name and was subsequently given permanent residence under Section 8 of the CIA Act of 1949 which allows the CIA to bring 100 individuals a year to the U.S. for national security reasons regardless of their past. The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations is reportedly looking into the allegations. The CIA, maintaining agency policy, declined to comment on the reports. Several calls by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to Lebed's listed telephone number went unanswered. He declined to discuss his past activities with The Village Voice staff writers, the weekly newspaper said.

The Voice disclosed that Lebed is the same individual identified only as "Subject D" in a 40-page report issued last June by the United States General Accounting Office. The report focused on the government's use of Nazi and Axis collaborators for post-war anti-Communist intelligence work.

The GAO report on former Nazis and collaborators "with undesirable or questionable backgrounds whom the office found had been assisted into the country by intelligence agencies for anti-Communist operations were not identified by name, but only as "Subjects A-E."

#### Background Of The War Criminal

The GAO report, which devoted nearly two full pages to "Subject D," and The Village Voice article, written by Joe Conason, said Lebed was convicted in Poland in 1934 for plotting to assassinate an East European official. This official was identified as Polish Interior Minister Bronislaw Pieracki. His sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment.

According to documentation obtained by The Village Voice, including heavily censored intelligence reports, Lebed was a leader in the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), described as a rightwing nationalist group. Lebed reportedly ran the Sluzhba Bezpeky, "its reputedly murderous security force," the Voice said.

Lebed also attended for a brief time the Gestapo school in Zakopane, a district of Cracow, Poland, according to Counter Intelligence Corps files obtained by the Voice. Complicity between the Nazis and the OUN is confirmed by documentation provided by Yad Vashem in Israel.

The GAO report, though general in detail, said that "Subject D" was considered extremely valuable by U.S. Intelligence. Because of fear for his personal safety and his familiarity with U.S. intelligence operations, the CIA brought him to the United States under an assumed name.

The report continued that after he was slipped into the country, the Immigration and Naturalization Service learned of Lebed's true identity and past activities and opened an investigation. The CIA is reported to have then acknowledged details of his past background and secured his residency in this country in 1952 under Section 8 of the CIA Act of 1949. Lebed became a U.S. citizen in 1957.

It was unclear whether Lebed could be deported from the country if the OSI chose to take legal action. Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman, a former House Representative, thinks Lebed could be deported. She said that a 1978 Amendment to the immigration law that she sponsored would bar Lebed or anyone else who had participated in Nazi persecution.

#### WEST GERMAN POLITICIAN WARNS OF DANGER OF RECENT ANTI-SEMITIC STATEMENTS BY GERMAN POLITICAL FIGURES By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA) — A leading West German politician warned here today that recent anti-Semitic statements by political figures in his country are "a small flame that can develop into a fire."

Johannes Rau, Minister - President of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, who is the opposition Social Democratic Party's (SPD) probable candidate to unseat Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the 1987 elections, spoke at a press conference at American Jewish Congress headquarters after a luncheon meeting with more than 30 prominent American Jewish leaders.

Rau, who is ending a three-day visit to the U.S., replied to questions about the anti-Semitic remarks recently made by Hermann Felner, a leading Bundestag member of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), and Mayor Wilderich Von Mierbach of Korschenbroich, a town in North Rhine-Westphalia. Rau said that although West Germany is a solid democracy now, it has to be more sensitive to such remarks because of Germany's past.

Felner, whose party is allied with Kohl's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU), said recently that former Jewish slave laborers of the Nazi regime who seek reparations create the impression that "Jews always show up when money jingles in German cashboxes." Von Mierbach, a member of the CDU, told his town council's budget committee that the best way to balance the budget was to "kill a few rich Jews."

Rau maintained there are "no significant rightwing radical groups" in West Germany today. He added, nevertheless, such groups as there are have to be watched "very carefully." He said he did not know why these expressions of anti-Semitism were voiced or if they signify a trend in German society. "Personally, I feel very sorry for them (the remarks) and deeply regret them," he said.

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, who opened the press conference, said Rau was invited in the aftermath of the Bitburg controversy because the Jewish position on President Reagan's visit to the German war cemetery last May was misunderstood in Germany. Jews and many others objected to Reagan placing a wreath at a cemetery where members of the notorious Waffen SS are buried along with other German war dead.

## MAJOR EFFORT UNDER WAY TO RETRIEVE AND RECLAIM YIDDISH LITERATURE

By Aviva Cantor

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA) — The Fund for the Translation of Jewish Literature, established here recently to make the greatest written works of the Jewish people available to readers in the English language, will sponsor "The Library of Yiddish Classics" as its first project.

At the same time, the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass., is launching a Yiddish translation project which will initially focus mainly on works of "ethnographic interest," primarily memoirs.

At the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, the first fruits of its translator-in-residence program, a collection of Yiddish folktales from its vast archives, will be copublished with Pantheon Books this year. The folktales, culled from its library of over 320,000 books, were translated by Leonard Wolf, its translator-in-residence, and edited by Bina Weinreich.

The Fund for the Translation of Jewish Literature was launched by author Lucy Dawidowicz, who serves as its president, with Dr. Ruth Wisse, professor of Yiddish literature at McGill University in Montreal, as Editor-in-Chief. The Fund will raise money to enable it to commission translations of Yiddish works, and edit and prepare them for publication by Schocken Books here.

Dawidowicz told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Fund envisages a series of 20 to 25 volumes which will "represent the best and the finest works of modern Yiddish literature." Each work, which will have a "standard format" as part of the Library, will include an introduction on the author and his or her times.

### 'Representative And Significant' Selection

The first volumes in the series will be "representative and significant" selections from the works of Sholem Aleichem, Itzhak Leib Peretz, Mendele Mocher Sforim, and Sh. Ansky. Additional works by these authors, and others, and books from earlier periods as well as reprints of previously translated works may be published later, after "the first round," Dawidowicz said.

The Fund, at P.O.B. 46, Planetarium Station, New York, N.Y. 10024, also envisages launching a series of cassette tapes of "the spoken Yiddish word" drawn from works it will translate and publish, she said.

The National Yiddish Book Center will draw on the 350,000 Yiddish volumes it has collected from all sections of the world over the past four years for its translation project. The Center, founding director Aaron Lansky told JTA, has "thousands of volumes of memoir literature," out of which it plans to choose 20 for translation.

"Jews were great at writing memoirs," Lansky said. Pointing to the fact that the memoir writers — "some completely unknown, many of them women" — of the late 19th and 20th centuries understood the importance of the "historic moment" they were living through, Lansky added that he envisioned these translated works being used as original source material in modern Jewish history courses.

Describing the effort as a "grass roots translation" project, Lansky said the Center has already been in touch with many talented translators all over the

country who are eager to work with the Center, which will assist them in getting funding. The Center is located at Old East Street School, P.O.B. 969, Amherst, Mass. 01004.

YIVO, the central repository and archive of materials on the history, language and ethnography of East European Jews and their descendants in America, has long been involved in translating scholarly essays from its academic publications.

Dawidowicz, who initiated the Fund for Translation of Jewish Literature, was a postgraduate research fellow in 1938-39 at YIVO when it was still located in Vilna. After YIVO relocated to New York, in 1940, she served as assistant to the research director for six years. She is the author of "The Golden Tradition: Jewish Life and Thought in Eastern Europe," (1947) and "The War Against the Jews" (1975). Said Dawidowicz:

"We all think this is our last chance — the eleventh hour — to retrieve and reclaim Yiddish literature. There are still people today who know the language well. Think what will happen in 30 years."

### JEWISH AGENCY TO APPEAL COURT RULING THAT KACH PARTY CAN HOLD ITS CONVENTION AT BINYANEI HAOOMA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA) — The Jewish Agency is expected to appeal a Jerusalem magistrate's ruling yesterday that Binyanei Haooma, Jerusalem's convention center, cannot deny Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach Party the right to hold its convention there next week after agreeing to rent the premises to Kach.

Zionist leaders who learned of the rental agreement after the fact were outraged. Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, declared that the Zionist movement would not serve as the platform for an "anti-Zionist, anti-democratic body" such as Kach. The WZO Executive subsequently adopted a resolution to cancel the rental agreement. The Binyanei Haooma is owned by the Jewish Agency.

Kach appealed to the courts, and the chief magistrate, Judge Aharon Simha, found in its favor. He said the political views espoused by Kahane's party had no bearing on its legitimate right to rent public premises.

Akiva Levinsky, Jewish Agency treasurer, said today that he hoped the Agency's legal advisors would know how to handle the matter. An appeal to a higher court to overrule Judge Simha is the most likely step.

### WEIZMAN PREDICTS NEW ELECTIONS SOON

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA) — Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman predicted today that new elections will be held in Israel, possibly next summer, before Premier Shimon Peres is required to hand over his office to Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir under the terms of the Labor-Likud unity coalition agreement.

Weizman, who heads the Yahad Party which is closely aligned to the Labor Party, maintained it was vital that Peres remain Premier. He said the angry debate between the Labor and Likud ministers in the Inner Cabinet over how to resolve the Taba border dispute with Egypt made clear that the unity government has exhausted its political options.

**HUNDREDS OF EVANGELICAL LEADERS  
GATHER IN SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL**

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- Hundreds of conservative evangelical leaders gathered in a show of support for Israel at the fifth annual National Prayer Breakfast honoring the Jewish State yesterday.

In fire-and-brimstone style, some of the nation's most prominent evangelist orators told of God's special relationship with the Jewish people and of the terrible destiny that awaits those who seek to crush the nation He has chosen.

Many cited Biblical passages; others talked in terms of U.S. strategic interests as well. All pledged to stand by Israel in its efforts to survive amidst a sea of enemies.

**Meeting Permeated With Politics**

Coinciding with the strong Christian fervor was the expectedly unmistakable political air in the overpacked ballroom. Among the preachers at the dais were the Rev. Jerry Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority and of the recently created Liberty Federation -- a political organization devoted specifically to promoting the views of the Christian right -- and the Rev. Pat Robertson, who has long been considered a likely contender for the Republican nomination for President.

Interspersed among the ministers and lay leaders who addressed the early morning diners were conservative members of Congress and some of Israel's most vocal supporters.

They included Rep. Mark Siljander (R. Mich.); Sen. Albert Gore (D. Tenn.), who recently returned from his first trip to Israel; Sen. Arlen Specter (R. Pa.), and Sen. Chic Hecht (R. Nev.), a staunchly conservative Jewish Senator who escorted Sen. Jesse Helms (R. N.C.) on the latter's first trip to Israel last summer.

Hecht and Specter were among a handful of Jewish participants who were also either honored at the dais or were there to receive the fiery praise of the orators for the Jewish people and their State. They included the usual representation from the Israel Embassy and some of the major American Jewish organizations.

**A Message To American Jews**

But the uneasy alliance that has been forged between the evangelicals and the Jewish community by a common declared commitment to Israel also revealed the pressures that seem to work at unhealing that bond. At the heart of those pressures has been the whole question of church-state relations in this country.

On that issue, Robertson addressed himself to the American Jewish community, saying that "it does not serve your ends to strip the religious symbols" from the "public squares of America," and that "it does not advance the cause of Judaism to diminish the faith of evangelical Christians" who value those symbols.

He referred specifically to the issue of school prayer, which has been vigorously opposed by many of the major American Jewish organizations.

Another speaker, evangelist Moody Adams, explained Arab hostility to Israel by the fact that

there are "800 million people who believe that God wrote a book called the Koran," which he said promises heavenly rewards to those who kill Jews.

**Israel Under Attack In The UN**

But the keynote speaker, former Ambassador to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick, avoided reference to the Bible or other Scripture, citing instead the words of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi and her memories at the UN as reference points for her expressions of support for Israel.

If Qaddafi "were the only leader and Libya the only nation dedicated to the destruction of Israel," Kirkpatrick said, "Israel's problems would be much simpler than they really are." But other states, she stressed, "are just as dedicated as Colonel Qaddafi" to the goal of liquidating the Jewish State.

Recalling what she said was the flagrant imbalance in the UN's treatment of Israel, Kirkpatrick urged that the U.S. refuse to cooperate on any UN resolutions sponsored and supported by delegations which refuse Israel "fair play."

Responding to thunderous applause, she observed that perhaps the audience did not perceive what a radical step she was calling for. To take up her recommendation, she said, would mean that "we would almost have to leave the United Nations" -- a suggestion that brought further applause.

**U. S. ORTHODOX LEADER URGES RELIGIOUS  
MKs TO RESIGN IN WAKE OF THE DEFEAT  
OF THE 'WHO IS A JEW' AMENDMENT**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, urged religious members of the Knesset to resign in wake of the overwhelming defeat of the "Who is a Jew" amendment in the Knesset yesterday.

The American Orthodox leader said he spoke for all American, Canadian and British Mizrahi delegates to the Zionist General Council meeting here when he said the religious MKs produced a fiasco by pressing the controversial measure for a vote when its adoption was unlikely.

According to Bernstein, the outcome of the 61-47 defeat would be "to increase intermarriage in the United States and elsewhere." The amendment would have, in effect, invalidated conversions to Judaism performed by non-Orthodox rabbis.

He said the Knesset was perceived to have "legislated against halacha" and warned that if the religious parties re-introduce the measure in six months -- as they will be allowed to under the law -- he and other diaspora Orthodox leaders would publicly dissociate themselves from the effort.

The amendment which yesterday sustained its third defeat in recent years is considered likely to be defeated a fourth time if introduced in six months. Bernstein's position was akin to that of Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg, a leader of Mizrahi, who refused to cut short a visit to the U.S. and return home for the Knesset debate after warning that the amendment lacked the votes for passage and should not have been introduced at this time.