

DOCUMENTS INDICATE WALDHEIM WAS INVOLVED WITH THE NAZIS; FORMER UN CHIEF DENIES ALLEGATION

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, March 3 (JTA) — Documents recently released from the Austrian War Archives have raised a controversy here over whether Kurt Waldheim, former Secretary General of the United Nations and now a conservative candidate for the Presidency of Austria, had an active Nazi past.

Waldheim's military and civilian files, published in facsimile in the current edition of the news magazine Profil, show that Waldheim, in his youth, was a member of the Nazi SA and the National Socialist Student Organization. Waldheim has denied membership in either. He has a defender in the person of veteran Nazi-hunter, Simon Wiesenthal.

The files, which according to Profil were opened only two weeks ago, provide details of Waldheim's military career as a first lieutenant in the cavalry. The record shows that he joined the Student Organization on April 1, 1938, only a few weeks after the Anschluss and was registered as a member of the SA (Sturmabteilung or Storm Troopers) mounted division in November of that year.

Waldheim Offers An Explanation

Waldheim said the only explanation he could offer was that as an ardent horseman, he had on occasion gone on riding outings with Nazis. That, he told Profil, might account for his mistaken listing as a member of the SA mounted division. The records of Waldheim's de-Nazification process in 1946 confirmed that his association with the SA was solely in pursuit of his passion for horseback riding.

The former diplomat's memoirs mention no connection with any Nazi organization. He described himself as the son of a conservative Catholic family which the Nazis considered politically unreliable. Nazi files of 1940 confirm that he was involved in fist fights with Nazis just before the Anschluss and that his father, a Vienna district school inspector, was replaced immediately after the Nazi takeover of Austria.

The Waldheim file was released, after 40 years, on orders of Chancellor Fred Sinowatz last January. He also ordered release of the file of Waldheim's leading opponent for the Presidency, Socialist Kurt Steyrer. The files revived old rumors that, as a cavalry officer, Waldheim had participated in mop-up operations in the Balkans during World War II, apparently against anti-Nazi partisans.

Wiesenthal Rejects Report

But Wiesenthal, who heads the Vienna-based Nazi war crimes documentation center, said the files do not justify such charges. "Under such circumstances the Soviets would never have allowed Waldheim to become Secretary General" of the UN, Wiesenthal contended.

Waldheim served two five-year terms as Secretary General, from 1972-81. At the end of 1981 he stood for re-election to a third term but was defeated by Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru.

With respect to his military record, Wiesenthal said: "I have checked with the German public prosecutor. The units where Waldheim served were strictly combat units. None of them served in mop-up actions."

ASSASSINATION OF NABLUS MAYOR SEEN AS A SETBACK FOR ISRAELI POLICY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA) — The assassination Sunday morning of Zafer Al-Masri, the Israel-appointed Mayor of Nablus, was a serious setback for the Israeli policy of restoring municipal governance in the administered territories to Arab hands.

This was the assessment of analysts and Israeli officials as some 20,000 Palestinians from Israel, the territories and Jordan attended Al-Masri's funeral Monday. (See separate story, P. 2.)

Although the Nablus Town Council immediately elected Al-Masri's deputy, Hafez Tukan, to replace him, hopes to install Arab mayors in other major West Bank towns rapidly faded.

Two candidates for mayor, in Ramallah and El Bireh, published announcements, to appear in the Tuesday editions of Arabic newspapers; that they would not run for office. The dropouts are Nadim Zaro, a former Mayor of Ramallah, and Walid Hammad, the candidate in El Bireh. Zaro said he would not seek the appointive office because free elections are the only way to elect mayors.

The Israeli authorities reject free elections for fear that candidates supportive of the Palestine Liberation Organization would win, as they did in the last free elections in 1976.

Hammad announced he would not run for the sake of "national unity." But Shmuel Goren, Coordinator of Government Affairs in the administered territories, said on television Monday that the policy of appointing mayors would continue, after ascertaining that the appointees would enjoy broad public support.

Zaro and Hammad are both considered pro-Jordan. The one candidate who did not back out, Jamil Tarifeh, is known to be a supporter of El Fatah, the PLO wing led by Yasir Arafat. According to some observers, this meant that Arafat is determined to fight back against the reactionists who are believed responsible for the murder of Al-Masri.

Goren noted in his TV interview that he recently had warned Al-Masri that he could be the target of a political assassination. But the mayor refused protection, saying he enjoyed the support of all Nablus residents.

At The UJA Young Leadership Conference: TWO LEADING SENATORS WARN REAGAN AGAINST SELLING MISSILES TO SAUDIS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 3 (JTA) — Two leading Senators, both of them expected to seek their party's nomination for the Presidency in 1988, warned President Reagan Sunday night against an expected proposal to sell missiles to Saudi Arabia.

The warning by Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R. Kan.) and Sen. Gary Hart (D. Colo.) was made before the nearly 3,000 persons attending the United

Jewish Appeal's Fifth National Young Leadership Conference at a dinner at the Washington Sheraton. The Administration is expected to submit to Congress this week a proposal to sell the Saudis \$300 million in missiles, including the Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, the shoulder-held Stinger anti-aircraft missile, and the Harpoon anti-ship missile.

'Not In The Best Interests Of Peace'

At the outset of the dinner, Peter Alter, conference chairman, noted that neither President Reagan nor Vice President George Bush had accepted an invitation to appear at the conference. But he said they would receive a "message" from the conference that the sale of arms to the Saudis "is not in the best interests of peace."

Dole revealed that he had advised the White House over the weekend to move slowly on the sale. "Until there is some indication that some of the moderate Arab states are willing to be helpful we have to go rather slow," he said.

"I know the missiles will fly," Dole added. "But I don't know whether this new package will fly."

Hart noted he and other Senators lost the fight in 1981 against the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia. "Today the Saudis are still closer to the PLO than they are to making peace with Israel," he said.

Hart, who announced he plans to visit Israel at the end of the month, said he will not support a sale of missiles to the Saudis. He said his message to the President is, "forget it. It is not going to happen. It is not the way to peace. It is not the way to treat a friend" (Israel).

Dole said he believes "cooler heads" will prevail. "The best policy, when it comes to the Middle East and other parts of the world, is a bipartisan policy, not a Republican policy or a Democratic policy," he said.

Give Peace A Chance

The majority leader pointed to the recent experience with the proposed arms sale to Jordan in which Republicans and Democrats worked together to delay the sale. It was later withdrawn by Reagan.

"It was our duty as Americans first to try to continue the negotiating process," Dole said. "We gave it a chance and we haven't given up yet."

At the same time, Dole praised King Hussein of Jordan. "It's not his fault that the peace process, at least temporarily, is derailed again by the PLO, which has only one thing in mind, the destruction of Israel."

Dole stressed that support for Israel is "bipartisan, nonpartisan." He said there is a consensus that "Israel must be militarily secure and economically healthy."

Hart praised Dole for his successful effort as majority leader in bringing about Senate ratification of the Genocide Convention after 37 years of the treaty being blocked.

SOLON REGRETS REMARK ABOUT 'THIS ... BETRAYING LITTLE JEW'

WASHINGTON, March 3 (JTA) — Rep. Robert Dornan (R. Calif.) has indicated regret for remarks he made on the House floor last week which one major Jewish organization characterized as "anti-Semitic slander."

Dornan, a hardline conservative member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee who is known to

be staunchly pro-Israel, acknowledged that he had used "inelegant phrasing" when he attacked Radio Moscow commentator Vladimir Posner, who appeared briefly on ABC Television last Wednesday night after President Reagan's nationally televised speech seeking public support for his military budget.

Dornan, expressing outrage that the Soviet commentator was allowed air time to rebut the President, called Posner "this disloyal, betraying little Jew." Posner is Jewish on his father's side, though the family had converted to the Russian Orthodox faith long before his birth.

B'nai B'rith International executive vice president Daniel Thursz demanded that Dornan apologize for "a classic anti-Semitic slander." "To call attention to Posner's Jewishness in a defamatory manner is totally reprehensible," Thursz said in a statement issued Friday.

Dornan, who had called Posner's TV appearance "an affront to decency and to Jewish people around the world," said in a Cable News Network interview that a pro-Israel group called him saying he had no reason to apologize for his remarks. "I disagree with that," the California Congressman said. "That was inelegant phrasing." He did not identify the pro-Israel group.

SOME 20,000 PALESTINIANS AT NABLUS MAYOR'S FUNERAL TURN EVENT INTO A POLITICAL RALLY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA) — At least 20,000 Palestinians attended the funeral in Nablus Monday of Mayor Zafer Al-Masri, gunned down by an unknown assassin Sunday outside the town hall. But the last rites for the slain mayor turned out to be less an occasion of mourning than a giant political rally for Palestinian nationalism at which the crowds raised huge pictures of Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat along with pictures of Al-Masri, who was a Palestinian moderate.

Israeli authorities had lifted the curfew clamped on downtown Nablus after the killing. But they apparently were not prepared for the political turn of events. The authorities do not permit political gatherings in the administered territories. But in Nablus Monday, Palestinians, particularly the young generation, expressed their sentiments loud and clear.

Large Palestinian flags were raised as the funeral procession moved from the main mosque in the heart of town to the Al-Masri family mosque. And the participants seemed to forget they were there to bury a dead leader as they shouted praise for the living PLO leader, Arafat, and cursed their living enemies.

Assad And Hussein Denounced

Prominent among the latter were President Hafez Assad of Syria and King Hussein of Jordan — Assad apparently because he supports and gives sanctuary to the anti-Arafat PLO dissidents. Youths shouted slogans such as "Assad — a lion in Lebanon but a rabbit in the Golan" and "Hussein the pig, we shall put you in chains."

Anti-Hussein sentiment coalesced in the West Bank after the Jordanian ruler announced last week he had abandoned his efforts with Arafat to bring the PLO into the peace process because the word of the PLO leadership could not be relied on.

The tide seemed to shift when Al-Masri was murdered. Although appointed by the Israeli authorities, he did not take office before he was assured of support by both Jordan and the PLO. The popular sentiments ex-

pressed in Nablus Monday indicated that Hussein's stock is very low among West Bank Palestinians. Al-Masri's funeral was attended by virtually every Palestinian leader, from Jenin in the north to Gaza and Rafah near the Sinai border. The late mayor was hailed as "Shahid" -- a person who sacrificed himself for the good of the nation, the term used by the PLO after Al-Masri was murdered. His body was taken from its casket and passed from hand to hand to the Al-Masri family mosque where he was interred.

Violence Erupts At Refugee Camp

Hours before the funeral, violence erupted at the Balata refugee camp near Nablus where Israel Defense Force soldiers killed a camp resident during a fierce skirmish with rock-throwing youths.

According to the IDF, the soldiers were chasing the youths when they were ambushed in the camp by another mob and found themselves in a life-threatening situation. The commander of the IDF force ordered his men to open fire. A 52-year-old man was fatally wounded, apparently hit by a random bullet.

Members of his family said later he was shot without provocation. A woman camp resident complained that she was struck by Israeli soldiers while standing peacefully outside the house of the deceased.

Shots were fired by border police in another rock-throwing attack after the funeral but no one was hurt. Premier Shimon Peres reiterated Monday that Israel would not change its policy of installing Arab mayors in West Bank towns.

**At The UJA Young Leadership Conference:
SOME 2,000 PERSONS HOLD RALLY TO
FOCUS ON THE PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWRY**
By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, March 3 (JTA) -- Some 2,000 young Jewish leaders from across the country rallied at Lafayette Park near the White House Sunday in an effort to help keep attention focussed on the plight of Soviet Jewry in the months ahead.

The demonstrators, who were here for the United Jewish Appeal Fifth National Young Leadership Conference, heard a string of speakers stress the need for continued pressure on Moscow in the wake of last month's prisoner exchange that brought freedom for Soviet Jewish activist Anatoly Shcharansky, and with an eye to the still-unscheduled second summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The window of opportunity is open not because of Soviet goodwill, but because of what the Soviets desire to achieve at the summit," declared Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Abram has stressed in the past that any U.S. effort to achieve an arms reduction agreement with the Soviet Union will inevitably be influenced by the extent to which Moscow abides by agreements already in force, specifically the Helsinki Accords of 1975, with their provisions on human rights.

Proposes New Symbolic Strategy

Proposing a new symbolic strategy in the Soviet Jewry campaign, Rep. Jack Kemp (R. N.Y.), a likely contender for the Republican Presidential nomination, recalled Shcharansky's account of how the Book of Psalms sustained his spirit during much of his time in prison.

"I would like to suggest that we flood the Soviet Union with the Book of Psalms," Kemp announced to applause and cheers. "That was the book that kept Shcharansky and his hope alive and indeed gave him the love of freedom."

Sunday's speakers appeared to send a collective message to Moscow that the release of Shcharansky was not being viewed as significant when the Soviet authorities continue to harass and jail Hebrew teachers and other Jewish activists and prevent thousands of others from emigrating.

"We are overjoyed that Tolya Shcharansky is a free man after too many years of suffering," Rep. Tim Wirth (D. Colo.) quoted from a statement by refugee Naum Meiman in response to Shcharansky's release. "But his release is not a victory for us, because we are now further away from reaching the goal that Tolya fought for when we struggled together."

Meiman's statement, Wirth said, "reminds us that nothing has changed," he concluded. Meiman, whose daughter, Olga Plum, lives in Wirth's Congressional District, has been seeking to obtain an exit visa for his wife to be treated for cancer in the West.

Abram called the release of Shcharansky "the Soviet policy of release by eyedropping."

"It is no solution; it is only a cover-up; it is only a deceit," Abram maintained.

From Lafayette Park the demonstrators marched behind Kemp, Wirth, Abram and other speakers in a candlelight walk to the Washington Monument.

**SYRIAN, LEBANESE JEWS ARE BEING
NEGLECTED, SEPHARDIC LEADERS SAY**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA) -- Sephardic leaders complained bitterly Monday that the remnant of the Jewish communities in Syria and Lebanon are being neglected and said their plight is as bad if not worse than that of Soviet Jewry which receives constant attention.

The leaders spoke at a press conference called by the Jerusalem Committee for Sephardic Jewry and the World Sephardic Federation. David Siton, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee and deputy president of the World Federation, said Jews trapped in Syria and Lebanon were subject to murder, rape and plunder.

He said there are about 5,000 Jews still in Syria, most of them in Damascus where they live in a closed ghetto that none dare to leave. There are nearly 700 Jews in Aleppo and 300 in Kamishli, a small town near the Turkish border, he said. There are no exact figures available on the size of the Jewish remnant in Lebanon.

Other Sephardic spokesmen called on the world media to draw attention to the plight of Jews in Arab and other Moslem lands. They said the Soviet Union should be called on to exert pressure on Syrian President Hafez Assad to release Syrian Jews.

GENEVA (JTA) -- Daniel Lack, the representative of the World Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, called on the UN body to condemn the seizure and murder of members of the Beirut Jewish community as well as to act on the release of the remaining Jewish hostages there.

RABBIS AMONG YOUNG WARRIORS I

By Albert W. Bloom
(First in a Four-Part Series)

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The young men and women of the United States Armed Forces, the Jews among them, often get too little attention and caring concern from the civilian community. This series, commissioned by JWB and its Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy (CJC), helps to rectify this. In human terms it focuses on the Jewish cadets and midshipmen at the three national military academies—the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, and the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs—their Jewish chaplains, and the world in which they live. Albert W. Bloom, retired Air Force lieutenant colonel (reserve), former President of the American Jewish Press Association, former Washington and Pittsburgh journalist and Editor Emeritus of the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, was assigned by JWB to put these vital themes in this new-old focus.*

WEST POINT, N.Y. (JTA)—What does the United States Military Academy at West Point have in common with Teyva of "Fiddler on the Roof?"

"Tradition!"

The traditions of West Point are legion and no other institution in America is more imbued with history and tradition. A brand new West Point Jewish Chapel, first in history, of imposing proportions, hewn of New Hampshire granite and limestone, blending in with the Gothic West Point architecture and with the traditional Jewish rock-hewn Ten Commandments, the *Asseret HaDibrot*, looking to the historic Hudson River, now stands as a living synagogue, more than a monument to Jewish history and creative survival for the Corps of Cadets—and the more than 2½ million visitors who visit the Academy every year.

In subtle tradition, too, the rock-ribbed Ten Commandments on the outside are directly supporting, inside, the Holy Ark.

First Full-Time Active-Duty Chaplain

Another new Army tradition is being forged with the arrival three years ago of Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marc A. Abramovitz, West Point's first full-time, active-duty, uniformed chaplain, endorsed by the JWB Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy. West Point's previous policy was to employ civilian rabbis, ministers and priests.

The Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy of JWB, as the endorsing agency of Jewish chaplains, stands in a unique civilian posture with its direct access to the Department of Defense. The JWB-CJC tradition of religious harmony among Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism is a model that can be emulated.

Religion for Cadets Very Important

There are 48 Jewish cadets at West Point—41 men and seven women. They all look to the Jewish chaplain to sustain their Jewishness during their military careers at West Point.

Cadet Marc Moyer, 23, of Millersville, Pa., class of '86, is the cadet in charge of the Jewish chapel, working with Chaplain Abramovitz on religious and social services.

Aim: "I wanted to come here since I was a kid. West Point is a whole world of its own. I did more things here in my first year than I had done in my whole life up to that time. I jumped out of an airplane; scuba-dived all over Europe; trained in Europe, a fantastic experience; been to Israel on vacation; hope to go again this year on 'space available' Air Force aircraft."

Future: Moyer's dad is the mayor of Millersville. The son sees his as a military career. "But if I want to shift careers, there are lots of head-hunters out there. West Pointers are disciplined and are sought after in the corporate world."

Jewish Identity: "Here at West Point, religion is a very important part of cadet life. Religious activity is encouraged because it provides a moral foundation."

Jewish Tradition at The Point

Jewish tradition at The Point goes back to its very origins: In 1802 half the graduating class was Jewish. There were only two seniors. They were commissioned second lieutenants in the Army. One was Simon Levy, who had been appointed for his good conduct in the Battle of Maume Rapids, August 29, 1794. The whole corps at the Academy numbered 10.

Brandy and Sherri Langston are the pretty daughters of Richard and Judith Langston. Both are cadets, Brandy a junior in the class of '87, Sherri a plebe-freshman in the class of '89. Their father is a corrections officer. Both young women are outgoing despite their cadet discipline. Modestly, they both expect to "do well" in their rigorous studies.

"Since we were both young, we wanted to come here; I was motivated by my sister," said Sherri. Women are "pretty much equal" at West Point, they agree. They found "no unseemly hazing" at all, and "no harassment" of women. We're not women libbers," they said evenly.

Homesickness is a problem; and for the boys—girls are the problem. There are few of them around.

Cadet Moyer says: "Too many Jewish cadets are dating out of the faith. Inter-marriage is a problem here as in civilian life. If we don't stop, we'll do to ourselves over a long period what Hitler tried to do in 12 years. That's my message to my Jewish generation."

On the lighter side, the 28-cadet Jewish choir accepts 10 assignments each year to various synagogues, temples and organizations. "People are surprised to find Jews at West Point," Moyer smiled. "The whole purpose of the choir trips is to show our presence. We want to encourage kids to come to West Point."

Candidates for West Point come through Congressional nomination (75%), the remainder through Department of the Army, competing for service-connected cadetships. Interested high school students, by their junior year, should write to Director of Admissions, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996-1797, or phone (914) 938-4041 for details.

Each cadet receives a full four-year U.S. Government scholarship which covers tuition, room, board, medical and dental expenses, plus an annual salary of \$6,500 to cover uniforms, books and incidentals. Total value, about \$181,000 in 1985 terms.

Chaplain Abramovitz, 40, the West Point "first," is Orthodox, a graduate of Yeshiva University (YU '67) and Haim Berlin Yeshiva, as well as the Ferkauf Graduate School at YU. His wife Cheryl is an artist under the professional name of C. Braina. They have three children, Dena, 13, and twin boys David and Daniel, 10.

Wives and families, especially wives, are a great help to Jewish chaplains. They are often teachers, cooks of great Jewish meals, and often surrogate mothers and aunts to homesick cadets. At West Point they have a very talented and warm Cheryl Abramovitz.

More Funds Needed for Chapel

Herbert M. Ames is president of the West Point Jewish Chapel Fund. Private funds were needed to build the \$5.6 million chapel. Most of it has been raised by Ames, his friends and benefactors. Somewhat over a million dollars more needs to be raised. Meanwhile the West Point Cadet Jewish Chapel stands like a granite "rock of ages".

Lt. Gen. Willard W. Scott, Jr., present Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, says: "Religious freedom and cultural pluralism are two of the chief foundation stones of our American democracy. They have been won for us by the courage and dedication of people who came before us and risked their lives."

'Not an Easy Task But a Challenging One'

"This post has been a challenge to me," Chaplain Abramovitz declared. "Not an easy task but a challenging one. Before I was assigned as the first active-duty military chaplain, West Point employed part-time civilian chaplains. They were good, but not the same as full-duty chaplains to the cadets."

Yet, Chaplain Abramovitz pointed out, the late beloved Rabbi Avraham Soltes was one of the main moving forces in the drive to build the Jewish Cadet Chapel at West Point, "inspiring those who worked with him with his tireless zeal and efforts." His unexpected death on May 23, 1983, cast a pall over West Point where he had served long and dutifully as civilian chaplain. He lies buried in West Point, not far from his special project, the Cadet Jewish Chapel. Burial at West Point is a rare tribute accorded civilian benefactors.

An active-duty chaplain may be assigned to a body of soldiers including all religious faiths. Chaplain Abramovitz has now been assigned as Chaplain to the 3rd Regiment, in addition to his specific Jewish faith-group duties.

"The Jewish soldier is very vulnerable, always the greater minority," he asserted. "We Jews are struggling to keep our heads above water religiously. If we don't show them their way, who will?"

"The Jewish military chaplain gives Jews and Judaism a positive image. Remember, many Jewish cadets and soldiers in the Army might have only memories of Jewish religious life."

Helping to fill the breach is the JWB Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy whose chairman is Rabbi Barry H. Greene, of Short Hills, N.J. Rabbi David Lapp is director and Rabbi Nathan Landman is deputy director. Through the Women's Organizations' Services, JWB provides Jewish gifts at Hanukkah, Passover specialties, and religious articles throughout the year.

Next: The Jewish Midshipmen at Annapolis