



ISRAEL REQUESTS ACCESS TO MORE UN WAR CRIMES COMMISSION FILES

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 10 (JTA) -- Israel formally requested the United Nations Thursday for access to two more files on alleged Nazi war criminals in the UN archives. Israeli diplomats and UN officials said: One of them is on Alois Brunner, a major Nazi war criminal who has been living in Syria since World War II under the protection of the Syrian government.

A spokesperson for the Israeli Mission to the UN told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the second file was indexed under the surname Klenner and contained his Nazi Party membership card and identification number.

The spokesperson said there is good reason to assume that the file is on Hermann Klenner, Vice Chairman of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva and head of the East German delegation. Israel has accused him in the past of having been a Nazi.

'Other Interesting Names' In Archives

The files are apparently not related to the file on former UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim which Israeli representatives examined at the archives Wednesday. Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Binyamin Netanyahu, inspected the Waldheim file and dispatched a copy to his government in Jerusalem.

He said on the CBS-TV Morning News Thursday that "we came across other interesting names" in the archives index and noted that one was Brunner. He said he will ask the UN for access to the files and hopes it will be granted as speedily as was access to the Waldheim file. A UN official said the UN legal department is studying the Israeli request but did not say when a reply would be given.

Netanyahu said that in addition to the Waldheim file, Israel will seek more documents relating to Waldheim's wartime activities from the government of Yugoslavia. Waldheim has been accused of a role in atrocities in Yugoslavia when he served there as an officer with the German General Staff during World War II.

REMAINING JEWS IN ETHIOPIA SAID TO HAVE LITTLE CHANCE OF LEAVING FOR ISRAEL

LONDON, April 10 (JTA) -- David Korn, a former ranking U.S. diplomatic official in Ethiopia, believes the estimated 8-10,000 Jews remaining in that country have little prospects of leaving for Israel. "The days of mass Jewish emigration (from Ethiopia) are over," Korn told the annual plenary meeting of the International Council of B'nai B'rith (ICBB) here.

He suggested that Jewish organizations "now focus on helping those (Jews) who remain in Ethiopia" and are in dire need of food, clothing and medicine. About 10,000 Ethiopian Jews arrived in Israel between November, 1984 and January, 1985 in a secret airlift called "Operation Moses" which flew them from Sudan to Israel via Europe.

The airlift was abruptly suspended by the Sudanese government after the secret was leaked.

B'nai B'rith International also took action on another issue during its three-day meeting. A resolution adopted Wednesday called on the Polish government to honor its commitment under a 1972 UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) treaty to retain the unique Jewish identification with Auschwitz, the most notorious of Nazi death camps, where millions of Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.

Seek Halt To Convent Construction

The Warsaw government was asked specifically to halt construction of a Carmelite convent on the site of the death camp. The Carmelites are a Catholic order of nuns.

In making its request, the ICBB cited documents showing that Poland inspired the United Nations treaty establishing Auschwitz as a memorial site. It charged that the Polish government is now violating its obligation by permitting the Carmelites to take over buildings at Auschwitz.

"We ask the Polish government to ensure that the essential nature of the Auschwitz memorial site remain unchanged as part of the heritage of mankind ... and be protected and conserved for future generations," the resolution said.

Background Report

ROME JEWRY PREPARES FOR FIRST PAPAL VISIT TO A JEWISH HOUSE OF WORSHIP

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, April 10 (JTA) -- Rome's Jewish community, the oldest diaspora community in Europe, is agog this week with preparations for one of the major events of its 2,000 year history -- the visit by Pope John Paul II this Sunday to the main synagogue near the banks of the Tiber.

The Polish-born Pontiff will be the first Pope ever to set foot into a Jewish house of worship. Apart from being an historic precedent, the visit will have tremendous symbolic implications and may prove to be a giant step in the long, arduous, and sometimes painful journey toward Jewish-Catholic reconciliation, begun at Vatican Council II 20 years ago.

Rome's 18,000 Jews, while elated, also have misgivings and a strong sense of skepticism about what the Papal visit will accomplish. Those feelings derive from historical memories of religious and personal humiliations under Papal rule, from theological anti-Semitism over the centuries and from their strong emotional ties to the State of Israel which the Vatican still declines to recognize.

Huge Crowds Expected

Nevertheless, preparations for the visit were at fever pitch this week. The main synagogue has become like the backstage of a theater rehearsing for a premier performance. There are a dozen directors, organized into a dozen ad hoc committees, each assigned a special task--press relations, ceremonials, invitations, programs and even traffic direction.

The visit is taking place midway between Easter and Passover. It is expected to draw huge throngs and create tremendous traffic jams. The synagogue is located in the heart of Rome, bounded by the Tiber on one side and the old ghetto and the Piazza Venezia on the other.

The media is already arriving. Photographers mingling with curious passersby on the Lungotevere outside the synagogue were busy all week immortalizing what is in fact immortal: the temple's plaques commemorating the martyrdom of the 8,000 Italian Jews -- more than 2,000 from Rome -- murdered by the Nazis during World War II; and the memorial plaque for two-year-old Stefano Tache, killed in a terrorist machinegun and grenade attack on worshippers in October, 1982, 40 years after the Holocaust.

Called A Religious 'Meeting'

The program for the visit has already been established in close cooperation between Vatican officials, Rome's Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff and other leaders of the Jewish community. It is aimed at conveying a spiritual message while adhering to the strict limits required by mutual respect between the separate religious identities involved.

There will be a religious "meeting", not a regular "service." This will allow women to be seated with men which is normally not the case in a synagogue run according to Orthodox tradition as practiced in Rome.

When the Pope enters the synagogue he will be greeted by a chorus chanting Psalm 150, accompanied by the temple's organ -- an ancient tradition. Verses from Genesis 15, 1-7 will then be read in Hebrew and Italian, followed by verses from Micah 4,1-5.

Rabbi Toaff will speak first, then the Pope. After his speech, Toaff will read Psalm 124, following which the chorus will chant "Ani Ma'amin," Maimonides' First Article of Faith -- "I believe in the coming of the Messiah and even though he delay, I will await him until his coming."

This devotion has a special poignancy in that it was chanted by Jews at Auschwitz, Treblinka and Dachau as they were led to the gas chambers.

Pope, Rabbi In 'Private' Conversation

A moment of silence will follow. The chorus will chant Psalm 16. The Pope, accompanied by a small group of Christians and Jews and representatives of the media, will walk upstairs to the rabbi's study where John Paul II and Rabbi Toaff will hold a "private" conversation that will be seen and heard around the world.

Toaff has hailed the Pope's upcoming visit as the first truly historical event in Catholic-Jewish relations since Vatican Council II. It will engender, he said, a new sense of "respect, equality and esteem towards the people from which Christianity draws its origins."

Unhappy Memories

But despite Toaff's assurances, there are some strong impediments to Roman Jewry's unqualified trust in the positive import of John Paul's historical gesture. There are unhappy memories of the past.

About 80 percent of Rome's Jews are shop and boutique owners, most of them descendants of humble rag peddlers forced to observe dusk-to-dawn curfews imposed on the ghetto by Papal decree until 1870. Even later they were subjected

to forced sermons in "ghetto churches" and occasional forced conversion of their children. Perhaps the only Roman Jews who do not have an ingrained resentment against the "pre-conciliar church" are refugees from Libya, expelled by Muammar Qaddafi in 1967.

The Vatican's failure to recognize Israel is another issue Jews find difficult to reconcile. A young Sephardic woman of Egyptian origin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "The Pope in our synagogue. When I heard, I was very happy. I thought, how beautiful. Now all the priests in the world will take the Pope as an example and convey a new respect for the Jewish faith and people to their congregations. Anti-Semitic feelings will die out.

"But then my friends made me reflect. The Vatican still doesn't recognize Israel. To me, Israel is like a mother. How can the Pope come into my home and not recognize my mother? He makes me feel offended for her."

Unresolved Issues

There are also unresolved issues on the religious level. Although John Paul II has received more Jews in audience than any of his predecessors and has made numerous, moving references to the Holocaust, his theology of the Old Testament as expressed by homilies and Vatican documents not directly related to Christian-Jewish relations contain frequent lapses into pre-conciliar linguistic concepts of Judaism that are not in harmony with the principles laid down by "Nostra Aetate" and the two subsequent documents on Christian-Jewish relations promulgated by the Holy See's Commission for Relations With Jews/Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.

This evaluation has often been expressed by Jewish leaders and experts in interreligious relations and frequent requests have been made that more sensitivity be shown for the Jewish religious conscience.

Contradictions In Speeches

Many Jewish leaders feel that John Paul's doubtlessly sincere message of warmth toward the Jewish people occasionally comes through distorted, or, at best, harnessed to his own -- or his advisors' -- theological conditioning, and the Vatican failure to give diplomatic recognition to Israel.

It is an open secret that the Pope consults with experts in writing his speeches -- which may explain apparent contradictions between one speech and another. Expectations therefore are running high that the Pope's address to the Jewish community Sunday will be guided by concepts developed by the Vatican's Commission on Religious Relations with the Jews and will compensate for recent lapses.

Still another issue is the strong Jewish feelings against the construction of a Carmelite convent at the Auschwitz death camp site. Toaff sent a letter to the Pope several weeks ago, signed also by the Chief Rabbis of Britain, France, Strasbourg, Zurich and Rumania noting that since the rabbis of Europe "consider this initiative inadequate to sanctify a territory that is desecrated and cursed by the murder of four million martyrs, more than half of them Jews," no one faith should construct anything there. So far there has been no response from the Vatican.

VATICAN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL URGED

WASHINGTON, April 10 (JTA) -- A bipartisan group of 23 members of the House has asked Pope John Paul II to announce Vatican recognition of Israel when he visits Rome's main synagogue on Sunday.

"As members of the United States Congress of various faiths we commend your planned visit to Rome's main synagogue," the Congressmen said in a letter to the Pope initiated by Rep. Charles Schumer (D. N.Y.). "It is another thoughtful step in improving relations between Jews and Catholics."

The Congressmen expressed the hope that the Pope "will use the opportunity of the synagogue visit to initiate the necessary steps toward official Vatican recognition of the State of Israel."

MODAI, SHAMIR TO SWITCH PORTFOLIOS IN FORMULA TO SAVE UNITY COALITION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) -- Labor and Likud apparently have agreed on a face-saving formula to preserve their unity coalition government which appeared on the brink of collapse after Premier Shimon Peres announced Tuesday night that he intends to dismiss Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, a Likud Liberal.

Peres is reported amenable to the plan which was being debated by the Likud leadership Thursday night. It calls for Modai and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir to switch portfolios. Shamir would become Finance Minister, satisfying Peres' stated determination to remove Modai from the Treasury.

Modai would take over the Foreign Ministry, but only until the rotation of power next October 13 when Peres is required by the coalition agreement to switch jobs with Shamir. When the latter becomes Prime Minister, Modai would return to the Treasury.

Some Opposition To Plan

There was some heated opposition to the plan in Likud circles, notably from Minister of Housing David Levy who aspires to Shamir's position as leader of the Herut faction of Likud. But Shamir made it clear that he supports the compromise and a majority of the Likud ministers are expected to agree. The Cabinet reshuffle would take place this Sunday, the day Peres said he would fire Modai.

His anger at Modai was kindled by interviews with the Finance Minister published last weekend which quoted Modai as saying Peres was a "flighty" Premier who knew little about economics and deserved no credit for the successes so far of the government's economic austerity program. Peres called those remarks a deliberate, premeditated attack on the government and declared he would remove Modai.

Likud Leaders Relieved

If he did, he would be acting in violation of the coalition agreement that the Prime Minister of one party cannot dismiss a minister of the other. Likud responded to Peres with an outpouring of support for Modai saying that if he went the entire Likud ministerial delegation would go with him.

But most observers believe the Likud leadership was relieved when Modai announced Wednes-

day that he would resign for "the good of the nation" if the Premier so desires. His offer to quit opened the way for Labor and Likud to seek a formula to preserve the government.

If it were to topple because of a feud between the Premier and the Finance Minister, Peres would be open to the charge that he deliberately precipitated a coalition crisis in order to forestall the rotation of power due in six months. Peres has stated repeatedly that he intends to implement the rotation.

Government Facing Non Confidence Motion

At the Labor Party convention, now in its final day in Tel Aviv, the Premier came under strong pressure to abrogate the coalition agreement. Former Labor MK Michael Bar-Zohar introduced a motion to that effect but it was opposed by Peres and most of the Party leadership.

The government meanwhile is facing a non-confidence motion in the Knesset introduced by the rightwing opposition Tehiya Party. It is seeking to bring down the government because of Peres' statement, in his opening speech at the Labor Party convention Tuesday night that he regards the Palestinians as a nation.

The motion is considered to have little chance. Peres' aides have dismissed it, noting that Israel recognized the Palestinians' peoplehood in the Camp David accords, signed by Premier Menachem Begin in 1978, which spoke of the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

PROPOSAL SEEKS TO BAN BRITISH UNION ACTORS FROM PERFORMING IN ISRAEL

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA) -- Actress Vanessa Redgrave is proposing a resolution before the Council of Actors Equity in London which seeks to ban British members of the Equity from performing in Israel. The Council is expected to vote on the resolution, submitted by 20 Equity members and signed by 36 others, at its annual meeting in London Sunday.

The proposed resolution states: "We demand the Council (of Equity) issue standing instruction to all Equity members not to perform in Israel (occupied Palestine) and that it obtain agreements from the BBC and ITV banning the sale of all recorded material involving Equity members for broadcast and exhibition in the State of Israel". ITV is Britain's independent television network.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the associate dean of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, wrote to Patty Duke, president of the Screen Actor's Guild, urging that the Guild make a public statement on the Redgrave proposal. According to SAG officials, Duke was unavailable for comment since she was on location involved with a film production.

Mark Locher, a spokesperson for SAG in Los Angeles, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Thursday that the board of SAG has not taken any action on the proposal before the London Council, and that to the best of his knowledge it did not appear SAG would make any public comment on the proposal before the scheduled vote on Sunday.

SAG has a membership of 60,000 persons representing actors and actresses involved in film, prime-time television and commercials. It does not have any formal relationship with the London Council.

ISRAEL WARNS SYRIA ON ANY ATTEMPT TO RECAPTURE THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) -- Two Cabinet Ministers warned Syria not to undertake any "adventures" toward recapturing the Golan Heights nor to assume that its hope to achieve strategic parity with Israel could ever lead to Israel's military defeat.

At the same time, however, Deputy Premier and Minister of Housing and Construction David Levy invited both Syria and King Hussein of Jordan to sit down with Israel and rationally talk about peace.

Levy, who was addressing the International Israel Bonds 35th anniversary conference here, rejected an international conference to deal with peace between Israel and its two Arab neighbors. He said it was inconceivable that the parties to the dispute, "less than one hour away from each other by travel," should have to seek some city in distant places in which to hold an international conference.

Rabin Cites Government Priorities

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the 400 delegates, who met from March 29 to April 6, that Syria could not possibly win any military victories against Israel but warned that "all future wars will be more painful and costly than in the past because of the sophistication, fire-power, and quantity of armor."

Reviewing Israel's relations with Arab states, Rabin listed three priorities of the national unity government: economic recovery, terminating "the long, messy, military involvement" in Lebanon, and continuing the peace process.

At another session of the conference, Premier Shimon Peres credited the people of Israel with willingly accepting a 30 percent cut in real wages for the improvements in the nation's economy. Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai noted that the people of Israel had made great sacrifices to defeat inflation. He said that Israelis count on world Jewry, through the Bond campaign, to "make a maximum effort in 1986 in behalf of our economy. We have confidence that you will do so."

Israeli Workers Praised

Dealing with the same issue, President Chaim Herzog observed that all Israeli workers had accepted a voluntary reduction in wages of 25 to 30 percent in order to achieve economic recovery. "No other country in the world had done anything like this and we are justifiably proud of our success," he declared.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir noted that the attachment of the Jewish people to Israel is without precedent among all other nations of the world. He recalled "the pioneers, the refugees and Holocaust survivors" who were the majority of Israel's citizens back in 1951 when Bonds was founded. Development since that time, he said, has been the fruit of a successful partnership between the people of Israel and diaspora Jewry.

Gad Yaacobi, Minister of Economy and Planning, told the conference that the renewal of economic growth is essential to Israel's successful future. "Israel," he said, "was the only country in the world to have successfully fought inflation without enforcement or compulsion but by voluntary economic and social cooperation between the

government, the labor federation (Histadrut), and the employers."

Significant Role Of Israel Bonds

The exigencies of defense and debt repayment, he said, leave a mere eight percent of the national budget for development. This eight percent must be substantially expanded and Israel Bonds must play a significant role in the enlargement of this sum, Yaacobi said.

One of the major themes of the conference was the centennial of David Ben Gurion, Israel's first Premier and a principal founder of the Bond Organization in 1951, which will be observed this year.

David Hermelin, international campaign chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, reported that Israel Bond cash sales for 1986 had reached \$122 million, a 22 percent increase over the same period in 1985. After his report, the conference delegates representing 86 communities from 16 countries, including the United States, Canada, Europe and Latin America, announced new purchases totalling \$36,512,000.

THE FUTURE OF JEWISH LIFE IS DISCUSSED AT THE JWB CONVENTION

TORONTO, April 10 (JTA) -- "The kind of future of the Jewish family we have will determine whether our grandchildren will be Jewish," Rabbi Reuven Kimelman, a Brandeis University professor, told North American and world Jewish communal leaders at the opening plenary of the 1986 JWB Biennial Thursday at the Sheraton Convention Centre here.

Almost 1,000 Jewish communal leaders from throughout the United States and Canada and representatives from Israel, Europe and South America are attending the five-day convention.

"As the family goes, so goes Judaism," Kimelman told the delegates. "There is no Jewish institution more brittle than the family. The family is the barometer of private Jewish health. But there can be no private health without public health."

"The implicit message of modernity was that Judaism should become a private thing. In public, Jews were expected to emulate the dominant culture. The result was that Jews imposed upon themselves a dichotomy between the private and public sectors."

As Jews went more public "they became visibly less Jewish", Kimelman said. "Since social and economic achievement was gained in the public arena, success was correlated with a lack of visible Jewishness. As we played out more and more of our lives in the public arena we became less and less able to transmit our Jewishness to the next generation."

The result, he said, "was that as a Jewish community became socially and economically integrated it disintegrated Jewishly." Kimelman warned, "If this process were to continue here our coffins would be sealed by the time all of America's Jews have four American-born grandparents."

The Holocaust and the State of Israel have "created a post-modern Judaism," he said. "The Holocaust taught Jews that their visibility does not increase their vulnerability. On the contrary, the lack of Jewish visibility in positions of power, in a pluralistic culture, is what renders them vulnerable."