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**Cabinet Crisis Resolved:
FINANCE MINISTER MODAI AND JUSTICE
MINISTER NISSIM TO SWITCH PORTFOLIOS**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA) -- The Cabinet approved an exchange of portfolios Sunday night that preserves the Labor-Likud unity coalition government and the prestige of Premier Shimon Peres. The climactic session lasted two minutes.

The week-long crisis which threatened to bring down the 19-month-old government was resolved by having Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai switch jobs with Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, effective Wednesday when the Knesset meets to approve the move.

Modai and Nissim are both Likud Liberals and each admits freely that he has neither experience nor expertise in the other's job. But the unlikely Cabinet shuffle was the only way to satisfy Peres who announced last Tuesday that he intended to fire Modai. Had he done so, in violation of the coalition agreement, Likud would have had no choice but to leave the government. Peres, for his part, could not and would not back away from his insistence that Modai leave the Treasury.

A Face-Saving Compromise

Sunday was the deadline. The Cabinet, which usually convenes in the morning, postponed its session until late evening to allow the Likud leadership to hammer out a face-saving compromise. An earlier formula which would have had Modai switch portfolios with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was rejected by Peres because Modai would have returned to the Treasury when Shamir becomes Prime Minister after the rotation of power next October 13.

The rotation of power, only six months away, spurred Likud to pressure Modai and Nissim to accept the exchange which neither of them likes. Nissim, by his own testimony never in his "wildest dreams" expected to take over responsibility for Israel's shaky economy.

He was prevailed upon to accept it by two young Likud MKs, Ehud Olmert and Dan Meridor, who argued the case for preserving the coalition. Even so, he did not agree before consulting his wife, Ruth. Modai, too, was reluctant to give up the Treasury where he achieved considerable success. His economic austerity program is credited with reducing the rate of inflation to single digits for the first time in years.

But Peres wanted him out because of remarks published in newspaper interviews last weekend which the Premier construed as deliberate attacks on government policy by Modai.

**GOLDSTEIN BROTHERS ARRESTED IN
MOSCOW JUST DAYS BEFORE THEY WERE
SCHEDULED TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL**

NEW YORK, April 14 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish refuseniks Isai and Grigory Goldstein were arrested in Moscow Monday, just days before the two Tbilisi physicists were scheduled to emigrate to Israel, according to the Student Struggle for

Soviet Jewry (SSSJ). The Goldstein brothers have been refuseniks since 1971.

The SSSJ reported that the Goldsteins were arrested at a farewell gathering in the Soviet capital that was hosted by fellow emigration activists. Authorities accused the pair of not having permission to be in Moscow. It was not clear whether formal charges would be issued against the Goldsteins and what, if any, effect the arrest would have on their anticipated emigration to Israel.

The Goldsteins are among the founders of the present-day repatriation movement among Soviet Jews. Over the years they have been periodically harassed and questioned by the KGB. Grigory, the older of the two brothers, was arrested for "parasitism" in 1978 and sentenced to one year in a labor camp.

Their exit visas had been secured through the intervention last February of Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.). Kennedy, on a visit to the Soviet Union, submitted a list to officials there of 19 Jews in five families who were seeking the right to emigrate. The Goldstein brothers, together with Isai's family, which includes his wife Elizaveta, and their son Avi, his mother-in-law and their mother, were on the list.

**NEW DOCUMENT LOCATED ON WALDHEIM'S
WAR-TIME ACTIVITIES IN GREECE**

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 14 (JTA) -- Austrian Presidential candidate Kurt Waldheim was the signator of a secret war-time intelligence report on partisan activity in Greece which was later used by United States prosecutors at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, the World Jewish Congress disclosed Monday.

The document, located at the National Archives in Washington, is one of a series of 11 captured reports issued at the headquarters of the high command of Heeresgruppe E, the command in which Waldheim served as a senior intelligence officer with the rank of Ober-Leutnant, or First Lieutenant.

The Waldheim document, dated August 22, 1944 and stamped "secret," is the report of the intelligence section of the high command of Army Group E. It states: "Several communists were shot during a raid in Athens." It also reports on "band activity" -- the German's expression for partisan operations -- south of Iraklion, on the Island of Crete.

The WJC asserted in releasing the document, part of Nuremberg document NOKW-935, that it provides "extraordinary ... corroboration" of conclusions reached last month by WJC researchers and in 1947 by the Yugoslav war crimes commission in a decision declaring Waldheim to be a "fugitive Nazi war criminal."

Waldheim has denied that he participated in activities against Yugoslav partisans and said he had no knowledge of the deportation of thousands of Jews from Salonika as alleged by the WJC. The Yugoslav state commission said in 1947 that Waldheim "drafted proposals for orders relating to

reprisal measures" carried out later in 1944 in Yugoslavia as the Germans retreated. Last week, the United Nations gave Israel and Austria a copy of the Waldheim file from the UN archives of the War Crimes Commission. No details of the file were released because access was granted under terms of strictest confidentiality. Israel's UN Ambassador, Binyamin Netanyahu, said after reviewing the file that there appears to be a need for further investigation of Waldheim's alleged war-time activities.

Waldheim is reported to have received a copy of the UN war crimes file on him by Austrian President Rudolph Kirchschlaeger. A spokesperson for Waldheim said over the weekend that Waldheim was in the process of drafting a detailed response to the UN file and that his comments would soon be given to Kirchschlaeger.

Meanwhile, the president of the Jewish community in the Greek Island of Rhodes, Maurice Soriano, said in an interview on Israel Radio that he has positively identified Waldheim as one of three German officers who confiscated money, gold and jewelry from the Island's Jewish community during World War II. Waldheim has denied ever being in Rhodes.

In a related development, Martin Mendelsohn, legal counsel of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, arrived Sunday in Yugoslavia to review Belgrade's files on Waldheim. The government in Belgrade has been reluctant to provide access to the Waldheim documents, but Mendelsohn said he had been "assured" that he will be able to view the documents.

DIFFERING VIEWS OF SANDINISTAS' ATTITUDE TOWARD JEWS AND ISRAEL

By David Friedman and Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, April 14 (JTA) -- Seven Jews who fled Nicaragua when the Sandinistas came to power maintained Monday that the Sandinista regime is not only anti-Israel, but anti-Semitic.

But a leading Jewish critic of President Reagan's policy of opposition to the Sandinista government, Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, continued to deny both charges.

"Unfortunately, many individuals who oppose the President's policy in Central America, have repeatedly attempted to distort the fact of Sandinista state-induced anti-Semitism," Fred Luft, former secretary of the Nicaraguan Jewish community, said at a Capitol Hill press conference.

He singled out Brickner as did others at the press conference sponsored by the National Jewish Coalition, which has been gathering Jewish support for Reagan's proposal to provide \$100 million to the anti-Sandinista Contras.

Those who deny Sandinista anti-Semitism "have chosen to take the word of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who understandably denies allegation of anti-Semitism rather than the word of Jews who actually lived in Nicaragua and were forced to flee," Chris Gersten, the Coalition's executive director, said.

About the same time as the press conference was being held, Brickner was taking part in a rally at the Capitol by "Quest for Peace," a coalition of religious groups opposed to aid for the Contras.

The Jews of Nicaragua "didn't leave because they were persecuted as Jews. They fled Nicaragua because they were supporters of (ousted

President Anastasio Somoza," Brickner told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency following the rally. He and several Christian leaders had led some 100 people in a symbolic presentation of medical supplies that "New Quest" was preparing to send to Nicaragua in order to match any aid approved by Congress for the Contras.

The Nicaraguan Jews denied that they had been supporters of the Somoza regime. "I have never had anything to do with any government," Sarita Kellerman, a native-born Nicaraguan, said. "I was dedicated to my business and to my children."

Luft said only two or three members of the Jewish "congregation" are still in Nicaragua. "The rest of our small community (about 50 families) left the country because of fears for our personal safety," he said.

"This fear was stimulated by the fire bombing of our synagogue by the Sandinistas while we were worshipping inside, by repeated telephone threats and graffiti on the walls of our businesses, warning us that after their take over we will suffer at their hands the 'Sandinista Justice'," Luft said. The graffiti said "Zionism, Judaism and Somozism are all the same thing."

Asked about the firebombing, Brickner snapped, "I don't want to argue that. It's a dumb, stupid argument because nobody really knows what happened. I suggest to you that what happened is different than what they report." At the same time, however, Brickner stressed that neither Reagan nor any of the supporters of aid for the Contras, have evidence "of any ongoing anti-Semitism expressed by the present government of Nicaragua to Jews or against Jews from 1979 to 1986."

At the Coalition's press conference, Oscar Kellerman said he fled after the 1979 Sandinista takeover when he was warned as a U.S. citizen by the U.S. Embassy that it would not be able to protect him. He said he was told he was in especial danger because of his "faith."

Sarita Kellerman said she returned later but was ostracized and was constantly harassed and threatened. She said there was graffiti on her home, business and the synagogue saying, "what Hitler started we will finish."

Oscar Kellerman said he was in the synagogue when it was firebombed, setting the door aflame. When he and others tried to get outside they were met by seven or eight masked men who warned them to go back inside or be shot. They eventually were able to get the fire out, Kellerman said. The Jews also stressed the closeness of the Sandinistas with the Palestine Liberation Organization, a theme that has been stressed repeatedly in the Administration's campaign for Contra aid.

Brickner, however, was insistent that the Sandinistas are neither anti-Semitic nor hostile to Israel, in spite of their ties with the PLO, stressing instead Nicaragua's "concern" over alleged Israeli aid to the Contras. Israel has denied supplying the Contras with aid. To bolster his argument, Brickner drew out a letter he received this month from Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

"We are neither anti-Semitic nor anti-Israel," the Sandinista leader declared in the letter. "We firmly believe that Israel has a right to exist just as we believe that Palestinians deserve a homeland."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA
A BRAZILIAN RABBI SPEAKS OUT
 By Rochelle Sidel

TORONTO, April 14 (JTA) -- "The highest priority for Jews must be to reach out to Jews of different beliefs," Rabbi Henry Sobel of Sao Paulo, Brazil, told delegates at the World Union for Progressive Judaism International Conference in Toronto last week.

Calling for a dialogue with the "moderate Orthodox," Sobel admitted there are "non-negotiable" differences. "But that should not prevent us from looking for areas of cooperation and trust," he said. "Support of Israel is one example. The struggle for Soviet Jewry is another."

"Our position as Progressive Jews must strike a good balance, manifesting strong opposition to the Orthodox establishment's use of political power to suppress Progressive Judaism, while at the same time calling for dialogue with the Orthodox moderates," Sobel said. "There is a need for an ongoing dialogue between Liberal and Orthodox Jews on every level, not only among rabbis and lay leaders, but especially among amcha, the people," he said.

The Reform Movement In Israel

With regard to the Reform movement in Israel, Sobel said, "We must continue our unrelenting struggle for the recognition of Progressive Judaism." Pointing out that a December 1985 poll showed that 66.8 percent of Israelis interviewed felt that the Reform and Conservative movements should be recognized and should receive the same rights now held by the Orthodox, he asked:

"If we have popular support in a democratic society, why must we subject ourselves to Orthodox domination?" He suggested that encouraging aliya of non-Orthodox Jews would be an important step in "legitimizing" the Reform movement in Israel.

Sobel's Sao Paulo synagogue, Congregacao Israelite Paulista, has a membership of 2,000 families and is the largest in Latin America. Some 250,000 Jews live in Brazil today, 90,000 in Sao Paulo and 35,000 in Rio. Sao Paulo, the fifth largest city in the world, is the seat of the Confederacao Israelite do Brasil, the umbrella organization of the Jewish community (affiliated with the World Jewish Congress).

Liberal Jews In Leadership Role

Although the Jewish community is only a small fraction of Brazil's population of 130 million, 95 percent of whom are Catholic, Sobel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Liberal Jewish leadership plays an important role in the country. The Jewish community is part of the small economic and social elite in Brazil, the five percent of the population that owns most of the big business and land.

In the 1970's the Liberal Jewish movement made an alliance on national social action concerns with the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, Sobel said. Describing Brazil's Roman Catholic Bishops as the most liberal in the world, Sobel said they consider it their mission to build a just society in Brazil. (Brazil has the largest Catholic population in the world, with one-tenth of the world's bishops.)

The Roman Catholic Church in Latin America has been increasingly assuming a role in pointing

out injustices in society, not unlike the ancient Hebrew prophets," he told the JTA.

The Jewish-Catholic Commission In Brazil

Under the sponsorship of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, Sobel coordinates a National Commission of Jews and Catholics, comprised of four Liberal rabbis, one Liberal lay leader, one Bishop, three Catholic spokesmen for social reform, and one Catholic specialist on Catholic-Jewish relations. Meeting on a monthly basis, the group takes positions on issues of national and international concern. The Confederacao Israelite do Brasil is consulted on an informal basis.

The Catholic-Jewish group this month published a 150-page guidebook entitled "Israel: People, Land and Faith," which will be distributed in all of the country's Catholic schools. Sobel said that most Catholic children attend parochial schools, and that the six Jewish schools in Sao Paulo and two in Rio serve most of the Jewish students in the country. At least a third of Brazil's population is at a bare subsistence level, and has been left out of the country's "development."

In November 1985, Sao Paulo was the site of the first Pan-American Conference on Catholic-Jewish Relations. Sobel said that the Orthodox Jewish community tried to "sabotage" the conference, because Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris and a former Jew, was keynote speaker.

The conference was, nevertheless, a success, Sobel said. One significant result was the marking of the 10th anniversary of the infamous United Nations "Zionism is racism" resolution with an official resolution signed by all of Brazil's bishops stating that "Zionism is not racism."

Anti-Semitism In Brazil

Asked about anti-Semitism in Brazil, Sobel said that "overt manifestations are only sporadic, and the few that occur are fed by a 'pragmatic' anti-Israel government policy." One reason for this policy is Brazil's mounting international debt of \$110 billion, and the country's need for Arab oil and petrodollars, Sobel said. But he emphasized that "our most urgent task in Latin America today is not to obliterate anti-Semitic trends, but to rediscover and redefine what it means to be a Jew."

Sobel's congregation was founded by German immigrants in 1936 and still follows the German Liberal traditions of separate seating for men and women, with an organ and mixed choir. Sobel has headed the congregation since his ordination from Hebrew Union College 17 year ago.

In a sense, Sobel's decision to live in Brazil is a return to his "roots." The son of Belgian Jews who fled the Nazis in 1939, Sobel was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1944. Portuguese could thus be considered his "native" tongue. But his family immigrated to the United States from Lisbon when he was yet too young to talk.

PARIS (JTA) -- The Stockholm City Council has decided to re-name a square in Stockholm in honor of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews from deportation to Nazi death camps during World War II.

WEST GERMAN OFFICIAL LIKENS MIDEAST TERROR WAVE TO 'SEEDS' OF THE HOLOCAUST

NEW YORK, April 14 (JTA) -- An official of West Germany's opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) likened the current wave of terrorism emanating from the Middle East to the "same nationalistic seed that saw anti-Semitism kindle the flames of the Holocaust."

In a speech to the biennial convention of the Jewish Labor Committee here last week, Klaus Henning-Rosen, secretary of the SPD's Human Rights Commission, urged "an international summit in which the nations that are victims of terrorism draft a democratic strategy of defense. This must be high on the agenda and priorities list of every democratic country," he declared.

Henning-Rosen, who is not Jewish, observed that "A seed we thought was buried in the rubble of the Third Reich is being exploited in the Middle East and exploded on the streets, airports, restaurants, shopping arcades and homes. Those who supply the weapons that destroy innocent lives under the guise of some distortion of justice, traduce freedom, not enhance or guarantee it."

He also warned that anti-Semitism has not disappeared from Germany. It "is still very much alive," he told the delegates, noting that the Bundestag devoted a full-scale debate to the subject last February. In the past year alone, there were some 400 recorded cases of anti-Semitism, ranging from the desecration of Jewish cemeteries and synagogue daubings to the "use of foul language against Jews and the denial that the Holocaust was an historical reality."

The convention adopted a long series of resolutions supporting Israel and Soviet Jewry, attacking "Kahanism" and apartheid and urging President Reagan to recognize that attacks on abortion clinics are terrorist acts.

ROMAN CATHOLIC PASTOR PRAISED FOR PASSION PLAY PRODUCTION IN NEW JERSEY

NEW YORK, April 14 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee has praised a Roman Catholic pastor for initiating a "fundamental rethinking" of a 72-year-old American Passion Play to bring the drama into line with post-Vatican II teachings and insights.

Rabbi James Rudin and Judith Banki, respectively AJC's director and associate director of Interreligious Affairs -- both of whom attended and strongly criticized the Oberammergau Passion Play during its 1984 performances in Bavaria, West Germany -- expressed appreciation to the Rev. Kevin Ashe, pastor of the Holy Family Church in Union City, New Jersey, for having "opened the text of his church's Passion Play to critical review by scholars." The two AJC leaders viewed the play recently at Father Ashe's invitation.

Reporting to the AJC's Board of Governors meeting, Rudin said: "In 1984, the American Jewish Committee published a document calling attention to a variety of Passion Plays performed annually in the United States. Among others, the Holy Family Passion Play, known as America's Oberammergau, was criticized in that document for religious stereotyping and historical misrepresentation. Shortly after its publication, we received a call from Father Ashe expressing his

willingness to revise the drama in consultation with Roman Catholic specialists."

Script Was Reviewed

Banki, author of a number of analyses of the Oberammergau production, added: "Father Ashe was as good as his word. He submitted the script of the play to Catholic scholars such as Dr. Eugene Fisher, Professor Leonard Swidler, and Father John Kelley for their analysis and suggestions."

Fisher is executive secretary of the Secretariat on Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; Swidler is editor of the Journal of Ecumenical Studies, Temple University; Kelley is founder of the Rockaway Catholic-Jewish Council. All three have written about Passion Plays.

Banki said, "He also took notice of comments and analyses published by the American Jewish Committee and other Jewish sources. Father Ashe's approach to this sensitive area represents a model for other Passion Play producers."

Rudin and Banki strongly stressed that their concern with the Holy Family Passion Play and other such dramas was not to diminish or belittle the foundation of Christian faith, but to remove from Passion Plays the "vicious, anti-Jewish stereotypes" which have served to inflame anti-Semitism and to obscure the religious and historical realities of the time."

Substantial Progress Cited

The present production, they said, makes substantial progress toward correcting such stereotypes. For example, Banki specified, it places Jesus "within the Jewish community of his time, not in opposition to it."

Unlike most such dramas, it depicts Pontius Pilate "as a deceitful and manipulative ruler who would not hesitate to ruthlessly quell any popular uprising against Roman rule." Moreover, she added, it gives some "dimensionality" to the character of the high priest.

"We believe the positive elements in this play can be additionally strengthened," Rabbi Rudin said, "and we will be communicating our suggestions to Father Ashe at his request."

Importance of Consultation

Ashe also underscored the importance of the process of consultation. He paid tribute to James Maxwell, author of the present version; David McNitt, its director, and the cast of amateurs--many of them members of the parish and some who have been in the play for over twenty years -- for their willingness to keep adapting the script and action to incoming suggestions and insights.

"Rethinking and revising this drama has been an educational journey for all of us," Ashe said, "and I hope it has been the same for our audiences." He noted that the Passion Play is still not "written in stone" and is open to further revision.

He also expressed a hope that Christian-Jewish dialogue groups would view the drama as a form of adult education, stimulating discussion and leading to greater mutual understanding. Initially concerned that the changes in the play might alienate traditionalists, Father Ashe was pleased to report that reactions have been positive.