

The Daily News Bulletin is appearing in an abbreviated two-page issue Wednesday because of the Passover holiday. Hag Sameach.

It Could Happen Within A Year: VATICAN TO ESTABLISH TIES WITH ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, April 30 (JTA) -- The Vatican has decided to establish diplomatic relations with Israel and this could happen within a year, according to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of international relations of the American Jewish Committee who has maintained close contacts with Catholic leaders since he attended Vatican Council II as an observer 20 years ago.

Tanenbaum based his forecast on recent conversations he had with cardinals and other church officials in the U.S., Europe and South America. "The question is not whether it will happen. The question is when and how it will happen," he says.

In the past few weeks, at least two cardinals told him that "the decision has been made by the Pope and the Vatican Secretariat of State" to formally recognize the Jewish State, Tanenbaum reported. He did not identify the cardinals.

Pope John Paul II visited the main synagogue in Rome on April 13, the first Papal visit to a Jewish house of worship in history. Although he made no statement on the issue of diplomatic ties with Israel on that occasion, the visit raised speculation that such a move by the Vatican is imminent.

One Possible Step

According to Tanenbaum, one possible step would be to appoint an apostolic delegate to Israel. Currently there is what Catholic and Jewish leaders regard as "de facto" Vatican recognition of Israel whose diplomatic representatives in Italy have full access to Vatican officials. Formal recognition would involve an exchange of Ambassadors.

Tanenbaum explained why the Vatican has refrained from recognizing Israel since its establishment in 1948. There are unresolved disputes over Israel's boundaries, the rights of Palestinians in the Israel-administered territories and the Vatican's long-standing view that Jerusalem must be an international city, not the capital of a Jewish State.

There is also, Tanenbaum noted, the "genuine fear" of reprisals against Christians in Moslem-dominated Arab states should the Vatican recognize Israel. Citing such concerns, Tanenbaum advised Jewish groups to be patient while the Vatican works out the problem. The fear of reprisals against Christians is "not an abstraction," Tanenbaum said. But he predicted Vatican ties with Israel within a year, "provided the boat is not rocked by extremists on any side."

Meanwhile, a Catholic member of Congress, Rep. Edward Feighan (D. Ohio), has introduced a

House resolution calling on the Vatican to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

OHIO MAN, ACCUSED OF HAVING BEEN A GUARD IN A NAZI LABOR CAMP, IS FACING DEPORTATION

CINCINNATI, April 30 (JTA) -- The two-week deportation hearing against a 62-year-old construction worker accused of persecuting inmates at a Nazi labor camp during the Holocaust recently concluded here, leaving the fate of Leonid Petkiewytch in the hands of Judge O. John Brahos. He is not expected to render a decision until early September.

Petkiewytch, a resident of the suburban community of Finneytown, is accused by the government of having concealed his past war-time activities when he applied for entry into the country in 1955, and having participated as a guard at the Kiel-Hassee camp in the "persecution of persons because of their race, religion, national origin and political opinion under the direction of the Nazi government of Germany."

Testifying in his own defense, Petkiewytch admitted having served as a guard at the labor camp in Germany, but claimed, according to a report in The American Israelite here, that he never persecuted prisoners. In addition, he denied that he concealed information from American authorities when he applied for a visa to enter the U.S.

The Kiel-Hassee labor camp, one of the lesser-known camps run by the Nazi war machine, had an average population of some 1,800 persons. There are estimates that 550 died there; 150 by execution. The Jewish population there was relatively small, with most arriving in the last months of the war. About 160 Jewish prisoners were liberated from the camp in April 1945.

Immigration Official Alerted

Petkiewytch is not a U.S. citizen, and it was his attempt in 1982 to become a naturalized citizen that alerted an immigration official to his past activities. He apparently indicated on the 1982 application that he had been a labor camp guard. The official alerted the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations in Washington.

Petkiewytch, whose twin brother George Petke of Western Hills also provided testimony, told the immigration hearing that he and his parents fled Poland, fearing the Russian forces. His father had been serving as a mayor of a town under Nazi occupation, the Israelite said in its extensive coverage of the hearing.

He and his brother were later assigned jobs by the Germans at the Kiel-Hassee camp, they said. They told the court that they were given little choice in the matter: either go as guards or as prisoners.

Issued carbines and uniforms, the brothers testified that they escorted prisoners back and forth from Kiel for daily work details, patrolled the perimeter of the camp, and did other chores. They asserted they never beat prisoners or participated in any executions.

While the brothers said the camp was like an ordinary jail, six Jewish survivors of Kiel-Hassee provided testimony about the brutal conditions of the labor camp.

Deny Concealing War-Time Activities

Both brothers denied concealing the fact that they failed to alert U.S. authorities in 1955 that they had been arrested and imprisoned by the British for three years for possible war crimes. Judge Brahos informed Petke before his testimony that information he provided could be used against him by the government at a later date.

The U.S. official whom the brothers say they presented the British imprisonment documents to is Marvin Hickman, who was vice consul in Germany in 1955. He testified at the hearing that, according to documentation on the visa application, Petkiewytch did not present the British documentation. Hickman said he would not have approved the visa application had he known of Petkiewytch's past activities.

Brahos estimated that it will take four to five months before he reaches a decision. This time will include post-trial presentations by both sides. Afterwards, appeals can be expected, which could go to the Supreme Court.

Options In The Case

If Petkiewytch is found guilty of persecuting persons because of their race, religion and political opinion under the direction of the Nazis, there can be no "discretionary relief" on the part of the judge, according to U.S. law.

However, if the judge were to find Petkiewytch not guilty on that account and guilty of having concealed information about his past war-time activities when he applied for entry into the U.S., he can apply "discretionary relief" and suspend deportation, the Israelite explained.

American Israelite editor Phyllis Singer, who attended and reported on the hearing, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that public reaction from both the Jewish and general communities was mixed. "Most of all, there was disinterest," she said.

ARAB FEDERATION CALLS ON CANADA TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO By Ron Csillag

TORONTO, April 30 (JTA) -- Canada should recognize the PLO as "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the Canadian Arab Federation (CAF) has suggested to a parliamentary committee on Canada's international relations.

Canada should recognize the PLO because "the overwhelming majority of Palestinians, inside and outside Israeli occupied territories, do so recognize it," and because the United Nations and 120 individual nations accord it official status, Sami Hadawi and Rashad Saleh told the Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations.

Set up by External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, the committee, composed of Members of Parliament and Senators, is holding public hearings across the country on Canada's foreign relations. Its report to Parliament is due May 31.

Canada does not currently recognize the PLO. Its policy is not to do so until the PLO renounces the use of terrorism and recognizes

Israel's right to exist. However, Canada does permit its lower level diplomats around the world to have dealings with representatives of the PLO.

Because Canada was a leader in bringing an end to the 1956 Suez crisis, it should "take up the challenge" of recognizing the PLO under Yasir Arafat, Hadawi told the committee.

Other recommendations the CAF made at the special committee includes calling on Canada to follow "an independent policy" in the Middle East, free from international and especially U.S. influence; divest itself of the influences "of party politics and internal pressure groups" in its Mideast policy; respect "the will of the majority" at the United Nations; recognize all UN resolutions relating to "the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination" and all UN resolutions dealing with repatriation of refugees and financial compensation for damages sustained and property seized in 1948; and to use its position in the area to increase trade with Arab countries.

Hadawi told the lawmakers that "if Canada would recognize the PLO and find out exactly what it wants, that would start the ball rolling. I feel certain Canada would support the PLO."

Toronto MP Reg Stackhouse wanted to know what message the PLO would give Canada if talks between the two ever opened. Hadawi said the main message would be "to get Israel out of the occupied territories."

U.S. ACTION ON WALDHEIM IS PENDING

WASHINGTON, April 30 (JTA) -- A decision on whether Austrian Presidential candidate Kurt Waldheim will be barred from entering the United States because of his past war-time activities as a Wehrmacht officer is unlikely to be reached before the May 4 election, according to Attorney General Edwin Meese.

In a news conference here Monday, Meese was asked about reports last week that Neal Sher, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, had recommended in a written report that Waldheim be placed on an Immigration and Naturalization list of persons to be excluded from entering the country because of their war-time activities.

Meese told reporters that the matter "has not even started up the decision making levels in the department." A Justice Department official said this week that the recommendation of the OSI is "routinely accepted as the position of the department." But, the spokesman noted, "Waldheim is not a routine case."

Waldheim, the former United Nations Secretary General from 1972-81, has denied that he participated in war crimes as a German officer in the Balkans during World War II, or that he had knowledge as an intelligence officer of the deportation of Greek Jews from Salonika to Nazi death camps.

LINCOLN, Neb. (JTA) -- Governor Robert Kerrey has signed into law a bill which seeks to outlaw paramilitary organizations from training in the state. The governor's action on the bill, based upon model legislation drafted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, makes Nebraska the 12th state to enact such legislation. The action is in response to reported increases in the activities of anti-Semitic and racist groups in the region, ADL officials said.