

PERES ORDERS LEGAL ANALYSIS OF THE CHARGES AGAINST WALDHEIM

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 5 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres said Sunday he has instructed the Justice Ministry to collect all information pertaining to the allegations concerning Austrian Presidential candidate Kurt Waldheim's war-time activities as a Wehrmacht officer and to conduct a thorough legal analysis of the charges against the former UN Secretary General.

"We are not a newspaper, we are not an institution," Peres declared in an address to students from development towns meeting at the Hebrew University. "We are a government. We must give an answer both serious and substantiated. And if indeed the legal material which we collect and analyze proves that Kurt Waldheim served in the Nazi army and acted against partisans or Jews, we shall draw from this all the appropriate conclusions."

Waldheim, whose Presidential campaign has been dogged by allegations that he participated in Nazi war crimes, missed victory in the election Sunday and will face a run-off election on June 8. Waldheim, the candidate of the conservative People's Party, received 49.66 percent of the vote against 43.66 percent for his Socialist rival, Kurt Steyrer. A vote of 50 percent or more is required to avoid a run-off.

Israel has remained cautious in the Waldheim matter, although it did request and received last month a file on Waldheim from the archives of the UN War Crimes Commission. Waldheim has denied participation in atrocities against Yugoslav partisans, although he conceded knowledge of such actions by the Nazis. He denied knowledge of the deportation of Greek Jews from Salonika and elsewhere while he was an intelligence officer in the Balkans.

Issue Of New Israeli Envoy To Austria

Israel Defense Force radio reported Monday that if Waldheim is elected President of Austria, the Foreign Ministry will delay the dispatch of a new Ambassador to replace Michael Elitzur, the present Ambassador in Vienna, who is due to end his term of service there this summer. This, the radio report said, would be done to avoid the presentation of Israeli credentials of a new Ambassador to a head of state with a past linked to the Nazis.

Meanwhile, several hundred youths demonstrated outside the Austrian Embassy in Tel Aviv Monday, pointing out that they were protesting on the eve of Yom Hashoah against the election to the Austrian Presidency of a man with an alleged Nazi past. They presented a petition to Austrian Ambassador Otto Kleinhardt, asking how it was possible to elect a man said to have been associated with the Nazis and asking how he expected Israel to react to such a development.

The Ambassador said he could not answer the questions or any questions concerning the elections, but promised to transmit the petition to the Austrian Foreign Ministry.

CABINET IS DIVIDED ON THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN ISRAEL
By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- A debate is shaping up in the government over the issue of nuclear power plants in Israel. Officials insist the decision should be made on the basis of the future energy needs and economic factors rather than the concerns raised by the nuclear accident in Chernobyl, the Ukraine, a week ago.

The Cabinet is divided. Gad Yaacobi, Minister for Economic Planning, and Gideon Patt, Minister of Science and Technology, advise against the purchase of nuclear reactors. But Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said it must not be ruled out under pressure of the disaster in the Soviet Union.

Yaacobi noted at Sunday's Cabinet meeting that oil prices are expected to stabilize at a low level and stay there for some time. "To say the least, it is much less urgent to take decisions concerning this matter (nuclear reactors) now than it was two years ago," he said.

Patt pointed out that a reactor would have to be located somewhere in the northern Negev for safety reasons. But such a site would add 50 percent to the nominal price of a reactor because of the high cost of providing water as a coolant. On top of this, he said, there was the cost of defense and security measures owing to the proximity of the reactor to the Egyptian border.

Urges Weighing The Situation

Shahal insisted that Israel should continue to gather information and weigh the situation "without unnecessary public statements." He said the problems of security and the price of oil were considerations.

Yuval Ne'eman, the leader of the Tehiya Party and a nuclear scientist, said in a radio interview over the weekend that the use of nuclear power to generate electricity is not urgent at the moment because of the low price of oil and coal. Ne'eman, a former Minister of Science and Technology, suggested that any nuclear reactor in Israel should be located underground for security reasons.

He also thought Israel should concentrate on building its own reactor rather than purchase one abroad. Israel is said to have been negotiating for the purchase of a nuclear power plant from France. But the deal was stalled by problems of financing and credit.

PRESIDENTS OF ISRAEL AND URUGUAY REAFFIRM AMITY BETWEEN THEIR NATIONS

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- The Presidents of Israel and Uruguay issued a joint statement here Sunday affirming the warm friendship between their countries, their support for the Middle East peace process and support of the Contadora process to end conflicts in Central America.

The statement was released as President Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay ended his five

day official visit here, hosted by President Chaim Herzog. It referred to the problems of Third World and developing nations and agreed that both Israel and Uruguay should assist those countries, each in its own way. The two Presidents noted the expanding cooperation between their countries and stressed the need to strengthen their economic ties.

UN URGED TO MAKE PUBLIC ITS MORE THAN 40,000 SECRET FILES ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 5 (JTA) -- Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman called on the United Nations Monday to open to the public its more than 40,000 secret files on Nazi war criminals.

Holtzman's call, made during a rally across the street from the UN headquarters, followed a similar official request last week by Israel's UN Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu in a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"Sadly, the spirit of Bitburg is still alive today," Holtzman declared at the rally, referring to President Reagan's visit last year to the military cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany, where members of the Waffen SS are buried. The President's visit created an outcry in Jewish and non-Jewish communities in this country and abroad.

'The Spirit Of Bitburg Lives On'

"The Kurt Waldheim affair -- the indifference, and even support, of world leaders over his Nazi past and his 40 year cover-up of it -- shows that the spirit of Bitburg lives on," Holtzman declared.

She said the fact that Waldheim finished first in Austria's Presidential elections Tuesday, shows that "Austrians have given a wanted Nazi war criminal the opportunity to be elected to lead their country." She added: "Even more appalling has been the reaction of many world leaders. West German Chancellor (Helmut) Kohl, the architect of Bitburg, has spoken in Waldheim's defense, calling those who criticized Waldheim's war-time service arrogant."

Demands Waldheim Be Barred From The U.S.

Menachem Rosensaft, founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, also denounced Kohl for publicly defending Waldheim as "a great patriot."

"One year after Kohl and President Reagan honored the memory of dead Nazi soldiers at Bitburg," Rosensaft declared, "Kohl is paying public tribute to a living former Nazi officer who has been exposed as a proven liar and an accused war criminal."

"Today," Rosensaft said, "we demand that Waldheim be barred from entering the U.S. regardless of whether or not he is elected President of Austria."

Ayall Schanzer, the U.S. chairman of the North American Jewish Students' Network, announced that his organization is undertaking an international campaign to divert Waldheim's \$100,000 annual UN pension to several groups of Jewish and non-Jewish survivors of Nazi brutality in Greece and Yugoslavia, where the former Secretary General served during World War II.

Meanwhile, Israeli and UN officials said that a reply to Israel's request that the UN "take

immediate steps necessary to insure free access of the general public" to the secret files on Nazi war criminals, might take "some time" because a decision involves more than 18 member-governments of the now defunct UN War Crimes Commission which compiled the files on the more than 40,000 war criminals.

WIESEL REAPPOINTED TO PANEL

WASHINGTON, May 5 (JTA) -- Elie Wiesel, the renowned author and lecturer, will be appointed to a second term as the head of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, the White House announced Monday. The announcement, issued during President Reagan's visit to Tokyo for the economic summit, came almost a year after Reagan visited the West German military cemetery in Bitburg where members of the Waffen SS are buried. Wiesel decried the President's visit there.

IDA LANDAU DEAD AT 86

LOS ANGELES, May 5 (JTA) -- Ida Biensstock Landau, widow of Jacob Landau, founder and managing director of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, died Sunday at her home here at the age of 86. She had been in ill health for many years.

Ida Landau was born in Hartford, Conn., and attended public schools there. She was admitted to the New York Bar after graduating New York University Law School in 1920 and practiced law in New York City.

Her marriage in 1921 to Jacob Landau who had not then been naturalized, resulted in loss of her U.S. citizenship and the right to practice law. The case attracted national attention and led to the adoption by Congress of the Case Act which restored her citizenship and provided that American women would not forfeit their American citizenship by marriage to foreigners.

Ida Landau gave up the practice of law to work with her husband as business manager of the JTA and, from 1942 to 1951, as manager of the Overseas News Agency (ONA) which he had established with Herbert Bayard Swope, former editor of the New York World, and other personalities. Accredited as an American war correspondent, she covered the Bermuda Refugee Conference in 1943 and toured the liberated countries of Europe in 1945 to report on the plight of the Jewish refugees.

She organized the Transworld Feature Syndicate in 1950 and developed it into a worldwide agency with offices in a dozen countries. Ill health, the result of injuries sustained in a car accident in Holland while travelling for the ONA forced her partial retirement in the mid-1960's and her complete retirement a few years later.

Ida Landau was the sister of Victor Biensstock, former editor and general manager of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency who now resides in Boca Raton, Fla.

GENEVA (JTA) -- Zvi Hersch Drukman, a well-known Jewish journalist and a former Geneva correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was made an honorary member of the Journalistic Association, which is accredited to the United Nations here. At the age of 80, Drukman is also the doyen of the Association. The Rumanian-born journalist writes for Jewish publications in Switzerland, France, Germany and Israel.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES ARMS AND SAUDI ARABIA

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, May 5 (JTA) -- When the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) decided last March not to lobby against a proposed missile sale to Saudi Arabia, the undoubted relief it brought the Administration was matched by vexation from some in the Jewish community.

Failure to oppose an arms sale to a country that bankrolls the PLO and Syria and refuses to endorse Israel-Arab peace negotiations sends a wrong signal both to the Administration and to the Arab world, the critics say.

Others have agreed with the AIPAC reasoning that expending energy on a battle against arms already in the Saudi arsenal and which Israel itself has not considered sufficiently threatening to warrant a bitter campaign against their sale, would unnecessarily cause tension with the Administration just when U.S.-Israeli relations are at an unprecedented high.

Instead, they say, attention must be focussed on the important battle ahead protecting aid to Israel for fiscal year 1987 from the unpredictable swings of the Congressional deficit-cutting hatchet.

Some Battles Are Better Left Unfought

For one Jewish organization preoccupied with U.S. and Israeli defense, the AIPAC move was a step in its direction. The Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), a conservative group that advocates a strong American defense, has long maintained that some battles against arms to Arab countries are better left unfought.

A main argument for selling weapons to the Saudis has often been the need to show U.S. "even handedness" in the Middle East in order to lure Arab countries into the peace process, JINSA's newsletter, Security Affairs, observed in a recent issue. But it added that to really purchase Saudi loyalty would take "a lot more (weapons) than we have to sell."

Nevertheless, the editorial maintained, "There are other, more realistic reasons to sell some weapons at some times: we do not want to see the fall of the Saudi royal family; we do not want the oil fields in radical hands; we do want the Saudis (and others) to defend themselves in the event of an Iranian attack; we don't want to use U.S. troops except as a last resort."

"Our overall position on arms sales is that you can't say they're all bad," Shoshana Bryen, JINSA's executive director, said in an interview.

On the other hand, she stressed, there should be pressure for the adoption of measures ensuring that those weapons remain in the right hands.

Take the shoulder-fired Stinger missiles included in the current Saudi package. "I would go one step beyond AIPAC and I would be looking for that guy who would put a rider on the sale," said Bryen.

The possession of Stinger missiles in Saudi Arabia, she stressed, does not hold out the danger to Israel that the same weapons pose in Jordanian hands. The problem with Stingers, she said, is that "the Saudis have a tendency of losing things."

To ensure that arms destined for the Saudis do not end up elsewhere, as they have in the

past, a rider on the Saudi package, said Bryen, might include the conditions under which the arms would be stored in Saudi Arabia and who can have access to them. Perhaps it would involve keeping the Stingers under the guard of U.S. military personnel.

Strategy That Backfired

The strategy of challenging every Arab arms sale in its entirety, maintained Bryen, resulted in the 1981 sale to the Saudis of racks and refueling tankers for Saudi F-15 fighter jets -- part of the controversial AWACS package -- that represent a far greater threat to Israel's security than the AWACS planes.

"We said the mistake in the AWACS was in the Jewish community," Bryen said. "It was our opinion then and still is that there was no way ever to have defeated that sale."

Rather than fight the unwinnable battle-- which lost to the Administration by just a few votes after months of bitter campaigning-- AIPAC and Jewish organizations here would have done better to support a move by the late Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.) to limit the sale to AWACS alone, Bryen maintained. The Carter Administration prevented the defeat of its proposed sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia in 1978 only by promising that they would carry solely defensive equipment.

The bomb racks and fuel tankers have already been delivered to the Saudis, while the AWACS are scheduled to be sent following submission to Congress of the President's certification that the Saudis have provided "substantial assistance" to the United States in promoting peace in the region.

The condition was adopted by Congress in 1985 on the basis of Presidential commitments. Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Calif.), who is leading the Senate fight against the Saudi arms sale, had said he will oppose delivery of the AWACS as well.

A Shift In Emphasis

JINSA's differences with AIPAC on strategy notwithstanding, the organization, which just celebrated its tenth anniversary, in many ways reflects the growing emphasis in both the Jewish community here and among U.S. policy-makers on mutual defense interests in the Middle East as the basis for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship -- a shift helped along by a Republican Administration that views its interests in predominantly East-West terms.

JINSA's officers include its vice president Morris Amitay, a former director of AIPAC, and its secretary, Stephen Rosen, AIPAC's director of research and information.

The seeds of JINSA were sown with the Yom Kippur War of 1973, which led a group of conservative American Jews to conclude there was a dual need for a defense-minded Jewish organization: to persuade the Jewish community of the necessity of a strong U.S. defense, and to press the case for Israel as a U.S. strategic asset inside the American defense establishment.

This was a time when resentment is said to have been festering in the military over a perceived hostility by many Jewish legislators toward the budgetary needs of the Pentagon at a time when massive quantities of American weapons were being shipped off to the Jewish State.

"It developed that so many of our Jewish compatriots, whose hearts had bled, as ours had, at the slender thread by which the fate of Israel was decided in those crucial days and weeks (of October 1973) -- those very same people, all too many of them -- had not been as supportive as they should have been of the strengthening process of the United States military forces in the many years preceding 1973, and many of them had a kind of mindset which was very difficult to change," said Herbert First, JINSA's chairman of the Board, at a recent 10th anniversary dinner.

The dinner featured the presentation of JINSA's fourth Henry Jackson Distinguished Service Award, named after the late Democratic Senator from Washington who is remembered as a major spokesman for national defense issues and a strong supporter of Israel.

The award, whose three previous recipients were Jackson, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick, and Rep. Jack Kemp (R. NY), was presented this year to Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.), a member of JINSA's Board of Advisors.

Also honored at the dinner was JINSA's first president and current U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, Richard Schifter.

"The fact is that whereas around ten years ago the word defense caused people to look at you askance, that isn't the case any more, and there's increased recognition in the Jewish community of the United States of the need for a strong American defense," Schifter observed.

JINSA Has Established Itself

Without a doubt, JINSA has established itself in Washington. With a membership of some 15,000 and a network of valuable contacts in the Pentagon, it will soon be represented in the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Its big events are the annual "fly-ins" of members for assorted defense-related tours and briefings with military officials, and an annual trip to Israel for American admirals and generals.

In a general sense, the group is a like-minded complement to the less-focussed National Jewish Coalition, a recently-formed Jewish organization that grew out of a group of Republican Jews who were active in the Reagan campaigns. On most foreign affairs issues, JINSA and the current Administration are more or less of one mind.

But Bryen, whose husband, Steven Bryen, is currently Undersecretary of Defense for Trade and Security Policy, stressed that the organization has maintained its independence and that the Administration has never sought to use the group as its own "lobby" in the Jewish community on issues such as aid to the Contras in Central America, the movement for a nuclear arms freeze or the Strategic Defense Initiative -- Star Wars.

On military sales to the Middle East, she said, "We're approached probably as often as they approach AIPAC. But we don't get phone calls saying what are you going to do for us on this or that issue."

POC FACES SERIOUS MEDICAL PROBLEM

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 5 (JTA) -- A panel of Israeli doctors says that if Prisoner of Zion Yuli Edelstein does not receive adequate and immediate

medical treatment, he will be crippled for life from serious injuries sustained in a Soviet prison at the beginning of this year.

The physicians told a press conference called here Sunday by the Committee of 35 -- the organization formed by 35 British women to oversee the treatment of Prisoners of Conscience in the Soviet Union -- that Edelstein's injuries could have resulted either from his being run over by a motor vehicle or from a fall.

Edelstein, 27, was injured in a Soviet prison camp on the Mongolian border on January 29. The prison authorities claimed that he had been hurt in a work accident, but it is known that the refusenik had been singled out for harassment in prison and had been severely beaten and hurt.

Details of his injuries, medical reports and even an X-ray were sent to Israel by Edelstein's wife, Tanya. On the basis of these reports, local medical experts reached a diagnosis which was presented at the press conference by Prof. Amnon Fried, a Beilinson Hospital orthopedic surgeon; Prof. Ciro Servadio, head of Beilinson's urology department; Dr. Ram Yishai, head of the Israel Medical Association; and Prof. Arye Harel, head of the Magen David Adom first aid society.

According to the doctors, Edelstein has a severe pelvic fracture, and a fracture of the upper femur with multiple splinters and dislocation. He also had a torn urethra. The speakers noted that Soviet law stipulates that a prisoner disabled while serving his sentence must be freed.

Plea By Soviet Chess Masters

The Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry has, meanwhile, published an appeal by Soviet International Chess Grand Master Boris Gulko and his wife, International Master Ann Akhsharumova, addressed to the International Chess Federation and the international chess community, complaining of their treatment by the Soviet authorities.

They say they have been refused exit visas to travel abroad or to go to Israel since 1979, and have not been allowed to take part in chess tournaments, or when they do so, chess rules are not applied to them.

In 1983, the Chess Masters said, the USSR sports committee ordered the annual championship arbiter to ignore the rules in the case of Akhsharumova. "They actually robbed Akhsharumova of her gold medal," they complained.

B'NAI B'RITH URGES REAGAN TO ORDER U.S. OIL FIRMS OUT OF LIBYA

WASHINGTON, May 5 (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith International has urged President Reagan to order the five American oil companies operating in Libya to discontinue operations. In a letter to the White House, B'nai B'rith president Gerald Kraft stated that justification for continued operation of the five firms cannot be reconciled with America's policy toward the North African nation. "Nor does it encourage Western Europe to follow our leadership," said Kraft.

The oil companies were identified as Conoco, Occidental, Amerada Hess, Marathon Oil, and W. R. Grace.

Kraft told Reagan that "as long as there is any American corporate presence in Libya, America's credibility in combatting terrorism in the world will be diluted and its effectiveness compromised."