

NEW DOCUMENTS ON WALDHEIM

By Edwin Eytan

GENEVA, May 26 (JTA) — The European Jewish Congress made public Sunday new documents and a filmed interview that appeared to link Kurt Waldheim directly with war crimes and atrocities against Jews.

At the same time, the EJC called on Yugoslavia and any other countries which might have information relevant to Waldheim's war-time activities to open their files to independent investigators. The EJC held a two-day meeting here, marking the 50th anniversary of the World Jewish Congress. It was attended by 135 delegates from 20 countries.

One of the new documents made public was a United Nations file based on information supplied by Yugoslavia which described Waldheim, the Austrian Presidential candidate and former United Nations Secretary General as, "wanted for murder" and the "execution of hostages." The document assigns him an "A" rating, the highest priority at the time for wanted war criminals.

Account By Israeli Witnesses

An Israeli film director, Michael Tal, screened interviews with two Israeli witnesses who said they had seen Waldheim participate personally in anti-Jewish commando actions in Greece in 1944.

One witness, Yehoshua Matza of Beersheba, said he saw a man "looking strikingly like Waldheim" beat Jewish prisoners while stealing their money and valuables. Matza and the other witness said the incident occurred in the Larissa camp in northern Greece on March 25, 1944.

The EJC plenary approved a resolution calling on the UN "to establish an appropriate and effective procedure for (the future) election of the world's highest civil servant to prevent a similar situation from ever occurring again." Waldheim served two terms as UN Secretary General, from 1972 to 1981.

Position Of Austrian, German Delegations

The EJC overwhelmingly backed the position taken by WJC leaders in New York to uncover Waldheim's war-time activities. But the Austrian and German delegates expressed regret that there had been no prior consultation on the subject. Werner Nachman of West Germany said, "The WJC Executive should have consulted us before going public."

He added, "European Jewry can best measure the political consequences of the revelations and should have been consulted." Nachman, president of the West German Jewish community, noted that "We live in Europe and we are the ones who should have had their say."

He and the Austrian delegate, Paul Grosz, a member of the executive of the Austrian Jewish community, nevertheless supported the WJC's decision to reveal Waldheim's past and expressed strong confidence in WJC secretary general Israel Singer.

The EJC session, which concludes Monday, is expected to vote on a resolution calling on the Vatican and on the Catholic Church in Poland to reconsider

plans to build a Carmelite convent at the site of the Auschwitz death camp. Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania, who is scheduled to meet with Pope John Paul II in Rome on Thursday, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he plans to raise this issue with the Pontiff. He said the meeting was scheduled at the Vatican's initiative.

The delegates paid tribute to the late Yehuda Hellman, executive vice president of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who died last week.

NEO-NAZIS WAGING WAR OF VANDALISM AND TERRORISM AGAINST THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF CHILE AND PARAGUAY

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., May 26 (JTA) — Neo-Nazis in Chile and Paraguay are waging a war of vandalism and terrorism against the Jewish communities in those countries, Rabbi Angel Kreiman of the Comunidad Israelite Sefardi Congregation in Santiago told delegates to the 86th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, the organization of Conservative rabbis in the U.S. and Canada.

There are 30,000 Jews in Chile and 1,000 in Paraguay. Both countries are ruled by rightwing military dictatorships, and neo-Nazi groups apparently operate with impunity, according to Kreiman. He said the worst recent offense against Chilean Jews occurred during the observance of Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Memorial Day, when the home and car of Amiti Pilowsky, president of the Anti Defamation League Commission in Santiago, were bombed and badly damaged. No one was hurt.

The terrorist act was carried out during the 2-5 a.m. curfew enforced for all citizens, Kreiman reported. He said that during the past six months the walls of his congregation building were defaced with anti-Semitic slogans and a building near the Israel Embassy was smeared with the words, "No to Zionism."

Kreiman reported that the same neo-Nazi gangs are responsible for acts of vandalism against Catholic churches and buildings in Santiago. The Catholic Church has been targeted because it is a strong supporter of human rights in Chile, Kreiman said.

Notorious Anti-Semitic Books Published

He said he was especially disturbed by the appearance of paperback editions of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," the notorious 19th century anti-Semitic forgery, and Hitler's "Mein Kampf," the latter with an introduction by Chile's former Ambassador to the Vatican, Miguel Serrano, "to lend it respectability." Both works came from a rightwing publishing house.

In Paraguay, Kreiman said the observance of Yom Hashoa in Asuncion, the capital, was marred by the appearance of anti-Jewish slogans on many building walls, caricatures of Jews with long noses, and Stars of David with the legend, "Kill Jews because they killed Christ and founded the Communist Party."

Kreiman said in reply to questions that the recent emergence of neo-Nazi groups in Chile was hard to explain but part of the reason was that the government, preoccupied with its campaign against Communists and leftists, gave these groups a great deal of freedom for their activities.

The RA adopted a resolution calling on the Presidents of Chile and Paraguay to take "immediate action in condemning these acts of violence and defacing of property against both Jews and Catholics and to utilize every possible law enforcement at their disposal to catch those guilty of these acts."

THATCHER VISIBLY SHAKEN DURING A TOUR OF YAD VASHEM By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was visibly shaken as she toured the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum here Sunday, the first full day of the first visit of an incumbent British Prime Minister to Israel.

Pausing at the photograph of a German soldier shooting a Jewish mother and her child, she exclaimed, "It is so terrible. Everyone should come and see it so that they never forget." She added, "I am not quite sure whether the new generation really knows what we are fighting against."

Noting that Jews were being slaughtered at the rate of 120,000 a day while the Holocaust was in progress, Thatcher observed that had the war lasted another year, the death toll would have been 11 million instead of six million Jews. She placed a wreath at the memorial to the Six Million.

The images of the Holocaust, she said, told her the horrors of the Holocaust "more than all the stories I have heard."

Concern Over Lagging Peace Process

Thatcher arrived in Israel Saturday night, accompanied by her husband, Denis Thatcher. She was greeted at Ben Gurion Airport by Premier Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel and other dignitaries. In remarks to reporters after she stepped down from a Royal Air Force plane, the British leader expressed concern that the peace process "appears to have lost momentum in recent months."

"I don't believe that is your wish or that of the moderate, far-sighted Arab leaders with whom I have talked in recent months," she said, adding that she hoped her visit would help get the stalled peace process moving again.

Thatcher lunched Sunday with President Chaim Herzog who praised her anti-terrorist policies and said the Israeli people stood beside her in this. Herzog, who was born in Ireland, noted that the people of Israel have always distinguished between their feelings of respect for British tradition and the "less pleasant aspects of our ties in the past," a reference to Israel's struggle for independence in the final years of British Mandate rule in Palestine. He expressed hope that her talks in Israel would help her better understand Israel's problems.

Thatcher began her official talks at meetings with Peres and Shamir Sunday afternoon. Earlier, she breakfasted with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek, who expressed regret that Britain did not recognize Israel's sovereignty over united Jerusalem.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA A MOVEABLE FEAST By Aviva Cantor

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) — "There's enough food left over from Jewish organizational functions in this city to feed every hungry Jew in the community," said Robert Kohler, who served for 30 years as assistant national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. In those years he had watched

hundreds of pounds of food remain untouched after an organizational dinner and wondered if it was recycled or simply thrown out. When he became executive director of the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty last summer and learned that there are thousands of Jews who are not getting enough to eat in the city and who need kosher food, Kohler talked with former colleague Nathan Perlmutter, ADL's national director. Out of this discussion emerged ADL's commitment to turn over left-over food from its dinners to the poor — Jews and non-Jews.

Kohler then approached City Harvest, asking for its help in dealing with the growing need for emergency kosher food in the Jewish community. City Harvest is a non-profit telephone-and-transportation network created over three years ago by Helen VerDuin Palit to pick up food from restaurants, caterers, organizations — "anyone with good food" — and deliver it in its vans within a few hours to facilities that feed people.

Every day City Harvest picks up and delivers enough food to 235 soup kitchens and food pantries for 4,500 meals. Its trucks are equipped with thermal boxes and refrigeration to preserve prepared food.

Over 1,400 food companies donate food to City Harvest, which has duplicated its program in Halifax, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Montreal, New Haven — where Palit ran a soup kitchen and similar operation — Paterson, N.J., Philadelphia and Winnipeg.

Project Masbiah

Kohler and Palit together developed City Harvest's new Project Masbiah (from the Hebrew word for eating to satisfaction), which will collect prepared and uncooked kosher food from Jewish organizations and food companies and deliver it to various Jewish agencies which feed people — and, as well, to non-kosher shelters, soup kitchens, and food pantries throughout the city.

The Project will use one van for kosher food only. It is currently being prepared for this purpose according to traditional kashrut standards under the guidance of the Orthodox rabbinical staff of the Metropolitan Council.

The Council will also ensure that all contributed food is strictly kosher, and provide City Harvest with a list of agencies to receive it. Together with the ADL and the American Jewish Congress, it will approach Jewish organizations and food companies for contributions of food.

Project Masbiah is currently being finalized and is expected to be operational by the fall. One problem Kohler is working on involves developing food storage facilities at potential recipient Jewish agencies, most of which don't have them.

The ADL has already turned over food left over from all its spring functions to City Harvest, according to Christina Velasquez, associate director of its meetings and conferences department. She and department director Deena Lee know by 7 p.m., when the smorgasbord is over, how much food remains and how many people will not be showing up for dinner. The caterer wraps up the food — which averages between 70 and 100 pounds — for City Harvest. "What gets picked up at ADL at 8," Palit told JTA, "is eaten within two hours at a shelter."

AN ISRAELI 'SENIOR OFFICIAL' IS UNDER INVESTIGATION By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres was preparing to convene a meeting of senior Ministers Monday night in connection with Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir's apparent intention to proceed with the investigation of a "senior official" implicated, according to Zamir, in an affair that endangered the rule of law and democracy in Israel.

The matter erupted over the weekend into a public scandal amid reports that Zamir was being forced to quash the investigation under heavy pressure from certain senior ministers. Peres conceded at the weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday that there was indeed a "legitimate controversy."

Although not identified by the government or Zamir, the "senior official" under investigation is reported to be Avraham Shalom, head of Shabak, Israel's internal security service commonly known as Shin Bet. According to press accounts Monday, Zamir has evidence that Shabak disrupted the work of a commission of inquiry into the deaths of two Arab terrorists who hijacked an Egged bus near the Gaza Strip two years ago and were allegedly beaten to death by Israeli security men who intercepted them.

The press reports said the disruption consisted of concealing facts, blurring evidence and persuading witnesses to lie. Evidence was brought to the attention of Zamir, the press accounts said, by three of the official's subordinates whom he forced to resign from the service.

Zamir sent a message to the Knesset's Law Committee on the matter stating that the central consideration in this affair is not security but the basic values of the State. Committee chairman Eli Koulas, a Likud MK, indicated he agreed with the Attorney General. He said the committee has invited Peres and Zamir to inform it of the facts in the case.

TERRORIST VIOLENCE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) — A 60-year-old man suffered a slight leg wound when an explosive device detonated near a bus stop in the center of Kfar Saba Sunday morning. Another device exploded near an apartment building several hundred meters away but caused no casualties or damage. Police detained 100 Arabs in the vicinity for questioning.

An explosive charge detonated near a soldiers' hitch-hiking station outside Ashkelon Sunday causing neither injuries nor damage.

Israel Defense Force units, meanwhile, searched the panhandle of Upper Galilee for the impact crater of Katyusha rockets after explosions were heard in the region early Saturday morning. By Sunday evening, no signs had been found of a rocket attack in Upper Galilee or in the south Lebanon security zone.

Violence erupted in the security zone Saturday where four terrorists were killed in a clash with units of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA). One SLA man was killed and another was wounded. Several of the terrorists who escaped may have been wounded.

SCHINDLER IMPROVING AFTER SUFFERING A HEART ATTACK

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) — Rabbi Alexander Schindler was reported improving at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where he was taken last Wednesday after suffering a heart attack while touring Masada. Schindler, a leader of Reform Judaism in the U.S., is president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Schindler, 61, spent the critical first 24 hours after his heart attack in the intensive care unit at Soroka Hospital. His wife, Rhea Schindler, was at his bedside. Schindler suffered a heart attack 12 years ago.

ISRAEL'S GAZA STRIP POLICIES SCORED

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) — A scathing indictment of Israel's policies in the Gaza Strip was published

over the weekend by the West Bank-Gaza Data Base Project here. The director of the project, Meron Benvenisti, said Gaza Arabs are far worse off than those in the West Bank and warned that unless massive development programs are instituted, the Gaza Strip would turn into the "Soweto of the Mideast."

The report, prepared by Harvard University researcher Sara Roi, accused the Israeli authorities of neglect and stated that "if something is not done soon," conditions will get worse. Sources at the Defense Ministry which is responsible for the Gaza Strip said they had not seen the report and could not comment on it.

The report called the Gaza Strip one of the most densely populated areas on earth. It noted that some 525,000 Palestinians live in 96 square miles. One-third of the territory, 46 square miles, has been reserved exclusively for Jewish settlements which have a population of only 2,200.

Infant mortality in the Gaza Strip is four times that in Israel and hospitals are woefully understaffed and under-supplied, the report said. It noted that the Shifa Hospital, the largest in Gaza, lacks basic medical equipment such as X-ray machines and its sanitary conditions are "at best abhorrent." The report spoke of mice and roaches found in filthy rooms with broken windows where patients lay two to a bed on torn, blood-stained sheets.

Benvenisti said budgetary constraints are no excuse for the authorities not to grant the Gaza inhabitants proper services. He said Israel's income from the Gaza Strip was greater than its expenditures there. He noted that 45,000 Gaza laborers work in Israel, pay local taxes as well as income tax and national insurance in Israel which amounts to "an occupation tax" of \$35 million a year.

He said the report documents conditions "beyond disgrace." It is no longer a political problem but a long neglected moral imperative which cannot be ignored. According to the report, the population of the Gaza Strip is doubling every generation and could reach 900,000 by the turn of the century. (By Gil Sedan)

PROBE ORDER INTO THE GRANTING OF A DOCTORAL DEGREE TO STUDENT WHOSE PAPER DENIED EXISTENCE OF HOLOCAUST

PARIS, May 26 (JTA) — The government has ordered a full-scale investigation into the granting of a doctoral degree by Nantes University to a candidate whose thesis claimed that the gas chambers were a figment of "Jewish imagination" and the Holocaust in fact did not occur.

Alain Devaquet, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, demanded an administrative and university investigation of the procedures which allowed the thesis to be accepted and gave it top grades. The author is Henri Roques, a retired 65-year-old agricultural engineer and amateur historian. He submitted his thesis to the Paris Sorbonne and several other major universities, all of which rejected it.

But Nantes University appointed an academic jury which examined the 371-page work, pronounced it excellent and granted Roques an academic degree. Devaquet told a Parliamentary commission that the government was "deeply disturbed by the allegations tending to deny the existence of gas chambers and of the Nazi Holocaust policies." The episode was brought to the Ministry's attention by 60 Nantes University faculty members who protested acceptance of the thesis.

Because of technical problems with the JTA's computer system, the Daily News Bulletin will appear temporarily in this format.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW AN 'OPTICAL ILLUSION'

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) — Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens said that it is an "optical illusion" to view the situation between Israel and Syria in the last few weeks as something different, that did not exist in the past.

"In fact, the danger of war between Israel and Syria had been in existence a year ago and two years ago, and will continue to exist next year as well," Arens, the former Defense Minister of Israel, contended in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"The Syrian ruler, President Hafez Assad, is hostile to Israel. He has a large army. At the moment that he will conclude that war with Israel will advance his interests, he will start a war," Arens said. "Israel is in principle against war. We know that we can win a war with Syria, and we are willing to pay the price — but we want to avoid paying the price. If it is up to Israel — there will be no war with Syria."

Arens, a leader of Herut and a close associate of Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who is scheduled to replace Shimon Peres as Premier next October, said that it is unclear what indeed can force Assad to launch a war against Israel. "None of us can say whether a worsening in the economic situation of Syria or growing terrorist acts inside that country could trigger a war. The answer is not clear-cut," he said.

Arens, who described Syria as "Israel's major enemy today," ruled out the possibility of a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights as a way of reaching a comprehensive settlement with Syria.

Referring to a statement Assad recently made, in which the Syrian President declared that Syria wants the Golan Heights to be "in the middle of Syria," Arens said that in his view the equation of territories for peace is not applicable to Syria. "We don't hear them knocking on our door to start negotiations," he quipped.

Israel's Relations With Egypt

Turning to the issue of Israel's relations with Egypt, Arens said that "there is not even one single person in Israel who would tell you that the relations between the two countries meet his expectations." He contended that Egypt is in clear violation of its peace treaty with Israel, by continuing to refuse to send its Ambassador back to Israel after he was recalled at the start of the Lebanon war in June, 1982.

Arens was also skeptical that the resolution of the Taba dispute would bring "real peace" between Israel and Egypt, noting that Egypt insists on complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and resolution of the Palestinian question before any meaningful improvement in relations with Israel takes place.

"The Egyptians are taking a position which is against the letter and the spirit of the peace treaty. The peace treaty was not conditioned on the Palestinian problem. They agreed to keep an Ambassador in Israel — and they do not do it. They agreed for true and stable peaceful relations — and they don't fulfill it," he charged.

The former Israeli Ambassador to Washington said that "relations between Israel and the United States today are better than ever." He said that the good ties between Washington and Jerusalem are getting even "better and stronger" every day.

He said that the strong relations between the two countries are built "on the mutuality of values and ideals of the two countries which are expressed in shared strategic interests." He claimed that Washington has recognized the shared strategic interests "and the ability of Israel to contribute to these shared interests."

Asked about the Administration's proposal for a large missile weapons package to Saudi Arabia despite the "shared strategic interests" between Israel and the U.S., Arens admitted that Israel and the U.S. do not agree on the issue.

He said Israel does not agree with Washington on arms for "moderate" Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia. "It is hard for us to agree (with the U.S.) that Saudi Arabia is moderate while she is still in an official state of war with us," Arens said. He added: "Our policy has not changed; we are against any sale of arms to countries that are in a state of war with us."

Unity Government Will Continue

In reply to a question whether the "rotation," which will elevate Shamir to be Israel's Premier next October, will indeed take place, Arens said: "This is a very popular question and people, naturally, are very curious about it. But there is an agreement between Labor and Likud, and everybody in Israel, including Peres, says that agreements must be honored. We know that the Israeli public wants to see the national unity government continuing."

As for the possibility that Labor will decide to leave the government after the rotation, Arens said: "Theoretically it is possible, but this will be in violation of the agreement" since the agreement stipulates that the unity government must serve a full four-year term.

Arens said that Shamir, whose leadership of Herut was challenged during a chaotic convention of the party in March, has the support of the "majority of Herut" to serve as Premier. He said that whoever claims that Shamir is not fit to serve as Premier "says in effect that Herut has to abrogate the rotation agreement" which provides that Shamir, and none other, will replace Peres as Premier.

LEV BRONSHTEIN DEAD AT 51

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) — Lev Bronshtein, a prominent activist from Leningrad, died last week at the age of 51, it was reported here by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. He applied for an exit visa 10 years ago but was refused permission to emigrate.

An engineer, he was demoted from his position following his application for an exit visa. Bronshtein instructed many other refuseniks on their legal rights regarding emigration. He also gave seminars to more than 50 people and wrote some articles about his field of expertise. He suffered from high blood pressure and was bed-ridden for several weeks in the spring of 1984.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Sources here confirmed Sunday that the Israel government received a message from the Soviet Union with respect to Israeli participation in President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, the controversial "Star Wars" program. The sources said the message did not constitute a warning. The Soviet news agency Tass reported earlier that the note cautioned Israel against cooperating in the program and Israel's participation could harm prospects for a Middle East settlement. The message was delivered here through the Foreign Ministry of Finland which handles Israeli interests in the USSR.