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YESHIVA IS VANDALIZED IN ISRAEL IN COUNTER-VIOLENCE ATTACKS ON ORTHODOX BY ANTI-RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 15 (JTA) — Counter-violence by anti-religious extremists against ultra-Orthodox zealots who have been burning and defacing bus stops in recent weeks, erupted in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and other cities over the Shavuot holiday as the government made strenuous efforts to effect a reconciliation between secular and religious Jews.

Vandals broke into Hidshei Harim Yeshiva in the Ramat Hayal quarter of Tel Aviv and went on a rampage destroying prayer books, bibles, copies of the Talmud and phylacteries. The walls of the yeshiva, which is run by the Gur Hasidim, were daubed with slogans such as "Khomeini-ists," a reference to the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who imposed a theocratic government on Iran; "Organization Against Blacks," a reference to the black garb worn by ultra-Orthodox Jews; and "Down With the Black Parasites."

The incident was the worst in the series of anti-religious attacks that began with arson at the Bnei Benjamin synagogue in Tel Aviv last Wednesday. The walls of the Great Synagogue in Tel Aviv were daubed with swastikas. Swastikas also appeared on cars and house walls in the Neve Sharet religious quarter.

'Terrible And Dreadful' Violence

Mayor Shlomo Lehat of Tel Aviv said he was shocked by the "terrible and dreadful" violence. Aguda Israel MK Avraham Shapira demanded life sentences for the perpetrators.

In Jerusalem, a burial society van was attacked by anti-religious elements. Religious books were destroyed in a school in Yavniel and slogans were painted on the walls of the school building and on homes denouncing the local rabbi.

Ultra-Orthodox zealots have, for weeks, waged relentless warfare on bus shelters in Jerusalem and elsewhere because of advertising posters they consider "indecent." More than a score of arrests have been made, but secular Jews have complained that the police are not tough enough with the religious vandals. Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem in fact predicted there would be counter-violence by anti-religious extremists.

In Petach Tikva, where Orthodox Jews have demonstrated regularly during the past year against Friday night cinema performances, an illuminated map of the city was sprayed with black paint and slogans attacking secular Mayor Dov Tavori. In Rishon LeZion, a bus carrying advertising posters was burned.

Special Council To Discuss Issues

Premier Shimon Peres has been trying desperately to prevail on religious and secular elements to end the violence. Last Thursday, he and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir convened a meeting of Cabinet ministers, Knesset members, the two Chief Rabbis, the Police Inspector General and media representatives.

They agreed to establish a "special council to discuss controversial issues" and released a statement rejecting "with disgust the use of violence to influence decision-making or to express protest." Peres said at the meeting that "both religious and anti-religious coercion" are inadmissible. Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira warned that violence and the destruction of property are forbidden by the Torah.

Status Quo Has Eroded

Shamir said after the Thursday meeting that the danger lies in the support fringe groups have managed to mobilize lately among wider circles. He urged isolating the fringe groups that are involved in acts of violence.

But, Shamir observed, in his view the status quo on religious observance had been eroded by certain mayors. Police Minister Haim Barlev said the first priority is to restore respect for the law. He sharply criticized Aguda Israel MK Menachem Porush for saying publicly recently that he personally would deface offending advertisements on bus shelters.

Police Inspector General David Kraus said he met with the rabbis of the ultra-Orthodox Eda Haredit sect which has been involved in the attacks on bus shelters. He said he had the impression they were trying to calm tempers.

ISRAEL STRONGLY CONDEMNS STATE OF EMERGENCY IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Gil Sedran

JERUSALEM, June 15 (JTA) — The Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the state of emergency declared by the South African government. A statement released Sunday said it viewed with "extreme gravity" that government's refusal to allow the Black community to mark the 10th anniversary of the Soweto riots, the beginning of their organized struggle against apartheid.

Israel announced a short while later that it would join the worldwide protest by shutting down its Embassy in Pretoria for 24 hours Monday.

The Foreign Ministry's statement went on to say that in accordance with Israel's fundamental and consistent opposition to apartheid, it is convinced that the latest deterioration of the situation in South Africa poses serious dangers to the welfare of the entire South African population. The statement was issued following the weekly Cabinet meeting at which events in South Africa were discussed.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, meanwhile, greeted the visiting Foreign Minister of Liberia, Dr. J. Bernard Blamo, at Ben Gurion Airport Sunday. He said that Israel objected strongly to apartheid and was trying to persuade the South African government to abandon that policy.

Blamo expressed hope that Israel would indeed exert its influence on South Africa. However, he appeared not to favor an economic boycott which he said would also affect other countries on the African continent.

ECONOMIC ATTACHE NAMED TO EGYPT

JERUSALEM, June 15 (JTA) — Yosef Shabo has been named the new Israeli Economic Attache to Egypt, it was learned in Jerusalem Sunday. His appointment comes after several years in which no such diplomat

served in Cairo. The purpose of sending the attache is said to be an effort to strengthen economic relations between the two countries, which have been at a low recently.

Sources in Jerusalem contend that Egypt indicated the time has come for strengthening those ties. With the exception of Israeli tourism to Egypt, other economic ties are marginal. Since the Ras Burka massacre last October, there has been a sharp decline in the number of Israeli tourists to Egypt. There are almost no Egyptian tourists coming to Israel.

MODAI SAYS UN WILL GIVE ISRAEL BROAD ACCESS TO WAR CRIMES FILES

NEW YORK, June 15 (JTA) — Israel's Justice Minister Yitzhak Modai disclosed here that the United Nations has agreed to give Israel a list of the 40,000 suspected Nazi war criminals in its archives and to provide the actual files of any on the list that Israel might ask for.

Modai, who briefed a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, also said he "strongly disagreed" with those Jews who felt it was "not proper to loudly and publicly expose the Nazi past of Kurt Waldheim," who was elected President of Austria on June 8.

"Nor do I agree with those who say we must do nothing to annoy the Austrians because Vienna is the only gateway for Jews who one day may come out of the Soviet Union. It is not the only gateway — but even if it were we have no right to keep silent," the Justice Minister said.

He did not identify any of the Jews with whom he disagreed. But President Chaim Herzog of Israel, in urging coolness and caution by Israel in the aftermath of Waldheim's election, referred to the fact that Vienna is the first stop for Jews leaving the USSR to immigrate to Israel.

Waldheim, who served as UN Secretary General from 1972-81, has been linked to war crimes when he was a Wehrmacht officer in the Balkans during World War II. His is one of the files compiled by the now defunct UN War Crimes Commission and presently in the archives.

Representatives of the Israeli and Austrian governments were given access to the Waldheim file before the first Austrian Presidential elections held last May 4.

Time For Formalities Is Over

Modai said Israel was promised the list of files by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at a meeting recently. "I went to see Mr. Perez de Cuellar for one purpose — to end the 42 years of silence that surrounded the UN's files on Nazi war criminals," Modai said. He said he had stressed to the Secretary General that he wanted the names made known for the sake of the six million Jews slaughtered by the Nazis, not on behalf of Israel or of the Jewish people.

"I told him that the time for 'formalities' and 'procedures' was over, and that, particularly in view of the revelations about his predecessor, Kurt Waldheim, those names and those files must be turned over to any nation that requests them. I was gratified and pleased with the Secretary General's positive response," Modai said.

The Israeli Justice Minister said in Jerusalem before Waldheim's election that the evidence Israel had been able to obtain was not sufficient to charge him directly with war crimes but enough for him to be tried as an accomplice.

WITNESSES URGENTLY SOUGHT AMONG MAUTHAUSEN SURVIVORS

NEW YORK, June 15 (JTA) — The Department of Justice has requested the assistance of the World Jewish Congress in locating witnesses to Nazi crimes committed between June 1943 and November 1944 at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria and two of its sub camps, Steyr-Meunichholz (also known as Steyr) and Linz III.

The Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) is in the process of gathering evidence in connection with its investigations of suspected Nazi war criminals residing in the United States.

OSI is interested in contacting survivors who can provide information concerning general conditions for prisoners in the Mauthausen camps and the duties and behavior of the perimeter guards with respect to the prisoners.

OSI is especially interested in contacting persons who knew the French Jews Max Ochshorn, born in 1916 in Vienna, or Leon Axelroud, born in 1926 in Paris, or who know anything about the circumstances surrounding their deaths. Both men were shot to death at the Mauthausen main camp, Ochshorn in October 1943 and Axelroud in December 1943.

Survivors, or those who might be of assistance in locating survivors from these camps, may communicate in any language they choose and are asked to contact: Ms. Bessy Pupko, World Jewish Congress, One Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016, (212) 679-0600.

HOLTZMAN BLASTS WALDHEIM'S ELECTION; SAYS JEWS MUST 'REMAIN VIGILANT IN THE FACE OF CONTINUED ANTI-SEMITISM'

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, June 15 (JTA) — Brooklyn District Attorney and former United States Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman last week blasted Kurt Waldheim and the Austrians who elected him President and warned Jews to "remain vigilant in the face of continued anti-Semitism."

Holtzman, who during her four terms in the House of Representatives authored legislation barring accused war criminals from entering the U.S., told a group of furriers at a luncheon sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that the law she wrote should be extended to include Waldheim.

She participated in a protest rally at the Justice Department in Washington just days before Waldheim's June 8 election in an effort to pressure the agency to bar the former United Nations Secretary General from entering the United States.

Sees Sufficient Evidence

Holtzman said there is sufficient evidence that Waldheim committed war crimes. He was accused of murder by the U.N. War Crimes Commission and he targeted villages for reprisal that were subsequently destroyed, she said.

Waldheim also gave the precise number of Jews on the Greek Island of Corfu to his superiors and all those Jews ended up in death camps, she asserted. "How could a man like this be honored and raised to the highest standard," she asked.

Waldheim's election is part of a "growing trend to deny the Holocaust," Holtzman said. The election and events like Reagan's visit to Bitburg last year show that Austria and the world have learned no lessons from the Holocaust.

"Continued indifference to Waldheim's election will send a message that people can continue to kill Jews with impunity," she said.

The United States government has rejected this indifference and has changed its policy according to Holtzman. While some 10,000 Nazis received sanctuary in the U.S. after World War II, today the government has expelled ten accused Nazis from this country, thirty others are on trial and hundreds of others are under investigation, Holtzman said. "We know the consequences of failure to be committed to justice," she said.

SCHINDLER ASSAULTS WJC HANDLING OF WALDHEIM AFFAIR

TEL AVIV, June 15 (JTA) — Rabbi Alexander Schindler, a leader of Reform Judaism in the U.S., added his voice Sunday to the small but growing body of opinion among Jews that the World Jewish Congress mishandled its campaign to expose the Nazi post of Austria's President-elect, Kurt Waldheim.

Schindler, who is president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) was discharged from Soroka Hospital in Beersheba where he has been convalescing from a heart attack he suffered three weeks ago. The 61-year-old Reform rabbi is expected to return to the U.S. in the next two days.

He told reporters as he left the hospital that he thought in retrospect that the WJC's handling of the Waldheim affair had been a mistake. He added that it was important to review the case and unearth the truth, but the manner in which the WJC went about this was wrong.

The result is, Schindler said, that there is more anti-Semitism than there was before in Austria, the Jews of Austria are in danger and Waldheim is President. The best way to expose Waldheim, Schindler said, would have been to approach the affair through a third, non-Jewish party. Now, however, he thought Jews should shun Austria and especially boycott conferences held there.

SOLONS URGED TO ENACT LAW TO PREVENT REPEAT OF YARMULKE CASE

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, June 15 (JTA) — New York Congressmen were urged by the State Division of Human Rights to take the lead in enactment of legislation to prevent such military actions as the order to a Jewish military chaplain not to wear his skullcap while on duty.

Douglas White, the State Human Rights Commissioner, said such legislation was needed to restore "the First Amendment right of free exercise of religion to members of the armed forces."

The Supreme Court ruled last March 25 that the Air Force acted within its authority when it banned the wearing of a skullcap by Rabbi Simcha Goldman, who was working as a clinical psychologist at March Air Force Base in California.

Threat Of Religious Discrimination

White asserted that the Supreme Court decision could "seriously undermine" the religious discrimination provisions of the New York Human Rights Law and "open the door to religious discrimination in any job where a uniform is required."

Goldman was given a formal letter of reprimand in May, 1981, and threatened with a court martial for refusing to remove his skullcap on duty. Represented by the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), Goldman was given a

temporary restraining order and an injunction on April 26, 1982 upholding his constitutional right to wear a skullcap on duty. The District of Columbia Court of Appeals reversed the District Court ruling on May 8, 1984. After a COLPA petition to the Appeals Court was rejected, COLPA filed an appeal with the Supreme Court.

White sent his request in letters to the two U.S. Senators and to 33 members of the House. White noted, in that letter, the introduction of bills on the issue by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) and Rep. Charles Schumer (D. NY).

The two bills would bar federal officials from interfering with the religious practices of members of the armed forces. The House measure would extend the proposed ban to cover all federal employees.

Fear Of Uniformed Service Rules

White declared, "If a complaint based on the same facts were filed with the New York State Division of Human Rights, our processes would very likely result in a finding of probable cause under the New York Human Rights Law." Such a finding is a required preliminary action to intervention by the division on behalf of an individual applying to the division in a human rights dispute.

In his letter, White said, "we can envision uniformed services from police departments to private security forces imposing similar rules on their employees on the strength of the (Supreme Court) decision."

White offered to testify in support of such legislation at Congressional hearings, declaring, "we cannot permit such erosion of a basic human right, especially where the religious observance cannot possibly interfere with the performance of one's duties."

Goldman resigned his Air Force commission to become a psychologist at a Lubavitch House in Los Angeles. The Supreme Court ruling apparently nullified claims by Goldman for damages allegedly suffered in lost promotions and pay increases he would have received if he had obeyed the no-skullcap order.

NEW GOVERNOR FOR BANK OF ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 15 (JTA) — Prof. Michael Bruno of the Hebrew University will be the next Governor of the Bank of Israel, the Cabinet decided Sunday.

The decision ended a lengthy debate between the Alignment and the Likud on the manning of the position. The Alignment wanted Deputy Finance Minister Adi Amrami to fill the position, but since the Likud refused, Premier Shimon Peres decided to stick to his commitment not to create a controversy with the Likud over the appointment — since this position is one of the key positions which must be filled by mutual agreement, according to the coalition agreement.

The office was offered to Bruno last Sunday by Finance Minister Moshe Nissim. Bruno accepted. But in the meantime, Peres was faced with a strong demand by the Alignment Knesset caucus to go ahead and appoint Amrami.

Sunday morning, Peres won. In a telephone conversation with Nissim, the two men agreed to go ahead and appoint Bruno. The matter was brought for approval by Bruno. Nobody was opposed. The appointment still awaits the official seal of President Chaim Herzog, probably later this week.

Nissim asked Herzog to complete the appointment procedure as soon as possible, because the central bank has been operating without a head for the past week. The outgoing Governor, Dr. Moshe Mandelbaum, left the country on vacation.

NA'AMAT USA PURSUES LEGISLATION TO PROTECT WOMEN AND FAMILY LIFE

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, June 15 (JTA) — "It's not easy to be a Jewish woman," says Gloria Elbling, president of Na'amat USA. "There are just so many fronts to man."

From running day care centers to rehabilitating women prisoners; from lobbying for women's legal rights to absorbing Ethiopian olim; from operating vocational schools to counselling victims of violence in the home — Na'amat has been manning more fronts than the most imaginative military strategist could contemplate.

"We can't afford the luxury of not finding the room to support Israel, to support Jewish education, to support Jews in distress," said Elbling, who was here from Pittsburgh for the organization's recently concluded bi-annual Board of Directors meeting.

As a movement for women committed to the Labor Zionist tradition, Na'amat USA, formerly Pioneer Women/Na'amat, has pursued legislation protecting women and family life both here and in Israel.

Most recently, it has been pushing for passage of a bill that would require American employers to grant unpaid "parental leave" to either mother or father of a newly-born, newly-adopted or seriously ill child.

Automatic Three-Month Leave

Paid maternity leave in Israel is mandatory, Elbling observed in an interview. New mothers receive an automatic three-month leave and may opt for an additional nine months without pay as well.

The Parental and Medical Leave Act, sponsored by Reps. William Clay (D.Mo.) and Patricia Schroeder (D.Co.) and by Christopher Dodd (D.Conn.) in the Senate, would not require that a new parent receive a salary while on leave. But it goes further than the existing Israeli law by extending the right to fathers.

Together with Na'amat, the Israeli sister organization of Na'amat USA, the 60-year-old movement has pursued similar legislation in Israel, not only with regard to parental leave, but concerning other controversial issues such as abortion rights and the establishment of family courts that would have jurisdiction over aspects of family law currently in the hands of religious authorities.

Hard To Shake Mindsets

As to which of the two countries — Israel or the United States — has proved more fertile ground for the women's movement, Elbling observed that Israel is "ahead of the U.S. in maternity leave, certainly, and they are ahead in day care." But much of the remaining issues, she noted, are blocked by hard-to-shake mindsets.

"At first women really fought to become equals with the men in developing the country, and then, I would say, little by little, they went back into their traditional jobs and positions," Elbling observed.

Women are especially hard-hit by budget-cutting policies in both the U.S. and Israel, she said, since they often are more concentrated in lower level positions which are more susceptible to layoffs. Low-income women are often the hardest hit.

Na'amat's day care, educational and job training programs for disadvantaged families are aimed at encouraging women to acquire needed skills for

the job market while providing the needed services for working mothers. The organization runs a network of 760 day nursery classes for 20,000 children in cities, development towns, moshavim and Arab and Druze towns and villages. Its day care centers are serving some 800 Ethiopian children.

Na'amat also offers vocational training to some 1,500 disadvantaged Jewish and Arab youth and operates three agricultural high schools, and 60 community centers which run a massive array of programs for women. That's for starters.

For about two years, the organization has run a center in Tel Aviv on violence in the family and it plans to open another one soon in Jerusalem. From crisis counselling, the center in Tel Aviv has expanded its services to include longer term therapy and treatment.

Women In Prison Aided

Addressing a more limited clientele, Na'amat has recently reached out to women in prison — 99 in Israel all told, according to Elbling. The rehabilitation program at the women's prison in Tel Aviv involves training in skills necessary for entering the job market, along with counselling by social workers and psychologists.

The main objective, Elbling said, is to help the prisoners, most of whom are serving terms for prostitution or drug-related offenses, to "increase their self-assuredness."

For Elbling, who was elected president of the 50,000 member organization last November, Na'amat is the pinnacle of a 37-year career of volunteer work in Jewish and Zionist organizations. A grandmother of three, she has long considered herself a "professional volunteer" — a title now discarded in favor of "volunteer executive."

Whatever her title, she has manned so many fronts that her name has penetrated the outer boundaries of the Jewish community in Pittsburgh. After her election to Na'amat's presidency, she returned from a recent trip to Israel to find that the Mayor had honored her in one of the city's biggest intersections with a temporary street sign in her name.

FLAWS CITED IN POLICE EXERCISE

TEL AVIV, June 15 (JTA) — A secret police report on a widespread police exercise carried out about four months ago has disclosed serious flaws and shortcomings, according to Israel Radio.

The radio said that because of the sensitivity of the subject, no details of the report are being disclosed, but senior officials are said to be studying it to learn what immediate steps should be taken to improve the situation.

The exercise covered a number of simultaneous incidents, including the firing of katyusha rockets, explosive charges, attempted infiltration by terrorists, and the hijacking of vehicles and the taking of hostages for bargaining purposes.

PARIS (JTA) — A festival of traditional Jewish music encompassing all the traditions from Eastern Europe, Germany, Spain, the Middle East and Israel is to be held at Paris' Maison des Cultures du Monde (hall of world cultures) from June 16 to 26.