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WEST GERMAN NEO-NAZI GROUPS REPORTED TO HAVE COMBINED MEMBERSHIP OF 22,500

By David Kantor

BONN, June 17 (JTA) — The Interior Ministry reported this week that neo-Nazi organizations in West Germany have a combined membership of about 22,500, that several of them are prone to violence and that extremists on the far right have one thing in common with extremists of the far left — anti-Americanism.

But while emphasizing that aspect, the Ministry made no mention of recent anti-Semitic manifestations involving members of the mainstream political parties that were serious enough to prompt a full scale debate in the Bundestag. These included a remark by the mayor of one town, affiliated with the ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU), that "killing a few rich Jews" would balance the municipal budget.

An official of the Christian Social Union (CSU), the CDU's Bavarian sister-party, created a scandal when he said, with reference to reparations claims by Jews used as slave labor during World War II, that "Jews always show up when money jingles in German cash boxes."

Efforts To Elect Candidates

The Interior Ministry's report noted that there were 78 neo-Nazi groups in 1985, the largest being the German Peoples Union with a membership of 12,000. The second largest, with a membership of 6,100 was led by the National Democratic Party (NPD). The NPD has made repeated but unsuccessful attempts in recent years to get its candidates elected to the Bundestag and to state parliaments.

Its one success, the report said, was in the state elections of delegates to the Strasbourg-based Parliament of Europe where the NPD group won nearly five percent of the popular vote.

The report singled out two other groups, the Social Revolutionists and National Revolutionists as militants who resorted to violence. They have gained influence with the radical right, the report said.

Both rightwing and leftwing extremists denounce American "imperialism" and spread hostility against Americans stationed in West Germany, the report said. They depict Americans here as representatives of a foreign power trying to impose its will on the German people against their own interests.

The report said that 3,550 of West Germany's Arab residents are affiliated with such groups as the Palestine Liberation Organization. According to the report, PLO dissidents opposed to Yasser Arafat have failed to attract substantial support among Arab extremists in the country.

SLIGHT RISE IN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

TEL AVIV, June 17 (JTA) — The consumer price index rose by only 1.6 percent in May, the smallest rise for that month in 10 years. But some Israelis are complaining.

The Finance Ministry has refused to adjust tax brackets. The 5.8 percent cost-of-living increase

to be added to salaries payable July 1 will therefore be the gross rise, but less in net terms. The Manufacturers Association expressed regret that employers will be forced to pay the increase without being allowed to raise their prices.

Government spokesmen hailed the small cost of living increase as evidence that the war against inflation is being won. They noted that less than a year ago, Israel had an annual inflation rate of 300 percent, one of the highest in the world. Now it has been reduced to what they called "European proportions."

HARISH VOWS THERE WILL BE 'NO WHITEWASH' IN PROBE OF CHARGES AGAINST THE HEAD OF SECURITY AGENCY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 17 (JTA) — Attorney General Yosef Harish told the Knesset's Interior Committee Tuesday that there would be "no whitewash" in the case he is now studying involving charges of obstruction of justice against Avraham Shalom, head of Shabak, Israel's internal security agency commonly known as the Shin Bet.

But Harish, in his first appearance before the Knesset body since taking office two weeks ago, appeared to be responding to a warning by his predecessor, former Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir, when he said "There will be no whitewash and thus there will be no need for anyone to apply to the High Court for justice."

Zamir created a new furor this week when he elaborated his charges against Shalom and warned if there is a "whitewash," somebody, presumably himself, would appeal to the Supreme Court for justice.

Zamir had been determined to prosecute Shalom despite almost unanimous opposition by the Cabinet and had gone so far as to order a police investigation. According to some observers, that was the main reason he was replaced by Harish, although he had been planning for some time to resign.

Remarks To Panel Are Cryptical

Harish repeated Tuesday that he would complete his study of the Shalom case this week and consult with Premier Shimon Peres and Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir early next week — and presumably make recommendations. But some of his remarks to the Knesset panel were cryptical.

He spoke of a "theoretical possibility" that there would be no investigation but offered no explanation. There would be "no compromising," he said, adding that "compromise is not a suitable concept in this connection." He maintained that his sole concern is to fuse two overriding interests — the rule of law and State security. "This is what guides me," Harish told the Knesset committee.

The allegations against Shalom stem from the unexplained deaths of two Arab bus hijackers who were captured by the Israel Defense Force in the Gaza Strip in April, 1984 and turned over to security agents for interrogation. They were dead before they could be transferred to jail.

According to newly published charges attributed to "a senior source close to the Shin Bet affair," the

two Palestinians were "lynched" on the orders of Shalom. Zamir acknowledged Tuesday that he was the "senior source" and that he had made his remarks to legal affairs reporters Monday.

Likud MK Ehud Olmert charged in the Knesset that Zamir committed a serious breach of security and urged Premier Peres to caution him against disclosing State secrets to which he was privy while he held office.

Harish too contended that talk of a "lynch" had done serious harm to the interests of the State. He did not refer directly to Zamir. Zamir told the legal reporters, among other things, that there is strong prima facie evidence that Shin Bet operatives involved in the affair lied and perjured themselves before a special Shin Bet disciplinary tribunal headed by a District Court judge.

Zamir also contended that three disaffected Shin Bet operatives who, through intermediaries, first brought the case to his attention, now "live in fear."

RABIN: U.S. BUDGET CUTS WILL AFFECT ISRAELI ECONOMIC RECOVERY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 17 (JTA) -- Anticipated cuts in American aid as a result of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings balanced budget amendment will affect Israel's economic recovery and the Israel Defense Force, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a meeting of the U.S.-Israel Chamber of Commerce here Monday.

He noted that 70 percent of Israel's defense budget is covered by U.S. aid -- Israel pays only 30 percent -- and any cuts would have tremendous impact, particularly on military training and development. "I don't think there were forced retirements from the career army in the past like there are today. We're speaking of thousands," Rabin said.

He said that more than 10 percent of the IDF's civilian employees have been let go and dismissals and early retirement can be expected in defense industries, such as Rafael, the Israel Weapons Development Authority, and Israel Aircraft Industries.

The country's defense budget, he said is currently 12.9 percent of its gross national product, the smallest ratio since 1967. The \$3 billion in American aid was provided by Washington to cover Israel's defense costs, not improve its social services, Rabin said.

Rabin Affirms Support For Lavi

He spoke of the dispute between Israel and the U.S. over the Lavi, Israel's second generation jet fighter plane which is financed by the U.S. The Reagan Administration is now urging the Israelis to drop the project on grounds that the aircraft will be too costly to produce.

Cancelling the Lavi, Rabin said, would throw 6,000 people out of work. The plane represents an operational need and also a national need. Without it, Israel's high-tech industry would suffer a severe setback, he said. At the same time, he stressed, Israel's high-tech industry must increase production of non-military equipment.

Rabin pointed out that the U.S. has provided between \$1 billion and \$1.2 billion for the Lavi so far and even if alternative aircraft are found, there could be no replacement in terms of jobs and industry.

The U.S., he said has never told Israel how to spend the aid money, but Israel has voluntarily made sacrifices in the interests of its close relationship with the U.S.

He cited, for example, the Kfir, Israel's first generation jet fighter. Israel sold exactly 12 of them abroad in 12 years. "We have had dozens of offers, but didn't sell them because permission was not forthcoming from the United States. Few other countries would have displayed similar loyalty to such agreements with the Americans," Rabin said.

The U.S. has a veto over Kfir sales abroad because the plane is powered by American-built engines.

FIRST INTERNAL CRISIS OVERCOME BY NEW LIBERAL CENTER PARTY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 17 (JTA) -- The fledgling Liberal Center Party has weathered its first internal crisis and claims this week to be back on course, united and determined to win middle-of-the-road voters at the next election.

The party has put together a 75-member Central Committee which, by common consent, gives fair representation to the various groupings comprising its key strength.

One of the key figures who was disaffected during the internal wranglings that accompanied the LCP's founding convention last week, Yitzhak Berman, professed himself Tuesday fully satisfied. "These things happen in every party," the former Likud-Liberal Minister said. "It is a pity it happened to us so early on."

Berman, together with former Likud Knesseter Yitzhak Yitzhaki, contended that other founding figures in the party -- notably Leon Dulzin, the World Zionist Organization chairman, and Shlomo Lahat, the Mayor of Tel Aviv -- had sought to deprive their supporters of fair representation in the Central Committee.

Dulzin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last week that men like him, Berman, S.Z. Abramov and others were "beyond craving public office" and for that reason he believed the prospects for the reunited party were especially bright.

The veteran leaders would not seek office and honors for themselves but would rather focus on moulding a broad base of public support and a truly liberal domestic platform and moderate foreign policy positions.

AJCONGRESS URGES NY GOVERNOR TO INCLUDE MOSLEM SABBATH IN COURT BAN

NEW YORK, June 17 (JTA) -- A Jewish organization wants New York State Moslems and other religious groups that do not observe Saturday or Sunday as their sabbath to have the right to be excused from court proceedings on their holy day. The Moslem sabbath is Friday.

In a letter to Governor Mario Cuomo, the American Jewish Congress has asked that new state legislation prohibiting a court from transacting business on Saturday -- the Jewish Sabbath -- in cases where any of the litigants observe that day as a holy day be broadened to cover other sabbaths as well.

Christians are already covered by a long-standing ban on Sunday proceedings. The new "Saturday Sabbath" legislation which was passed by the New York State Legislature, was recently signed by Cuomo.

The AJCongress letter, signed by associate executive director Phil Baum, applauds the legislature's "sensitivities to the religious observances of litigants," but

says that the failure to include an accommodation for the Moslem Sabbath, as well, "impermissibly advances a particular religious practice."

AJCongress wants Cuomo to ask the legislature to amend the bill. In addition to extending the legislation to include other than Saturday and Sunday sabbaths, the Jewish organization wants the bill expanded to include the sabbath observance of lawyers as well as litigants.

MODAI SAYS ISRAEL WILL NOT RENEW ITS PROBE INTO THE POLLARD AFFAIR

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, June 17 (JTA) — Israeli Justice Minister Yitzhak Modai said Tuesday he expected the Reagan Administration to release as soon as possible an "official statement" detailing the findings of its continued investigation into the Jonathan Pollard espionage affair.

But in a press conference following a string of high-level meetings here over the past two days, Modai indicated that the Israeli government would not renew its own inquiry into the case by seeking further interviews with those Israelis already "tried" in connection with the scandal.

Last December a team of American investigators was permitted to interview three Israelis who had been involved in the transfer of secret U.S. documents from Jonathan Pollard, a civilian Navy analyst, to Israel. Following the visit in Israel, the State Department announced that the Israeli government had extended its "full cooperation" in the inquiry and had returned all documents obtained "in an unauthorized manner."

Pollard Discloses Details

But the indictment issued against Pollard and his wife Anne Henderson-Pollard earlier this month named as co-conspirators two Israelis whose alleged roles in the affair had been disclosed by Pollard as part of his plea bargain. Their names — Aviem Sella, now a senior Israeli Air Force Commander, and Irit Erb, who was a secretary at the Embassy in Washington, had not come up in the interviews conducted by the American team when they visited Israel.

The indictment also contained details of what the Israeli government has called a "rogue operation," but which, according to Pollard's account and the indictment, involved substantial sums of money. The new allegations have led to suggestions by Justice Department officials and others that the Israeli espionage operation was both authorized and more extensive than previously believed.

Following angry comments from the Israeli government about the comments, given mostly by unnamed officials to the press, the State Department and White House maintained that the U.S. had no evidence of a larger operation and commended Israel for abiding by its agreement to fully cooperate with the U.S. investigation.

'The Whole Thing Is Blown Up'

Obviously prepared for the barrage of questions about Israel's role in the affair, Modai used the forum of Tuesday's press conference to vent his frustration at what he maintained was a campaign of not yet proven allegations by Administration officials and in the American press.

"The whole thing is blown up. I don't want to blame anybody, but it only happened when I arrived in this country, and I tell you I got the shock of my

life. How could it blow up beyond any proportion?" he told reporters. He said that in his meetings Monday with Secretary of State George Shultz and Attorney General Edwin Meese, he had urged that the U.S. investigation of the affair be "accelerated" so that speculation can be put to rest.

But in spite of his willingness to forcefully tackle each and every question put forward, Modai almost appeared as though he were under investigation himself, and the lingering suggestions of a government coverup seemed far from the point of being laid to rest.

Prestigious Appointments Questioned

Specifically, there were questions about the appointments of Rafi Eitan — who had directed the operation through a now disbanded unit for the gathering of scientific data — and Aviem Sella, who allegedly acted as a liaison in the operation, to prestigious positions in Israel following Pollard's arrest.

Modai said that he himself, in his capacity at the time of Finance Minister, had approved Eitan's appointment as chairman of the Board of a government-owned chemical enterprise, but maintained that it was not "in reward or in compensation" for his espionage activities.

"It was in reward for nothing, but in consideration of the past services of this particular gentleman," Modai asserted. He added that Eitan had been in failing health.

As for Sella, who was in the country as a graduate student when he allegedly became involved in the Pollard operation, Modai maintained that it was up to the military to investigate the allegations in the Pollard indictment. Sella has been given command of a large Israeli air base.

Yosef Yagur, a former science attache at the Israeli Consulate in New York who was named in the indictment, has been appointed to a position in the same state-owned chemical company to which Eitan was transferred, The Jerusalem Post recently reported.

Assails Press, Justice Dept.

The Justice Minister, who has been in his current post for barely a couple of months, acknowledged that the appointments of Eitan and Sella create an incriminating appearance, but maintained that "what appears is not necessarily the real facts."

He railed at the press and, indirectly at the Justice Department's officials who have been leaking allegations of a coverup, for taking Pollard's words as evidence of Israeli government involvement.

"If you intimate that this is the tip of the iceberg, then where is the iceberg? If you intimate that there were other cases, where are the other cases? If you suggest that Israeli authorities knew about it, who is it who gave you the evidence?" Modai asked.

In an earlier briefing with the Israeli press, the Justice Minister reportedly denied that there had been any request from the U.S. to receive another American delegation for further interviews with Israelis about the Pollard case. But he said that such a delegation would be welcome as long as the Israelis involved agreed to be interviewed.

Nevertheless, he maintained that the Israeli inquiry of the three who were interviewed by the American team was closed and that they would not be subjected to a second "trial" regarding the Pollard case. "We don't try people twice. That's the law in Israel," he maintained. The Israeli inquiry, it was explained later, took the form of an administrative hearing.

NEW UJA CHAIRMAN OUTLINES OBJECTIVES

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 17 (JTA) — Martin Stein, the newly elected national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, called Monday for the creation of a "united Jewish agenda and a united Jewish front" to meet the many challenges facing the Jewish people.

He told reporters at a news conference at UJA headquarters here that he believes that the UJA is "the one organization" that can help unite the differing groups in the Jewish community.

The 49-year-old Stein, a native of Milwaukee, succeeded Alex Grass as national chairman last month. Stein has in the past served as president of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and has been a UJA national vice president.

A pharmacist by training, he began with one pharmacy in 1961 and built it into a chain of 19 pharmacies — Stein Drugs. He sold most of the pharmacies in 1979 and founded Stein Health Services, which is now a major mid-West optical and medical company.

Objectives Are Multiple

Stein told reporters that his objectives are five-fold: "to significantly enhance the whole UJA campaign process by developing a partnership" with the communities; to increase major gift contributions and help all Jews to contribute to their capacity; to develop and nurture a new and young leadership; to continue and complete Project Renewal; and to "become an advocate for all Jews in distress countries" such as the Soviet Union, Syria and Ethiopia.

Regarding the last objective, Stein said that in the next few weeks he is scheduled to visit the Soviet Union and Ethiopia. Stein is a former chairman of the special UJA task force for Operation Moses, an effort that mobilized a campaign raising over \$60 million in less than four months for the resettlement of Ethiopian Jews in Israel in 1985.

STRESS AMONG AMERICAN ORTHODOX RABBIS

BALTIMORE, June 17 (JTA) — American Orthodox rabbis suffer chronic, role-related stress on a daily basis, according to the findings of a year long study of Orthodox rabbis by Dr. Leslie Freedman, a clinical psychologist associated with the City University of New York.

"And rabbis overall report greater distress than that measured in recent studies of Vietnam veterans, long term clients of a community mental health center, and residents living close to the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor in the immediate aftermath of the accident," said Freedman.

Freedman, a clinical associate in the Doctoral Training Program in Clinical Psychology at CUNY and a clinical instructor in the New York University Medical School, disclosed his findings Monday at the opening session of the 50th convention of the Rabbinical Council of America, the major Orthodox rabbinic group. The convention concludes Thursday at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel here.

Freedman has studied stress among rabbis for the past six years, and has received the cooperation in his research of some 60 percent of active Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist and Reform rabbis. Freedman found no difference between the four denominational groups in the amount of stress reported nor do differences in income and age affect the data. But, he added, "Rabbis certainly find their work stressful."

Addressing several hundred delegates attending the RCA conclave, Freedman said only 3.2 percent of this sample responded that their work is "not stressful" and another 20 percent answered a "little stressful." Over a quarter — 26.4 percent — responded in the study that they experienced their work as "very stressful." That figure, Freedman said, "is very high."

"Psychological factors such as low self esteem, feelings of inadequacy in job performance, and general job dissatisfaction determine demoralization levels," Freedman said. "Family relations, especially marital dissatisfaction, also contribute to rabbinic stress. These frequently translate into more socially acceptable physical symptoms that ironically, intensify the distress."

According to Freedman, "rabbis are trained as experts in Jewish law and tradition and identify themselves as scholars As symbols of moral rectitude and exemplars of Jewish living, the rabbi and his family live in a fish-bowl. They are socially isolated, regarded as being 'too good' for normal social discourse yet, as paid employees of the community, not good enough to socialize with."

Stress Is Part Of Rabbinic Role

Freedman also said he felt that many men may not be going into the congregational pulpit because of stress inherent in the role of the rabbi. "Rabbis do not necessarily need therapy," continued Freedman.

"The data shows that stress is built into the nature of the rabbinic role. In order for rabbis to better manage their roles, a clearer understanding on the part of the rabbi of his role and its inherent conflicts is necessary."

Freedman's conclusions were based on the findings of an independent nationwide survey conducted in the Spring of 1985 among the 750 Orthodox rabbis who are members of the Rabbinical Council of America and who reside in the United States. The questionnaire contained over 250 items, in four areas of interest.

A total of 325 completed questionnaires were returned, Freedman said. The survey, Freedman noted, was carefully designed to provide total anonymity and confidentiality to the participants. "It was never possible to identify a questionnaire as that of a given rabbi," he said.

PERES SERVES AS SANDAK AT CEREMONY

JERUSALEM, June 17 (JTA) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres was "sandak" (godfather) this week at the brit mila ceremony for the son of released Israeli prisoner of war Hezi Shai.

Shai, 31, was captured in the early stages of the Lebanon war in June, 1982, and was released with two other POW's in May 1985 in exchange for 1,150 convicted terrorists.

President Chaim Herzog sent a telegram congratulating Iris and Hezi and their new baby, Omer, on the happy event. The guests included Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Minister Moshe Arens, and veteran left-wing politician Lyova Eliav, who was part of the negotiating team for Shai's release.

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NEW YORK (JTA) — A new record price for printed Hebrewa was set last month at Christie's sale of 100 duplicate rare books from the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Ibn Sahula's Meshal ha-Kadmon, an illustrated collection of fables and allegories printed in Brescia in 1491, sold for \$176,000 — the highest price ever paid for a single printed Hebrew book.