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ISRAELI CORRESPONDENT EXPELLED
FROM SOUTH AFRICA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA) -- An Israeli newspaper correspondent has been ordered to leave South Africa within 48 hours, it was reported here Tuesday.

Dan Sagir who writes for Haaretz and also broadcasts on Galei Zahal, the Army radio station, said Tuesday he was told by the South African authorities that he must be out of the country by Thursday. He said he was the third correspondent to be expelled since the South African government declared a state of emergency on June 12.

The Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday that it has instructed the Israel Ambassador in Pretoria to inquire into expulsion of Sagir. Sagir said he was informed that his visa and work permit would not be renewed.

He said he thought he was targeted because of the warm relations between Israel and the Pretoria government which the latter does not want to strain. His coverage of events in South Africa was considered unwarrantedly critical by the authorities there.

Concern For S. African Jews

Meanwhile the situation of South Africa's Jewish community has become the focus of top level discussions by Premier Shimon Peres and by the Jewish Agency Assembly currently holding its annual session in Jerusalem.

Peres called a meeting Monday of senior ministers and Jewish leaders to consider measures to increase aliyah by South African Jews. Only 250 have come to Israel so far this year.

The Jewish Agency Assembly is also concerned about the Jewish community as the situation deteriorates in South Africa and by indications that while Jews are leaving that country in increasing numbers, they are not settling in Israel.

They choose instead to immigrate to the United States, Australia, New Zealand and even neighboring Zimbabwe. Haim Aharon, chairman of the Jewish Agency's aliyah department, told the Assembly that a special program has been undertaken to ease the absorption of South African olim by helping them find housing and business opportunities.

They require help, Aharon said, in light of the drastic depreciation of the South African Rand and South Africa's strict currency regulations. According to Aharon, the condition of South African Jewry is "the most urgent problem of any Jewish community in the Western world."

ISRAEL AND POLAND TO EXCHANGE
DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA) -- Israel and Poland are preparing to exchange diplomatic representatives, a move which may open the way for the establishment of full diplomatic relations some time in the future.

Yediot Achronot reported Tuesday that a delegation from the Polish Foreign Ministry visited Israel last week and an official Israeli delegation will leave for Warsaw in the next few days.

The Polish party reportedly inspected a building in Tel Aviv, formerly a Polish bank, where the Polish mission will be housed. Renovation work is expected to begin immediately. They also met with senior Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem.

The Israeli delegation will go to Poland to check arrangements at The Netherlands Embassy in Warsaw where Israel's mission will be located. According to Yediot Achronot, the mission will be headed by Mordechai Paltzor who was attached to the Israel Embassy in Warsaw before Poland broke relations with Israel nearly 20 years ago.

There will be no official ceremonies when the exchange of representatives is effected but Israel and Poland will issue a joint statement. Foreign Ministry sources expressed hope Tuesday that other Soviet-bloc countries would follow Poland's example.

SHAMIR ASKS MITTERRAND TO
INTERVENE FOR REFUSENIKS WHEN
HE MEETS GORBACHEV IN JULY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 24 (JTA) -- Israeli Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir asked President Francois Mitterrand Tuesday to intervene on behalf of the thousands of Soviet Jews who are trying to leave Russia for Israel.

Mitterrand will pay an official visit to Moscow next month to confer with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Sources close to Mitterrand said he would raise a number of humanitarian questions, especially those of refuseniks separated from their families because they have been denied exit visas.

Shamir asked Mitterrand to bring up several specific cases which he described as particularly poignant. He gave the President a list of names of people who have been waiting, some of them for years, for the right to leave for Israel.

Shamir met with Premier Jacques Chirac Monday and inaugurated the Israel-European Economic Community Chamber of Commerce. He cut his visit to France short by one day and flew back to Israel Tuesday afternoon to attend an Inner Cabinet meeting on the proposed investigation of the head of Israel's internal security service.

Before his departure Shamir conferred with Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond. They reviewed the situation in southern Lebanon and the possibility of extending trade ties between Israel and the 12-nation EEC.

'WHO IS JEW' ISSUE FLARES
AT SUPREME COURT HEARING

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA) -- The fiercely controversial "Who is a Jew" issue flared anew Monday when it was disclosed at a Supreme Court hearing that the Orthodox-controlled Interior Ministry requires that the word "converted," in parentheses, be printed next to the designation "Jewish" on the identity cards of all converts to Judaism in Israel.

The new regulation triggered angry responses from secular spokesmen who charged that the Interior Ministry was trying to introduce the Orthodox-inspired "Who is a Jew" amendment "through the back door." Even some Orthodox rabbis regard the designation as objectionable and discriminatory against converts.

The Knesset will hold a full-scale debate on the issue Wednesday. Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel placed it on the agenda over objections by the Interior Ministry that the matter was sub judice and could not be discussed in parliamentary session. Hillel said Knesset members would be warned to steer clear of specific issues before the Supreme Court.

The case before the court concerns a recent American immigrant, Shoshana Miller, who was converted to Judaism in Colorado Springs, Colo. by a Reform rabbi and refused to undergo Orthodox conversion rites in Israel. The Interior Ministry has refused to register her as Jewish until her conversion is validated by the Orthodox Rabbinate. Miller is supported by the Reform movement in Israel.

Goren Critical

The Interior Ministry told the court that the identity card, though not in itself proof of halachic status, is prima facie evidence and is used as such by rabbis who register marriages. Therefore, according to the Ministry, the designation "converted" on the identity cards serves as a guide to the rabbis who would then have to make sure the conversion was satisfactory for halachic purposes.

Former Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren termed the regulation a "spilling of the blood" of converts. In an interview Tuesday, he called attention to many Biblical and Talmudic prohibitions against discrimination. "It is against the Torah," Goren said.

Goren, like most Orthodox rabbis, supports the "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return. The Law, passed shortly after the Israeli State was founded, entitles any Jew to receive Israeli citizenship immediately upon arrival in the country. It identifies a Jew as anyone "born of a Jewish mother or converted." The amendment would add the words "according to halacha."

It would thus allow the Orthodox Rabbinate to declare invalid conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis. It has been fiercely opposed by the Reform and Conservative movements in the U.S. and Israel. The amendment has been introduced in the Knesset many times over the years and to date has always been defeated.

NURSES' STRIKE IN 2ND DAY, PATIENT CARE ENDANGERED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 24 (JTA) — A strike by 11,000 hospital nurses entered its second day Tuesday with apparently severe effects on patient care. Doctors who have been manning the wards since the walk-out began Monday morning reported the situation was becoming critical.

Almost all hospitals in Israel have sent home about 50 percent of their patients, presumably non-emergency cases. Emergency wards, intensive care units, maternity and premature birth departments were reported to have nurses on duty. But one hospital administrator was quoted Tuesday as saying it was only a matter of time before a patient dies for lack of attention.

The issue in the strike is the demand by the striking women and male nurses to be allowed to form their own independent union or an autonomous section within the general nurses union. They deny that pay

is an issue. The nursing profession recently received a 12 percent wage hike. The strike is opposed by nurses employed at sick fund clinics or as public service or home care nurses. They say the general union, which they control, is the sole bargaining agent for the profession.

Representatives of both sides met with the Knesset's Labor and Welfare Committee for seven hours Tuesday over the strike. The meeting was described as tense, with bitter clashes between the two nurses' groups.

The Knesset Tuesday rejected a non-confidence motion on the strike situation, introduced by the Communist Party. Health Minister Mordechai Gur, speaking for the government, said he hoped a compromise would be reached by Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, many public service organizations are broadcasting their telephone numbers and addresses on radio and television offering to assist patients sent home from hospitals and their families.

CHINA, FOR FIRST TIME, SHOWS INTEREST IN UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN MIDEAST

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 24 (JTA) — Three Chinese officials have recently visited the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Syria and Egypt, a UN spokesman said Tuesday.

It was the first such visit by the Peoples Republic of China, which has refused to take part in any UN peacekeeping operations since it was admitted to the UN in 1971.

According to the spokesman, China decided to make the inspection tour of the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in Syria and Egypt, "for information purposes" since China is one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The others are the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

Diplomats at the UN, however, said privately Tuesday that the Chinese move can be seen as an indication that China is considering a change in its policy regarding UN peacekeeping forces. The diplomats noted that China, which refused so far to participate in Security Council votes on UN peacekeeping operations, joined at the beginning of this month in a unanimous vote to extend the mandate of the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus.

The UNTSO force in the Mideast includes 298 observers. In addition to Syria and Egypt, UNTSO observers are also stationed in south Lebanon. UNTSO was the first UN force in the Mideast, sent there in 1948 during Israel's war for independence.

NEW SYNAGOGUE INAUGURATED IN HUNGARY

PARIS, June 24 (JTA) — A new synagogue was inaugurated in Hungary to be operated by the Central Board of Jewish Communities. It is located in the city of Siófok near Lake Balaton.

The Hungarian News agency, MTI, monitored here, reported that high ranking government officials as well as representatives of the Budapest Jewish community attended the ceremonies. The agency did not say whether the synagogue will have a resident rabbi and cantor, nor does it give the size of the local Jewish community.

It was the first time since World War II that a new synagogue has been built in Eastern Europe. There are close to 100,000 Jews in Hungary the majority in the capital, Budapest, where there are 29 synagogues staffed by rabbis and other Jewish functionaries. There are also a Beth Din, a mikvah, a burial society, 12 kosher butcheries and a yeshiva in Budapest.

NEW REPORT CHARGES

ANTI-SEMITIC CAMPAIGN BY SANDINISTAS

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, June 24 (JTA) — A new report on the fate of Jews under the current regime in Managua maintains that an anti-Semitic campaign by the Sandinistas induced almost all of Nicaragua's tiny Jewish community to flee the country following the revolution of 1979.

The report was released Tuesday by Prodemca, an organization that has campaigned actively for American aid to the Nicaraguan armed resistance, known as "contras." Based on more extensive interviews than previous reports, the study represents the most recent round in an ongoing debate here as to whether the Sandinista regime is anti-Semitic.

It also comes a day before Wednesday's scheduled vote in the House of Representatives on the controversial question of American military aid to the contras. In his efforts to win Congressional approval of the aid, President Reagan himself has made note of the Sandinista regime's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization and the anti-Semitic incidents which are said to have driven the Jewish community from Nicaragua.

But the researchers stressed that the survey has been initiated independently in order to find the truth about the allegations and denials concerning anti-Semitism in Sandinista Nicaragua.

Joshua Muravchik, a writer on human rights and other issues and currently a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said at a press conference that once he had decided to undertake the research Prodemca agreed to sponsor it. Susan Alberts, a former staff member of Americans for Democratic Action who conducted all the interviews, stressed that she herself had been open to any findings that the research might have turned up.

Alberts said she had interviewed members of 13 out of the 18 families that constituted what she called "the entire active Jewish population of pre-Sandinista Nicaragua." She said that attendance at synagogue was a criterion for identifying a Jew as "active."

Conflicting Reports

The study follows up on a report of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith which found that harassment and threats against the Jewish community had forced the few Jews in Nicaragua to leave the country. Following publication of that report, Rabbi Balfour Brickner of New York led a delegation to Nicaragua and asserted that charges of anti-Semitism were false and that those Jews who left the country had done so for fear of losing their property or because they had enjoyed close ties with the regime of Anastasio Somoza.

But the Prodemca report maintains that except for two, the Jews they interviewed had no ties with Somoza and only had their property confiscated by the Sandinista regime once they were already out of the country. It cites incidents reported by the "exiles" involving abusive and threatening anti-Semitic phone calls by people identifying themselves as Sandinistas, anti-Semitic graffiti and other forms of harassment following the revolution.

Underscoring these threats, the report notes, was the firebombing of the Managua synagogue during Friday night services in December 1978 by men whom some of the worshippers recognized as Sandinistas.

The Sandinista regime has denied charges of anti-Semitism, maintaining its criticism of Israel and Zionism is unrelated to its attitudes toward Jews and pointing out that Jews are even serving in high-ranking positions. But the report maintains that the examples the government has offered represent one of "many efforts by the Sandinistas to manipulate and mislead their American sympathizers." The regime has noted, for example, that Carlos Tunnermann, the Nicaraguan Ambassador to the U.S., is a Jew, whereas in actuality the diplomat has some Jewish ancestry but is a professing Catholic, the report observes.

The report maintains that offers by the regime to return the now confiscated synagogue are hollow since there is no longer anyone left in Managua to reclaim it.

It also notes that Ma'e'o Guerrero, who was a top staff member of the government-sponsored Nicaraguan Commission for Human Rights, and has recently defected, said he had been summoned by Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco before the arrival of representatives of the New Jewish Agenda in 1984, and was simply "instructed to tell them that there had been no persecution of Jews."

Families Tell Why They Fled

Of the families interviewed by Alberts in the U.S. and Costa Rica, about half said they had decided to flee after being told that their personal safety might be in danger, while the other half said harassment from the Sandinistas had driven them to leave.

All told, the community has been estimated at 50 at the time of the 1979 revolution. According to the report, the only remaining Jew in Nicaragua is Jaime Levy, an elderly French citizen.

The researchers stressed that their findings were significant regardless of the ongoing debate over aid to the contras.

"Some of those who dismiss the charge of Sandinista anti-Semitism are evidently troubled because it has been used to support aid to the Nicaraguan resistance forces — a policy with which they disagree," the report observes. "But as Jaime Levy's son, Gabriel, put it to us from his home in Houston, 'You can be against what President Reagan is doing in Nicaragua, but that's no reason to deny the truth about what happened to the Jews.'"

Nevertheless, Penn Kemble, a member of Prodemca's executive committee, appeared to acknowledge that release of the report was timed to coincide with the latest round of Congressional debate on contra aid.

"It's a time of great national interest in Nicaragua and our policy in Nicaragua, sure. So that's a great time to release the report in order to get it public attention," Kemble told the JTA.

TEHIYA WOULD RANK THIRD IN ELECTIONS NOW

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 24 (JTA) — A public opinion poll published in Maariv Monday showed that the ultra-nationalist rightwing Tehiya Party would become the third largest in the Knesset if elections were held now.

According to the poll, conducted by the Modi'in Ezrachi Research Institute, Tehiya would take votes from Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach Party. Kach presently has a single seat in the 120-member Knesset, won by Kahane in the 1984 elections. A poll taken last March indicated it would marshal sufficient votes for four seats were elections held then. The poll showed two seats from Kach going to Tehiya, raising its Knesset delegation from seven to nine.

VOTER APATHY, ALIENATION CITED AS MAJOR FACTORS IN SUCCESS OF LAROCHE CANDIDATES IN ILLINOIS

CHICAGO, June 24 (JTA) — Voter apathy and alienation were major factors contributing to the victories of Lyndon LaRouche supported candidates Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart in the Illinois Democratic Primary, according to a study of the election commissioned by the American Jewish Committee.

The study, "The LaRouche Victory In Illinois: An Analysis of the 1986 Democratic Election Returns," was prepared by Northern Illinois University political scientist Robert Albritton. It indicates that low turnout and participation had a profound impact on the outcome of the primary. "These factors," according to Albritton, "allowed Janice Hart and Mark Fairchild to win nomination on the Democratic ticket with the support of only 6.1 percent and 5.6 percent of the registered voters of Illinois."

Low Turnout Analyzed

Explaining his findings, he said, "turnout is significant because the smaller the level of turnout, the less it reflects the distribution of popular sentiment and the more the vote responds to idiosyncratic kinds of things."

Under such conditions, seemingly random factors — ballot position, lack of voter awareness, protest voting and extremist views — can "tip the balance to produce an outcome totally unrepresentative of the electorate as a whole or even the Democratic Party," Albritton added.

"Perhaps even more important than overall turnout," he continued, "was the pattern of the voting in specific races. Participation was lowest in the race for Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State, the two contests for statewide office won by LaRouche candidates."

Other Findings Cited

Other important findings of the study were the following:

- * Very few people voted in favor of the LaRouche program. The great majority of those who voted for LaRouche candidates did not know they were voting for members of an extremist organization and were not aware of the LaRouche platform.

- * Black voters in the city evidenced very sophisticated voting patterns. They overwhelmingly supported Fairchild and Hart in protest against "regular" Democrats George Sangmeister and Aurelia Pucinski. But when faced with alternatives to both the LaRouche candidates and "regular" Democrats, they voted for other candidates, as in the race for Treasurer, where they split their vote between two other candidates.

- * Illinois counties with a large number of family farms voted more heavily for LaRouche candidates Fairchild and Hart than other counties in the state.

Jonathan Levine, midwest regional director of the American Jewish Committee, commenting on the broader implications of the study, said: "Even though a large majority of people did not knowingly vote for the LaRouche candidates, we must all be concerned with the growing frustration many feel toward the established parties and the increasing tendency for voters to simply stay home and opt out of the system."

"Active citizen involvement is crucial to the stability of the American political system. If voters stay away from the polls, the system becomes more vulnerable to extremist groups," Levine said.

BATTLE AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERROR IS NOT A ONE SHOT OPERATION, ACCORDING TO FORMER MOSSAD HEAD

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA) — Combatting international terrorism is far from a "one shot operation" according to the former head of the Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency.

Gen. (res.) Meir Amit told leaders of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that "intelligence gathering, preventive action, retaliation, education, psychological warfare and — above all — international cooperation" are essential if terrorism is to be curbed.

Amit was part of a panel on extremism which addressed members of the ADL's national commission at the Center for Special Studies, a memorial for Israel's intelligence community, in Herzliya.

Lack Of Cooperation Cited

He said that "unfortunately, what we call the 'Free World' is quite divided and not ready to cooperate. Even the United States has been slow to recognize the extent of the terrorist threat and to apply the needed response." He added that recently the situation "has improved a little bit."

Other speakers were Gen. (res.) Aharon Yariv, former head of Military Intelligence and now head of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, and Col. Shmuel Limone, an officer of the Israel Defense Force Intelligence Corps.

Yariv said that waging war by terrorism has been a historical tradition in the Middle East since the 12th century, and noted that it has been augmented in the 20th century by modern technology.

He warned against terrorist use of remote controlled detonation devices in the future and also decried the extent of terrorist access to the media.

Arab Terrorism Will Continue

Yariv and Limone said that they expected state-sponsored or state-supported terrorism involving Arab groups to continue, regardless of a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Yariv noted that Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat has been quoted as saying that — since the Israeli exodus from Lebanon — more Palestinians have been killed by Arabs than by Jews in Lebanon, including an increase in loss of life in the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps.

Limone said that approximately 3,500 Arabs have either been killed or wounded by Arab terrorists from 1967 to 1986.

TERRORISTS MAY ATTACK IN UNIFIL UNIFORMS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 24 (JTA) — Security sources warned Tuesday that terrorists in south Lebanon are planning to attack units of the Israel Defense Force and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) disguised as troops of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

According to the sources, uniforms and military equipment have been stolen in recent days from the Irish battalion of UNIFIL which is stationed near Tibnine, just north of the south Lebanon security zone.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin confirmed that there has been an increase in terrorist attempts to steal uniforms and weapons in south Lebanon and in Israel. He said recent attacks by terrorists have employed more sophisticated equipment than the usual home-made or improvised weapons used in the past.