

ISRAEL'S HIGH COURT ORDERS GOVT. TO SHOW CAUSE WHY IT SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITH SHIN BET PROBE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 2 (JTA) — The Supreme Court has given the government two weeks to show cause why it should not proceed with an investigation of the Shin Bet affair.

The court, in a ruling handed down at midnight Tuesday, also ordered the government and Avraham Shalom, former head of Shin Bet, to present within one week full details of the exonerations of Shalom and three of his senior aides received in the form of a Presidential pardon last week, in advance of any sort of inquiry that may be held in the future.

A panel of three senior justices—Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar, Miriam Ben-Porat and Aharon Barak — issued the orders after two days of hearings on petitions by members of the legal profession challenging the validity of the pardons granted by President Chaim Herzog.

Option Of Reviewing Pardons

The court stressed that it was not proposing a judicial review of the President's "considerations" in awarding the pardons but simply sought more information about the process leading to them. Nevertheless, by issuing the order the justices left open the option of considering at a later date the validity of the pardons.

The petitioners, who include more than a score of lawyers and professors of law, argued before the court that the pardons were motivated by the government's desire to foreclose any investigation of Shin Bet, Israel's internal security services or the political echelons to which it is directly responsible.

They contended that the pardons, granted without the recipients being formally charged, tried or convicted for any illegality, were not an instrument of clemency but an entry by the President into the political arena and therefore invalid.

Shalom has been accused of an elaborate cover-up involving perjury and fabricated evidence in the case of the unexplained deaths of two Arab bus hijackers in custody of security agents in April, 1984. He stated in his application for a pardon that all of his actions in the case were undertaken "with authority and permission."

Likud Strongly Opposes Probe

This would seem to implicate Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir who held the office of Prime Minister in the Likud-led government at the time of the incident. Although nothing has been proven against Shalom or, by implication, against Shamir, Likud is vehemently opposed to any investigation of Shin Bet on national security grounds. Shamir has said however that if the Cabinet decides on an inquiry he would accept the decision and "say what I have to say."

The Cabinet, which has taken no stand so far, is sharply divided over an investigation of Shin Bet. Likud is seeking a decision against the creation of a judicial commission of inquiry. A majority of the Labor

Ministers and the Labor Party's Knesset faction are demanding a commission. Some Laborites, notably Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Police Minister Haim Barlev have expressed reservations on state security grounds. Barlev and others have proposed a single investigator with special powers rather than a judicial commission. But Labor's Knesset faction voted overwhelmingly in caucus Tuesday for a commission.

Behind the scenes efforts continued meanwhile to find a compromise that would satisfy Labor and Likud and avert a coalition crisis four months before the rotation of power agreement takes effect and Shamir assumes the office of Prime Minister. Whether these efforts succeed probably will not be known at least until the Cabinet convenes for its regular weekly session this Sunday.

ISRAEL ADMITTED TO ILO BLOC

JERUSALEM, July 2 (JTA) — Israel has been admitted as a full member of the European bloc of the International Labor Organization with the support of the Arab members and the abstention of the Communist countries.

According to Moshe Katzav, Minister of Labor and Welfare, no country voted against the proposal for Israeli admittance into the European bloc of the ILO. He reported initially that the Europeans did not want to give Israel voting rights, but that after pressure from the United States, they consented.

Katzav, who was reporting on the ILO convention in Geneva, said the Arab states supported Israel's admittance to the European bloc because they wanted to get Israel out of the Asian bloc.

Katzav also reported that the convention, which just ended, did not discuss any anti-Israeli proposals, neither were any raised by the Arabs. He said he refuted allegations raised at the convention that the situation in the occupied territories had worsened, saying that the situation had improved. He cited the decrease in unemployment from 10 percent in 1967 to the current rate of 3.5 percent.

ISRAELI ENVOY IN FRANCE ISSUES APPEAL FOR ARAB-ISRAEL 'NON-VIOLENCE'

PARIS, July 2 (JTA) — Ovadia Soffer, Israeli Ambassador to France, has issued an appeal to "establish non-violence between Israel and the Arabs" and called for "an immediate freeze of military operations and violence" both in the Middle East and world terrorism.

In an exclusive statement to the French newspaper France-Soir, Baghdad-born Soffer, referring to himself as a "son of the region," said he is "launching an appeal to all Arab governments that there be an immediate freeze of military operations and violence ... possible given that these governments are in power of controlling the terrorist organizations and of thus contributing to regional and international security."

Soffer also strongly supports the involvement of the European Community in a search for a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict. He asserted that the EEC "should be empowered to take, under its auspices, the investiture of such a freeze in order to promote negotiations between Israel and its neighbors."

Israeli Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir, while in Paris last month, discussed with French Premier Jacques Chirac the possibilities of cooperation between the two

countries to stem terrorist activities. Shamir inaugurated the Israel-Common Market joint Chamber of Commerce, with the spokesmen of both countries vowing to fight terrorism.

Issues Marshall Plan Appeal

Soffer also offered "another appeal which will go in the direction of the Marshall Plan suggested by my Prime Minister, Shimon Peres." Peres first brought the suggestion of a new kind of Marshall Plan to London January 22 when he addressed the Royal Institute of International Affairs there.

At the time, Peres proposed that the United States, Europe and some Middle East nations join in such a project to emulate that set forth by U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall in the wake of World War II, which provided for the reconstruction of the economic and physical infrastructures of the countries devastated by the war.

In April, President Reagan promised to study the proposal for a new Marshall Plan-like development for the Middle East "as the way to foster a better climate for peace" in the region. The plan was also on the agenda at the Tokyo Economic Summit Conference in May.

Cites Economic Status Of Arab States

Soffer, in his detailed list of suggestions given to French journalist Robert Soule, cited the serious financial situation of the Arab countries resulting from the drop in oil prices, emphasizing that the economic straits have "repercussions in the entirety of the Third World which suffers from famine and sickness.

"I would like to make known to the Arab countries that if they should accept our proposal of peace, there is a possibility -- and we have the ability to do it -- to go forward hand in hand in order to assure economic prosperity in the region."

Offer To Our Arab Neighbors

Soffer also included the problem of the water shortage common to so many countries in the region, saying that the Israelis, as experts in the field of irrigation, "can, in fighting against this scarcity, ameliorate the production of food." He offered "to place at the disposition of our Arab neighbors, if they choose peace," Israeli know-how in both technical and medical spheres.

Soffer included in his statement reference to the involvement of the superpowers. "We are, we and others, people exploited by rivalries and ambitions of the superpowers. An Israeli-Arab peace could liberate our people of this international competition. But beyond the solution brought to our own conflict, it could serve as a model of independence for other countries of the Third World."

FAMILIES OF ABANDONED MOSHAV SET TO RETURN; GOVT. TO AID DEBT PROBLEM

JERUSALEM, July 2 (JTA) -- The 40 families of Vered Yericho announced Wednesday that they are returning home, six weeks after they abandoned their moshav which was hopelessly in debt.

Their financial problems were resolved with the help of Housing Minister David Levy who agreed to assist the settlers to complete construction of their homes and promised their payments on a \$1 million mortgage would not be in default.

The payments were lost when the mortgagee, the Ihud Haklai (Agricultural Union), collapsed in bankruptcy. The settlers lost an additional \$150,000

they had given the failed company to pay the Mekorot water company for their water bills. Mekorot was never paid and cut off the Moshav's water used to irrigate the vineyards. The Housing Ministry will try to recover the mortgage payments from the receiver of the bankrupt Ihud Haklai.

Meanwhile, the last 30 members of Kibbutz Ravid in lower Galilee were planning to leave this week, not because of financial difficulties but social problems. The kibbutz, established seven years ago, has been disintegrating. Many members departed recently and no replacements could be recruited.

A spokesman for the United Kibbutz Movement said the problem was replacing the present kibbutz population with another. About 25 army veterans have arrived to form the nucleus of a new kibbutz.

MOVING REUNION OF ENTEBBE PARTICIPANTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 2 (JTA) -- A moving reunion took place Wednesday between passengers of an Air France airliner forced in 1976 by Arab terrorists to land in Entebbe, Uganda and the Israeli team which rescued the passengers in an action that created a worldwide sensation. The reunion marked the tenth anniversary of the rescue.

The reunion, held in President Chaim Herzog's official residence, was attended by Herzog, Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel, Meir Shengor, President of the Supreme Court, Premier Shimon Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Chief of Staff Moshe Levy, a number of Cabinet Ministers, members of bereaved families and the passengers.

The Entebbe rescue has been formally named the Yonatan Operation, commemorating Yonatan Netanyahu, one of the commanders of the rescue force, who was killed in the rescue.

'A Great Hour Of Pride'

Herzog said the rescue was the peak of Israel's fight against terrorism and that it had given the people of Israel "a great hour of pride." Herzog praised the government and the political opposition of 1976 for the unity its members demonstrated when the decision to try the hazardous rescue was made.

Herzog said that the word "Entebbe" had been transformed from its significance as Uganda's Airport to "an operation which electrified the imagination of the world ... honoring Israel's name among the nations."

Rabin in evaluating the daring and dangerous rescue, said that first and foremost was the capability of Israel's Defense Force to plan and to carry out such an operation which involved flying the rescue team, during the night, from Israel to Entebbe and back, carrying the rescued Israelis. Rabin said, "With such armed forces" as those of Israel, "any country can do almost anything."

HADERA MILLS SURRENDER TO DEMANDS

JERUSALEM, July 2 (JTA) -- The Hadera paper mills surrendered to demands by the ultra-Orthodox community in Jerusalem and pressure from the government not to employ Jews on the Sabbath. It hired a "kashrut supervisor" to make sure it adheres to the agreement and the Orthodox community, known as Eda Haredit, lifted its ban on paper from the Hadera mills. The Labor Ministry had pressed charges against the plant for employing Jews on the Sabbath in violation of the religious status quo. The managing director promised that hereafter only Arabs would be employed on Saturdays.

MEESE SAYS ISRAEL IS HELPING IN PROBE OF POLLARD SPY RING

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, July 2 (JTA) — Attorney General Edwin Meese appeared to distance himself on Wednesday from statements emanating from the Justice Department that Israel has not been sufficiently helpful in the Jonathan Pollard espionage investigation.

"My understanding is that the Israeli government is cooperating in that case," the Attorney General said at a press briefing in which the Pollard issue was raised only briefly.

Although Meese has consistently refrained from speaking publicly about the Pollard case, Justice Department officials had been quoted in the press as charging that the espionage activities of Jonathan Pollard, the former Navy analyst accused of spying for Israel, were part of an extensive operation authorized by the Israeli government and that Israel had withheld information on the case in violation of an agreement to cooperate with U.S. investigators.

White House Says Israel Is Cooperating

The State Department and White House have since maintained that Israel has fully cooperated with the American investigation of the case, and that this is the view of the entire Administration. But a Justice Department official was subsequently quoted in the press maintaining that Meese had never approved of the statement.

By saying it was his understanding that Israel has cooperated, Meese also appeared to avoid saying that he personally was convinced Israel had done all it could do to comply with its pledge to make information on the case available.

At the same time, he downplayed the public criticism of Israel by FBI Director William Webster, who recently charged that Israel was extending only "selective cooperation" in the Pollard investigation.

Defends FBI Director

"Don't forget that Mr. Webster was answering a question and the question was don't you agree that the Israeli government has not been cooperating with the United States government in the Pollard investigation? And he made it an affirmative statement by saying that they had been selectively cooperative," Meese maintained.

A high level Israeli delegation met with Justice Department officials in Washington on Monday to discuss the prospects for bringing criminal charges here against an Israeli Colonel, Aviem Sella, who was named as an unindicted conspirator in the indictment of Pollard. Sella, who allegedly served as Pollard's chief contact with the Israeli government, was never mentioned in the interviews conducted by an American delegation in Israel last December.

Two others interviewed by that delegation received immunity from prosecution in exchange for their agreement to be questioned and were subsequently among the four Israelis named as unindicted co-conspirators in the indictment. The fourth was Irit Erb, a secretary at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

U.S. WILL NOT ATTEND WALDHEIM CEREMONY By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 2 (JTA) — Ronald Lauder, the United States Ambassador to Austria, will be

conveniently out of that country when Kurt Waldheim is inaugurated as President on July 8. Lauder has "long-standing plans to be out of Austria for personal reasons from July 4 to July 9," State Department Deputy spokesman Charles Redman said Wednesday.

Lauder, the son of Estee Lauder, head of the cosmetics firm that bears her name, has been in Vienna for only three months.

A letter signed by 110 members of the House last week urged the U.S. to boycott the inauguration because of the charges that Waldheim has not been truthful about his activities during World War II.

Redman said that the U.S. Embassy Charge Affairs would attend the inauguration.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Edwin Meese indicated Wednesday that a decision might not be made before the inauguration whether to place Waldheim on the so-called watch list barring from the U.S. individuals accused of Nazi war crimes.

He said the Justice Department would meet again with Waldheim's lawyers to discuss additional information they had refuting the charges.

LIVER TRANSPLANT A YEAR AWAY

TEL AVIV, July 2 (JTA) — Liver transplant operations in Israel are at least a year away, as the Health Ministry has said that none of the three hospitals vying for the necessary license to perform such operations is capable of doing so.

The three medical centers — Rambam in Haifa, Beilinson in Petah Tikva and Hadassah in Jerusalem — are contesting this ruling and each is putting forward its own virtues to indicate it is ready to start operating immediately on the some 20 Israelis now in urgent need of liver transplants and now trying to raise the hundreds of thousands of dollars needed for the life-saving operation abroad. The hospitals say that a specially-appointed committee has erred in its assessment of their capabilities.

Rambam Hospital said it should be allowed to begin operations because its Dr. Yigal Kam is widely recognized as Israel's pre-eminent expert in liver transplantation, having trained at Pittsburgh's University Presbyterian Hospital, where he has carried out a number of transplants.

The Histadrut's Beilinson Hospital points to its great experience in carrying out kidney transplants and to its central location in the middle of the country.

Hadassah's Ein Kerem is considered to have the best facilities and was chosen by the Health Ministry last month as the sole Israeli hospital for heart transplants.

NO MORE FUNDS FOR HAREDI INSTITUTIONS

JERUSALEM, July 2 (JTA) — The Jewish Agency will no longer fund non-Zionist Haredi educational institutions in Israel and overseas, the concluding session of the Jewish Agency Assembly decided last week.

According to the resolution, the Jewish Agency from now on will transfer funds to Jewish schools, Yeshivot and other institutions, "which recognize the State of Israel, support its existence as the national homeland of the Jewish people," and integrate Zionist values in their study programs.

The Mizrahi delegates to the Assembly tried to oppose the resolution, but eventually it was approved by a wide majority. However, Rabbi Yitzhak Meir, head of the Torah education department, said he would appeal the resolution before the Zionist Executive, terming the resolution "irresponsible and not operational." According to Meir, it was unacceptable that an institution, in which only 50 percent of its members are Zionists, would determine the criteria for Zionism.

25 SPECIAL TEENS HEAR ALL ABOUT ISRAEL ON BOARD SHIP REPRESENTING ISRAEL AT SALUTE TO LIBERTY FESTIVAL

By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, July 2 (JTA) -- Swept into the continuing Salute to Liberty fanfare and celebration, a group of some 25 special teenagers set sail Tuesday around the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor on the Israeli owned ship, Galaxy.

The sail, hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of New York and the Consulate General of Israel, allowed youths of all races and religions from the Hawthorne Cedar Knolls School in Westchester, a non-sectarian treatment center for special children, to hear a bit about Israel while soaking in the sun and view of Manhattan.

"We thought that it was important to reach out to some special children and to let them participate in the Liberty Festival while learning some history and culture about Israel," said Lester Pollack, president of the JCRC.

U.S. Immigrant Spirit Compared With Israel

The teenagers who are now living at the Hawthorne residential facility, a division of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, listened to Chagat Shmueli, a teacher at Israel of Hatzofim, the Israel Scout Movement, compare the immigrant spirit in America with that in Israel.

"People persecuted came to America ... similar things happened in Israel," Shmueli explained. "Jewish people looking for a place of independence came to Israel."

This field trip was special for many of the children, including Ricky Vellutri, an 11-year-old from Staten Island now living at Hawthorne. "We don't usually go on big trips," said Vellutri. "It was nice to have a close up view of the statue. It's a symbol of freedom in America."

Seeing the Statue triggered a similar reaction in Ari Shallit, 14, who is an Israeli in the senior unit of Hawthorne. "It brings out a patriotic spirit in me," said Shallit. "But how I feel about Israel you can't compare. I feel much more patriotic toward Israel." According to Shmueli, by Israel participating in America's Salute to Liberty, the Jewish State is saying "we are here with her. We are identifying with America."

Galaxy Will Parade Up Hudson

The brigantine Galaxy, now docked at Pier 15 at the South Street Seaport, will be flying the national Israeli flag in Operation Sail and will be in the twelfth position in the Salute to Liberty Parade up the Hudson River.

Originally a Portuguese fishing boat, the Galaxy was refurbished five years ago. The 125 feet of luxurious African hardwood includes a main salon and lounge, library, cocktail bar, five staterooms and expansive deck space.

While the Galaxy's home port is in Eilat, on the Red Sea, the captain Uri Paron, and crew left Haifa 2 1/2 years ago and have been sailing since. After crossing the Atlantic, which according to the Galaxy's first mate Adrian Fieldhouse, took 18 days, they have docked at Norfolk, Baltimore and now New York.

Both the JCRC, the Consulate General of Israel and Israel's Permanent Mission to the United Nations have been hosting a number of diplomatic, educational and social events aboard the Galaxy. The ship will travel

to several New England ports and will return here in late August, said Fieldhouse. Also commemorating the Liberty Weekend, the National Park Service is hosting a display of historical documents significant to Jewish people throughout the world, including the official facsimile of the Israeli Declaration of Independence, "Megilat Ha'atzmaut."

The Declaration, produced in 1958 to celebrate Israel's 10th anniversary, will be exhibited at the Federal Hall National Memorial here through July 9 along with the silver container for the original Declaration, and the 1948 letter from President Truman recognizing the State of Israel.

SOVIETS SAY SYNAGOGUE IN TBILISI WILL NOT BE DESTROYED, JUST REFURBISHED

NEW YORK, July 2 (JTA) -- The Soviet Embassy in Washington has sent a letter to Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) saying that Soviet authorities never planned to demolish the Ashkenazi Synagogue in the Georgian Republic of Tbilisi, but are actually repairing the building.

D'Amato and a group of Congressmen, the Los Angeles based Simon Wiesenthal Center and other Jewish groups have protested the announced plans to demolish one of the city's two synagogues. About 20,000 Jews live in the Tbilisi area.

The original reason given for the demolition was "urban renewal" and plans for an outdoor plaza on the site of the synagogue were discussed.

Soviet Counselor Vadim Kuznetsov, in the letter sent June 20, said "I would like to point out that you have obviously been misinformed regarding the Ashkenazi Synagogue in Tbilisi. According to information provided by the Foreign Ministry of the Georgian SSR, there have never been plans to demolish the above synagogue. On the contrary, work is in process to repair the structure."

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Wiesenthal Center, said this development is another example of Western pressure influencing the Kremlin's policy on Soviet Jewry.

URUGUAY HEAD MEETS AJC DELEGATION

NEW YORK, July 2 (JTA) -- President Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay, describing his country as a pluralistic society, told a group of American Jewish leaders here that "He who is not a good Jew cannot be a good Uruguayan."

Sanguinetti, who was elected in 1984, met with a delegation representing the American Jewish Committee, headed by AJC president Theodore Ellenoff. They hailed him for his leadership in restoring democracy to Uruguay and for his often stated and deeply felt friendship for Israel and the Jewish people. Ellenoff presented the Uruguayan leader with a lithograph engraved with words from Deuteronomy: "Justice, Justice Shalt Thou Pursue."

Sanguinetti emphasized his government's concern for human rights, including the plight of Soviet Jews and reaffirmed the important role of the Jewish community in Uruguayan life. He visited Israel last May and that same month became the first Latin American chief of state to address an Israel Independence Day rally.

BRUSSELS (JTA) -- Some 900 Belgian Christians have signed a petition asking the Catholic Church and the civil authorities in Poland to abandon plans to build a Carmelite convent at the site of the Auschwitz death camp.