

JUL 9 1986

© Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

PUBLISHED BY JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY • 165 WEST 46TH STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10036-2574 • (212) 575-9370

Vol. 64 - 69th Year

Tuesday, July 8, 1986

No. 129

CONSULTATIONS ON THE SHIN BET AFFAIR
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA) — Senior government ministers and the Attorney General held urgent consultations Monday over how to respond to two Supreme Court orders on the Shin Bet affair while at the same time avoiding a possibly fatal confrontation between the Labor and Likud partners in the unity coalition.

The court last Wednesday gave the government two weeks to show cause why a full-scale investigation should not be launched into allegations that the former chief of Shin Bet, Avraham Shalom, was directly involved in the unexplained deaths of two Arab bus hijackers in custody of security agents in April, 1984 and engaged in elaborate cover-up at two subsequent inquiries.

The court also gave the government a week to provide detailed information about the a priori pardons granted by President Chaim Herzog to Shalom and three of his top aides, none of whom have been formally charged with any offenses. The pardons were challenged before the high court by the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM), an opposition party in the Knesset, and several private groups of practicing attorneys and professors of law.

Government Reluctant To Order Probe

The government, from the outset, has been reluctant to order a probe of Shin Bet on grounds that any inquiry into the activities of the country's top secret internal security agency would compromise State security. Premier Shimon Peres and most Labor Party ministers are prepared for some sort of limited probe.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and all other Likud ministers adamantly oppose an inquiry. Peres, for the second time in two weeks, avoided bringing the matter to a vote at the Cabinet's regular Sunday meeting.

Instead, Peres and Shamir each met separately with Attorney General Yosef Harish and with other ministers and private attorneys consulted by the government.

Harish reportedly advised the ministers that they ought now to consider creating a commission of inquiry rather than face the prospect of being forced to by the court or, worse from the government's standpoint, have the court order a resumption of the police investigation asked for a month ago by former Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir.

Preparing Data And Information

Harish, who replaced Zamir last month, is understood to be preparing data and explanations required by the Supreme Court but awaits the Cabinet's decision on how to proceed. While the high court has made no substantive rulings in the case to date, its show cause orders to the government seemed to signify its readiness to intervene in favor of some form of judicial inquiry and possibly to overturn the Presidential pardons.

A new petition was submitted to the court Sunday by attorney Felicia Langer on behalf of the families of the two bus hijackers captured alive but killed be-

fore they were transferred to jail. The families, residents of Gaza, are demanding a full scale inquiry. They contend that the youths, Majdi Abu-Jumaa, 17, and his cousin, Subhi Abu-Jumaa, 18, were not hijackers but innocent passengers in the bus.

JURY IN ACHILLE LAURO HIJACK TRIAL BEGINS ITS DELIBERATIONS

GENOA, July 7 (JTA) — The jury in the Achille Lauro hijack trial began its deliberations at a secret location Monday and is expected to return a verdict on Wednesday or Thursday.

Under Italian law the verdict will be decided jointly by the six jurors — three men and three women — and two magistrates, Judge Lino Monteverde, who presided at the trial, and Associate Judge Vincenzo Giacalone.

They will determine the fate of the 15 defendants — 10 of them tried in absentia — accused of hijacking the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro last October 7-9 and the murder of a passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, an American Jew.

Calls For Life Imprisonment

State Prosecutor Luigi Carli has asked for life imprisonment for seven of the defendants, the maximum sentence allowed by Italian law. These include the Palestinian terrorist leader Mohammed Abu Abbas, alleged mastermind of the hijack who is at large, and Magied Al Mulqi, a 23-year-old Palestinian accused of shooting Klinghoffer and ordering crew members to dump his body into the sea. Mulqi is one of the five in custody.

Before the court retired Monday morning, the defendants appealed to "the Italian Republic, Italian justice and the Italian people" to clear them of all charges because "we are just fighters, not criminals." Mulqi thanked Italy "for not turning us over to the Americans and for allowing Abu Abbas to leave Italy."

Abu Abbas heads a terrorist group known as the Palestine Liberation Front and is a member of the executive of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He was taken into custody October 12 when U.S. Air Force planes forced an Egyptian airliner carrying him from the scene of the hijack to land in Sicily.

But he and his military aide, Ozzudin Badratkan, were released and allowed to leave Italy despite American objections. The Italian authorities explained later that they did not have sufficient evidence at the time to hold the two.

SECRET WAR-TIME DOCUMENTS LINK WALDHEIM TO DEPORTATION OF GREEK JEWS TO AUSCHWITZ DEATH CAMP

NEW YORK, July 7 (JTA) — The World Jewish Congress announced Monday that it has obtained secret German war-time documents linking Kurt Waldheim directly to the deportation of Greek Jews to the Auschwitz death camp in 1944.

The documents, located at the federal archives in Freiburg, West Germany, show that the deportation of 2,500 Jewish men, women and children from the islands of Crete and Rhodes were carried out on the instructions of Waldheim's intelligence headquarters unit, known as the "IC/AO" section. Waldheim was the deputy chief intelligence officer of the section.

The documents, the first to connect Waldheim directly to the deportation of Jews, contradict his repeated assertions that he knew nothing of the deportations at the time. Last March 7 he said in a cable to WJC president Edgar Bronfman that he had "never been informed" about them.

The documents, made public here the day before Waldheim is to be inaugurated as President of Austria, state that the removal of Jews from Crete and Rhodes was executed "upon the instructions" of the "IC/AO" section. The instructions, issued by Waldheim's headquarters unit stated: "... deportation of Jews: End of July 1944. Deportation of Jews not having Turkish citizenship in the entire command territory (of the Commander of East Aegean) upon instructions of the High Command of Army Group E IC/AO."

As deputy chief of intelligence -- a fact Waldheim acknowledged to the U.S. Justice Department in a memo last April 3 -- he was "responsible for all operational intelligence and control of the intelligence staff."

The Jews of Rhodes and Crete were rounded up during the final weeks of July, 1944, stripped of their possessions and transported to Auschwitz where they arrived in mid-August. Nearly all of them were killed.

A related secret document dated August 11, 1944, described the hostile reaction of the non-Jewish populations of Crete and Rhodes to the deportation. It noted that "the evacuation of the Jews from the area under command" was received by local Greeks and Italians "with mixed feelings ... In some cases the Germans were characterized as barbarians ..."

The WJC renewed its call to U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese to place Waldheim on the "Watch List" of aliens excludable from admission to the United States.

WJC TO PUBLISH 'WHITE BOOK' ON THE CASE AGAINST WALDHEIM

VIENNA, July 7 (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress will publish a "White Book" summarizing the case against Kurt Waldheim on Tuesday, the day Waldheim is inaugurated as President of Austria.

"Afterwards, it will be up to the historians to carry on," Israel Singer, Secretary General of the WJC, said with respect to Waldheim's alleged Nazi past. The WJC over the last four months has introduced massive documentary evidence implicating Waldheim in atrocities against civilians and the deportation of Greek Jews when he was a Wehrmacht intelligence officer in the Balkans during World War II.

Despite the evidence, Waldheim was elected by a landslide vote last June 8. According to Singer, the Austrian press concealed many of the facts brought to light. "I can live with the fact that there is a country I like with a chief of state I dislike," Singer said, "but up to now the Austrians don't know all the facts of the Waldheim documents."

He said some of Waldheim's supporters had depicted him as a symbol of Austria's enemies and a villain to divert attention from the past. "The result was a successful Presidential campaign but also a terrible defeat for Austria's image," he said in an interview with the newspaper Kurier.

Singer said he would go to Israel shortly for talks with Premier Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir to discuss "common lines" of policy in the Waldheim affair.

ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE OFFICER ACCUSED OF SPYING FOR SYRIA

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA) -- The secret trial of an Israeli intelligence officer accused of spying for Syria has been confirmed by Israel's police minister, according to American press reports this weekend. The New York-based Hebrew weekly, Israel Shelanu, published the first reports of the trial in Haifa's district court last Thursday and Israeli papers have since picked up the story quoting Israel Shelanu.

The Haifa court has imposed a strict ban on the publication of any information about the proceedings. But the reports that quoted the American press have cleared the Israeli censor.

Israel Shelanu reported that the trial began behind closed doors two to three weeks ago and is nearing closing arguments now. It is not clear if the major was a career officer or a reserve officer in the intelligence.

The IDF intelligence reportedly identified the accused officer after capturing a cell of terrorists in south Lebanon. The terrorists disclosed the officer's name and said they heard his name from Syrian intelligence officers who trained them.

Lawyers for the man, whose name has not been disclosed, are claiming that he is fatigued and mentally unstable. In the past, the officer has had close ties to leftist groups inside Israel, the report said. His father was a well-known senior officer in the Israeli border police who is now retired, according to Israel Shelanu.

The officer is the only Jewish Israeli citizen accused of spying for an enemy country since the December 1972 conviction of Udi Adiv. Adiv, a kibbutznik from Gan Shmuel, was convicted of espionage for Syria in the Haifa district court. He received a 17-year prison sentence as leader of the group of three Arabs and four other Jews. A year ago, the court granted Adiv parole with a little more than four years of his sentence left to serve.

INFLATION RATE IN ISRAEL IS LOWEST SINCE 1976

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA) -- Israel ended the first year of its economic austerity program with an inflation rate of 57.7 percent, the lowest for any single year since 1976. The figures, made public here, are for the period June 30, 1985-June 30, 1986. The rate for the previous 12-month period was 380.75 percent.

Speaking on Voice of Israel Radio, Premier Shimon Peres hailed the achievement. He stressed that just as important was the fact that unemployment did not soar as high as anticipated as inflation was reduced.

"As far as I am concerned, the fact that unemployment did not swell into terrible dimensions is no less an achievement than the lowering of the inflation rates," Peres said. He warned, however, that the economic recovery must be carefully guarded. "This is not something heaven-sent. I think that today, too, we have to work with all our momentum and energy in order to guard the plan and its achievements on one hand and to move to the growth stage on the other," he said.

There were no updated figures on another goal of the economic program -- to reduce Israel's balance of payments gap. The available figures for the first six months after the plan was inaugurated show a 20 percent reduction compared to the previous six months and a 30 percent reduction compared to the same period a year before. However, the first half of 1984 was marked by heavy imports which is usually the case in an election year, so the comparison may be misleading, economists said.

Only a modest decline was recorded in Israel's unfavorable trade balance over the past 11 months. Between July, 1985 and May, 1986, the trade deficit totalled \$1.892 billion, a drop of only \$125 million compared to the previous year.

ISRAEL COMMERCIAL ATTACHE TO BE SENT TO HONG KONG IN COMING YEAR

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA) -- Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon announced that Israel will send a commercial attache to Hong Kong within the coming year.

Israel already has commercial attaches in Japan and Singapore. Sharon's announcement in a speech to the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce over the weekend indicated a growing interest in the Asian market. He said his ministry hopes to increase Israel's exports to East Asia four-fold in the next 3-5 years.

While Sharon did not mention China itself as a target for trade with Israel, that country with an estimated population of over one billion has the potential to rival the American market. The decision to dispatch a commercial attache to Hong Kong is considered a step toward opening trade with China.

The British crown colony, a major center of finance and commerce, already has considerable trade with China. When its 99 year lease expires at the end of the century it will become part of the Peoples Republic of China.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA LaROUCHE GROUP REPUDIATED BY ILLINOIS FARM ORGANIZATION By Barry Mehler

CHICAGO, July 7 (JTA) -- The president of the Illinois American Agriculture Movement has issued a statement repudiating any relationship between the AAM and perennial Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

Admitting that there had been an initial attraction to LaRouche's political organization, AAM president Tom Curl said, "In some terms they can be convincing but we did a little deeper study and found that we thought they were an extreme group that we did not want to have an affiliation with."

Curl went on to warn Illinois farmers not be seduced by LaRouche politics. LaRouche supporters were canvassing farmers, Curl told Charles Lindy, producer of "Growing Aware," a farm news program aired throughout the midwest.

AAM believed LaRouche politics could pose a threat among farmers disillusioned with the Reagan Administration's current handling of the farm crisis. He urged farmers to remain active within the mainstream of the American political system.

LaRouche candidates have been seeking to enlist financially troubled farmers for several years. A recent report by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith stated that "LaRouche's followers have been making a systematic effort to influence farmers' organizations, notably the American Agriculture Movement."

During LaRouche's 1984 Presidential campaign, Tommy Kersey, who the ADL referred to as an AAM organizer from Georgia, expressed his admiration for LaRouche. Kersey has also expressed support for the activities of other extremist organizations including the anti-Semitic, paramilitary group Posse Comitatus.

In November 1985, Kersey participated in an armed protest in Georgia during which approximately 25 armed men held off local authorities who were charged with foreclosing a farm. The group displayed signs which denounced the "ZOG" -- a term popular in right wing circles, denoting the "Zionist Occupation Government."

David Fenter, national director of the AAM, appeared disturbed that Kersey was still being referred to as a member of the AAM. "We have no officer in Georgia," said Fenter, "and we have no relation with Kersey or the extremist groups he associates with."

According to Fenter, AAM will not allow LaRouche or any of his candidates to participate in AAM events. "We want to have nothing to do with that kind of extremism," he said.

STRIKE BY NURSES CONTINUES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA) -- Hopes were dashed for an early end to the strike by 11,000 hospital nurses after a six-hour meeting between strikers' representatives and officials of the Health and Finance ministries and Histadrut's trade unions department broke up in deadlock Sunday.

The strike which began on June 23 entered its third week Monday. The nurses rejected compromise proposals by Premier Shimon Peres over the weekend and demanded that Peres meet with them directly. Sunday's meeting between the strikers and the relevant ministry officials, which was arranged by Histadrut, ended with walk-outs by both sides.

The nurses reportedly rejected six different compromise proposals. The government says it is ready to negotiate the strikers' demands for enlarged nursing staffs and better working conditions. But it will not consider wage demands on grounds that they are inconsistent with the national wage guidelines.

The strike has crippled health care services throughout Israel. All but critically ill patients and emergency cases have been sent home. The situation at the hospitals worsened Monday when administrative, clerical and technical staffs called a 24-hour work stoppage to support demands for higher salaries.

Meanwhile, doctors at two major hospitals will hold a one-hour strike Tuesday to protest what they say is the "apparent disinterest of the government and the employers in solving the problem." Doctors have been standing in for the absent nurses for the past two weeks. They have warned they cannot long continue doing double duty.

MEETING SOUGHT ON FATE OF THREE MEMBERS OF SYRIAN JEWISH FAMILY

NEW YORK, July 7 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has called on the Syrian government to free three members of a Syrian Jewish family who have been held in prison under "difficult conditions without due cause" since December 1985. Two members of the family have medical problems.

In a telegram to Dr. Rafic Jouejati, Syrian Ambassador to the United States, Abraham Foxman, associate national director and head of ADL's International Affairs Division, requested a meeting to discuss the case of Shahda Bassou, 65, his son Jack, 23, and his nephew, Salim Bassou, 32. The ADL told Jouejati that the elder Bassou suffered a partial paralysis during his imprisonment and was returned to prison after being hospitalized. The nephew has suffered from chest pains.

FOUNDATION ALLOCATES \$4 MILLION FOR JEWISH EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

HERZLIYA, July 7 (JTA) — More than \$4 million for Jewish educational and religious programs has been allocated for 1986-88 by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Philip Klutznick, president of the Foundation, announced at the Foundation's biennial convention here.

Klutznick said that almost \$2 million was earmarked for institutional grants for Jewish education projects, Jewish scholarship and special needs in various countries. He said institutional grants were given for 158 projects.

Klutznick, who was elected to a second term as Foundation president, said the allocations were divided as follows: \$532,323 for Foundation doctoral scholarships; \$682,762 for fellowships; \$451,317 for post-rabbinic scholarships; \$567,040 for the Foundation's international community service program, which helps qualified persons to train for careers in the rabbinate, Jewish education, community service or as religious functionaries in diaspora Jewish communities needing such personnel.

The Chicago Jewish leader also announced that the Foundation granted 78 doctoral scholarships to recipients in 13 countries; 73 fellowships to recipients in seven countries; 92 post rabbinic scholarships in five countries; and 134 community service scholarships to recipients who will serve in 24 countries.

New Technologies In Jewish Education

The Foundation released last Thursday what it called the most comprehensive report to date on the use of new technologies in Jewish education and said the Foundation will test these technologies to enhance Jewish education in areas where the Foundation can have its strongest impact.

Klutznick said that, in keeping with its goal to explore the potential of the "information revolution" to improve Jewish education, the Foundation commissioned Dr. Jacob Ukeles, described as a noted educational consultant. Ukeles was asked to draw on all possible resources to discover the Jewish educational potentials of videocassettes, computer programs and audiocassettes and to recommend a strategy for the Foundation in the use of the technologies.

Ukeles told the convention delegates that there are about 1,325,000 Jewish children living outside of Israel and most of them get "little or no Jewish education. Only about one Jewish child in six receives a full-time education." He said another one out of two gets some Jewish education, perhaps a day a week in the years preceding Bar or Bas Mitzvah. The rest get no Jewish education, Ukeles said.

He said serious efforts at media utilization by Jewish schools are underway, though fragmented, with problems of quantity and quality but the "potential is real and important" in this area.

Ukeles reported there are at least 30 Jewish education-media centers in the United States and Canada which disseminate material, provide technical help, publish newsletters and catalogs and in a few cases produce audio and/or videotapes.

He said the Jewish Media Services, a central Jewish agency which promotes educational media in Jewish communal life, has shifted focus from broadcast strategies to home videocassettes. The

Jewish Media Service is a joint project of the Council of Jewish Federations, JWB and the United Jewish Appeal. It is administered and headquartered at JWB offices in New York.

Five Target Audiences

He cited five target audiences which he said represented the greatest potential for electronic media in Jewish education — pre-school children at home in large communities; post Bar-Bat Mitzvah youth in high school in large communities; informal study groups of mixed ages in small communities; Jewish communities in Eastern Europe; and teachers and principals.

Ukeles said that while there is no accurate estimate of the number of computers used in Jewish schools, the use of computers in Jewish education was "significant and promising."

Klutznick then announced that, in response to the findings and recommendations of the Ukeles report, the Foundation would undertake technology-related programs in areas where it has impact, including dispersed Jewish communities; continuing Jewish education; and the Jewish family.

He said the point of Foundation entry into this area would be two-pronged — for Jewish families at home, using video; and for Jewish schools, using audio and video to upgrade the skills of teachers and making new computer-related technology available to teachers and schools.

Klutznick said the Foundation would support new applications of technology in Jewish education and initiate new ideas and programs "and will organize the planning and testing of these new ideas."

Dr. Jerry Hochbaum, Foundation executive director, said a catalog will be developed by the Foundation of existing Jewish audio and video materials and computer software.

Activities Concerning The Holocaust

Hochbaum told another session that "to help integrate the Holocaust into the communal life experience of Jews, the Foundation will fund the development of model commemorative services for Jewish schools, synagogues and community centers in the diaspora." He said the Foundation will also prepare a manual and a guide for visits to the sites of Nazi death camps.

Hochbaum added that in research, "we will give priority to areas not adequately covered so far — such as the USSR, France and Greece during the Holocaust." He said the Foundation plans to assist in the preparation and publication of selected personal memoirs of survivors who can provide unique testimony and new information, evidence and insights.

He reported the Foundation has sent more than \$3.6 million to institutions since 1965 for Holocaust projects. He also reported that the Foundation allocated \$2,160,000 to East European Jewry from 1965 to 1982 for research and education projects.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Only 55 Jews left the Soviet Union in June, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. This brings the total for the first six months of 1986 to 386.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres' efforts to resolve tensions between religious and secular sectors of Israeli society was strongly endorsed by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council's Executive Committee.