Harish: No One Will Be Spared
POLICE START PROBE OF SHIN BET AFFAIR
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 20 (JTA) — Attorney General Yosef Harish advised the Supreme Court Sunday that a police investigation has begun into the Shin Bet affair, and it will exempt no one involved in the episode, "from the lowest private soldier in the field to the top political level."

The probe will focus on allegations that Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom and three of his senior aides fabricated evidence and gave perjured testimony at quasi-judicial inquiries into the unexplained deaths of two Arab Boxers in custody of security agents in April 1984. Shalom and his aides, who have since resigned from Israel's internal security service, were given blanket pardons by President Chaim Herzog last month.

Harish told the court that the police have not yet called anyone for questioning but are in the process of gathering information. He said they were studying the records of two earlier inquiries where the alleged cover-ups occurred.

Harish appeared before a panel of three justices, headed by Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar, to argue why the high court has no need to order the government to open an inquiry, as the matter is already under investigation.

Shamgar and his associates, Justices Miriam Ben-Porat and Aharon Barak, retired after a long morning in a packed courtroom to consider their decision. It is expected this week.

Government Ordered To Show Cause

The court ordered the government two weeks ago to show cause why an investigation of Shin Bet should not be launched. It acted in response to petitions by several groups which are also seeking to have the Presidential pardons invalidated. Harish recommended to the government at the time that it establish a judicial commission of inquiry. But his proposal was rejected by majority vote of the Cabinet a week ago.

Harish preferred a judicial commission which he felt would be better equipped than the police to protect the secrecy that surrounds Shin Bet operations. But under the circumstances he was forced to bring in the police because, as he explained to the ministers last Sunday, he could not face the court without one or another form of inquiry under way.

To have done otherwise, Harish said, would have resulted in the court ordering a probe, to the grave embarrassment of the government and himself.

Harish also argued before the court in defense of the Presidential pardons, which he maintained were entirely legal and with ample precedents. Lawyers for the challenging groups insisted that the President may pardon only offenders. Since Shalom and his aides were never formally charged, tried or convicted of any offense, they have no status before the law as offenders, the lawyers contended.

CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARD SUSPENDS TEACHING THE MERCHANT OF VENICE
By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, July 20 (JTA) — The Board of Education of Waterloo County (Ontario), one of the largest school boards in Canada, has suspended teaching of Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" pending a decision by the Education Ministry or the Ontario Human Rights Commission as to whether the Shakespeare play is anti-Semitic.

But the coalition of Jewish and non-Jewish parents which had complained to the Board that Jewish children were taunted and harassed in classes where the play was taught, protested last week that the school board went too far.

"It's censorship of the worst kind," said Dr. Mona Zentner, leader of the inter-faith parents' coalition which wanted "The Merchant of Venice" eliminated only from the curriculum of intermediate grades 7 to 10. "They're finally realizing there's a problem but it's not what we wanted," Zentner said.

The Board of Education voted 10-8 to remove the play from the intermediate grades but also banned it, at least temporarily, from the higher grades. The issue, which has been simmering since 1966, came to a head in Waterloo last month.

Jewish and Christian pupils described prejudice apparently fueled by the play in which Shylock, a Jewish money-lender, demands a pound of flesh from a Christian debtor. According to the pupils, Jewish classmates were called names, had swastikas carved on their desks and had pennies tossed at them.

The Waterloo County case was the second of its kind in Ontario. Earlier, the Lakehead County Board of Education removed the play from the ninth grade curriculum after parents protested.

ANTI-SEMITIC MATERIAL ABOUNDS IN SAUDI PRESS, ADL CHARGES

NEW YORK, July 20 (JTA) — The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has lodged a new protest with the Saudi Arabian government over the publication in the Saudi press of at least 27 "viciously" anti-Semitic editorials, articles and cartoons since the first of the year.

In a July 10 letter to Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar bin Sultan, associate national director Abraham Foxman, who is head of the ADL's international affairs division, urged the Saudi government "to put an end to the vicious slander emanating from the Saudi national press."

Foxman said his letter to the Saudi Ambassador was the third such protest delivered to the Saudi Embassy in the past 18 months. A letter sent last February expressing the League's concern over the situation remains unanswered.

"As we noted in our February 18 letter," Foxman wrote, "such crude and wanton attacks could not appear in your nation's publications without official governmental approval."

In the month of June alone, the ADL official said, six anti-Jewish cartoons appeared in the Jeddah-based
English-language newspaper Arab News. Typical of the anti-Semitic material in the Arab News since January were the following:
- Stories (Feb. 14 and 15) alleging Jewish manipulation of world events through "Zionist control of the U.S. media."
- Allegations (April 5) that the exposure of Kurt Waldheim's Nazi ties constituted a "witch hunt" carried out by Jewish organizations.
- A cartoon (June 1) showing the Statue of Liberty being carried to her grave with an unflatteringly stereotyped Jewish figure, shoveling in hand, waiting to bury her.

In addition, Foxman noted, the Saudi Weekly Al-Jazira in a June 12 editorial praised Austrians for elevating Kurt Waldheim as President "in the face of a fierce Zionist campaign." The newspaper also charged that the U.S. Congress has become "a servant of Israel."

CRACOW ARCHBISHOP MAKES TOP SECRET VISIT TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, July 20 (JTA) -- The Archbishop of Cracow made a 12-hour visit to Israel last Thursday so shrouded in secrecy that the Israel Foreign Ministry was unaware of the Cardinal's visit.

Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, who is reportedly a close friend of Pope John Paul II, spent four hours in Yad Vashem lighting a memorial torch and inspecting the library and archives.

Prof. Marcel Dubois, a Catholic Professor of Philosophy at the Hebrew University, coordinated the visit with the assistance of Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, according to press reports here.

Cracow was the scene last year of the Bar Mitzvah celebration of Eric Strom, an eighth-grader from Stamford, Conn., in the 150-year-old Temples Synagogue. The Bar Mitzvah received international media attention and was the first celebration of its kind in the once flourishing Cracow Jewish community in 35 years.

FRENCH F.M., SNUBS ARAFAT

PARIS, July 20 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond declined to pay a courtesy call on Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yassir Arafat during a trip last week to Tunis where Arafat currently has his headquarters. Arafat prudently kept the distance on the evening of Raimond's arrival to keep the tinge out of the snub.

Raimond's disregard of Arafat's insistence that he be treated with the protocol due a head of state was believed to be on strict instructions from Premier Jacques Chirac. Raimond's three predecessors had always complied. The new French position is seen here as stemming from Chirac's desire to improve relations with Israel.

It is also believed to have followed from Chirac's meetings last week with the Syrian Vice President, Abdel Khaliq Khaddam, who has promised to try to obtain the release of seven French hostages held by terrorists in Lebanon. Syria supports an anti-Arafat group of PLO dissidents.

ISRAEL SEeks TO SCALE FISH MARKET

BY GIL SEDAN

EILAT, July 20 (JTA) -- Israel is seeking markets in Europe for the gilt head sea bream, a fish it used to breed in the Bardawil Lake in northern Sinai and is now breeding for commercial use, in the waters of the Red Sea near Eilat. About 20 tons already have been exported, mainly to Rome. Ministry of Agriculture experts have been doing market studies in Europe -- funded by the Jewish Agency -- and initial findings are favorable, especially in Italy and Greece.

The fish are bred by the National Center for Maritime Agriculture, which has dispatched 13 scientists to the Red Sea to explore the commercial potential of the sea waters. The bream is the first practical result of their efforts, which have been financed in part by the Jewish Agency's settlement department.

Kibbutz Elfitaz in the Arava region began in 1984 to breed the sea bream in floating cages in the Red Sea. A pollution problem arose because every 1,000 tons of fish raised requires 2,500 tons of fish food, 60 percent of which is returned as waste. The Maritime Agricultural Center subsequently built inland sea water ponds to solve the problem. The Center is also breeding shrimp for export.

According to Dr. Hillel Gordin, director of the Maritime Agricultural Center, "in our vision we see the entire area from Eilat northward covered with fish ponds. We have only started scratching the potential. Eventually, it is a question of financial resources."

Gordin noted that "Japan invests in maritime agricultural research some $750 million; Norway invests some $20 million annually. Israel settles for the time being on an annual investment of only $1 million."

O'CONNOR: WOULD GO TO ISRAEL ONLY WITH VATICAN APPROVAL

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 20 (JTA) -- John Cardinal O'Connor said Sunday that he would go to Israel only with Vatican approval. The Archbishop of New York made his comments in a televised interview on WNBC-TV's "News Forum" in response to host Gabe Pressman's questions on his recent remarks that a Palestinian homeland needs to be established.

"These opinions put forth upon his return from Lebanon, evoked a critical response from the Jewish community, which had become used to his support for the Jewish people and Israel."

In published statements, and in an interview with Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of international relations of the American Jewish Committee, O'Connor drew up a list of "pre-conditions" for Vatican recognition of Israel, including that "Israel should 'assist substantially' in finding a Palestinian homeland; that 'Israel should help achieve peace in Lebanon'; and that 'Israel should help bring about the security of some eight million Christians in Arab countries."

(See July 17 News Bulletin.)

In Sunday's TV program, O'Connor said that his busy schedule in New York needed to be considered, and that a formal invitation from Israel was necessary to consider a trip to the Jewish State. But he added that he also needed to get approval from Rome for such a trip. "I regret that the schedule in New York is such as it is. I have a schedule to consider. I would go anywhere I'm invited if I thought it could help, and I could get concurrence from the Holy See," was O'Connor's response to Pressman's queries.
SPECIAL INTERVIEW

DARK MEMORIES OF VIENNA
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 20 (JTA) — For Rabbi Avraham (Avi) Weiss and Sister Rose Thering, their trip to Vienna to protest the inauguration of Kurt Waldheim as Austrian President was a nasty confrontation with undisguised anti-Semitism and, for them, an underscoring of what they perceived were their reasons for the trip.

Among the memories they brought back with them are vile epithets, reported widely by the on-scene press, hurled at them during their outdoor demonstration and hunger strike, and, for Sister Rose, a Dominican nun, a humiliating strip-search at the Vienna airport prior to her embarkation for the return flight to the United States.

The Orthodox Jewish rabbi and Roman Catholic nun have been friends and political activists together for many years, Sister Rose having learned of Weiss's activities on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

She works with the Interreligious Task Force for Soviet Jewry, and is a board member of the National Coalition of American Nuns. Since 1968, she has also been on the advisory committee of U.S. Bishops for Catholic-Jewish Relations. At Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, she teaches Jewish-Christian studies, a field she has worked in since 1953.

Sister Rose has visited Israel 28 times. She remembers particularly the time, 11 years ago, that she took her mother, then age 84, with her to Yad Vashem. "Rabbi," she recalls her mother telling her, "you almost have to be ashamed that you're of German background."

The statement shocked her into an even stronger awareness of the Holocaust than she had previously, motivating her all the more to work tirelessly in the field of Christian-Jewish understanding. She remembers watching programs on the Holocaust with her mother, discussing its history, its causes, and the need for activism.

A Call To Action

Waldheim's election was a call to action by both Weiss and Sister Rose. Joining by Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld, Glenn Richter of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, Father David Bossman, provost of Seton Hall and a professor in the department of Jewish-Christian studies, and two young men, an Israeli and an Austrian non-Jew, they spent what they described as an "open Shabbat" in the Jewish quarter of Vienna, the first ever, according to Weiss, praying, singing, eating out-of-doors to demonstrate a lack of fear and a pride in their Judaism.

During that time, Weiss told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, they engaged about 1,000 young people — passers-by — in dialogue. Different views were aired, he maintains, in a friendly, constructive manner.

After Shabbat, the group moved to the area in front of the Presidental Office on Bollhaus Platz, "near where Hitler spoke when Germany annexed Austria," Weiss explained.

Dressed in striped prison uniforms, the Austrian-Jews wearing a yellow star marked "Jude," and Sister Rose wearing a dark suit and the large crucifix interwoven with a Star of David which she always wears, the group began a hunger strike, pro-

claiming this with sing songs reading "Hunger Strike of Conscience." That's when "things became ugly," Weiss recalled.

He remembers "terrible anti-Semitic slogans that I'll never forget. 'We should have gassed you,' 'We're going to hang you from lampposts,'" he recalled, looking pained. He remarked on an older man who, he said, stopped and, with pride, showed a picture of himself in his wallet, wearing a Wehrmacht uniform.

A 'Particularly Ugly' Part

Following the inauguration ceremonies, the group remembers Waldheim passing them and looking. They recall it as a "particularly ugly" part of their demonstration, people hissing and chanting anti-Semitic slogans. Weiss insists the group was refused police protection.

Waldheim's election, said Weiss, "was a vindication for Austria. I realized that many older Austrians voted for Waldheim because they could not vote against themselves." "You, the Jew, you're creating anti-Semitism. You don't want to forget," he quoted.

Weiss drew a parallel between the cause of Soviet Jewry and the protest of Waldheim's election. "Anti-Semitism knows no boundaries. The problem of Soviet Jews knows no boundaries. It's not just a Russian problem. This was not just an Austrian problem, and not just a Jewish problem. Because 95 percent of Austria is Catholic, it was critical that I be joined by Catholic clergy in speaking truth to power, to translate empathy to action."

Both Weiss and Sister Rose commented at length on the fear they felt emanating from the Jewish community of Austria. The small group was unable to even rent a table and chairs from any Jew, although they were easily able to do so from their hotel. Weiss was careful to mention that the Jewish community of Vienna was receptive to them on Shabbat, mentioning particularly Rabbi Chaim Eisenberg, who "was especially gracious. But it's an absolutely frightened Jewish community," he said.

A Humilitating Experience

Sister Rose and Father Bossman returned to New York later than Weiss. At the Vienna airport's baggage inspection, Sister Rose told JTA, "I went through just like everyone. Then, on the other side of the X-ray arch, someone pulled me into a curtained booth."

Sister Rose wants to be sure it is understood that she is both accustomed to strict security checks and welcomes them. In the 28 times she has been to Israel, she emphasized, "I appreciate the security of El Al airlines. It has been most humane, polite and gracious. El Al security personnel make eye contact and seem to apologize to the person."

But, she recalled, "when I went into the curtained booth, no questions were asked." She thought she would just be frisked, but a thorough body search was conducted after stripping her. She was never told why it was being done. "I began to feel what Jews must have felt when they were stripped and sent to the gas chambers."

Father Bossman hadn't even seen her vanish, and didn't know where she was. The two of them had been put ahead of other people in the line without explanation. They have since made diplomatic inquiries to find out the reasons for the treatment.

The Shabbat following their return to Vienna, Sister Rose spent the day with Weiss's family and congregation in Riverdale, The Bronx. The rabbi and the nun addressed the congregation following the services and described their experiences in Vienna.
Sister Rose said her purpose for going "was to lend a Christian voice to this protest, because I feel that Christians did not speak out enough during World War II." She pointed out that "Christians and Jews were united in this protest of prayer and fast, demanding an international investigation into the crimes made from many quarters that Mr. Waldheim's role during the Nazi Holocaust is sufficiently clouded as to require a thorough investigation."

"My voice and actions of protest, joined with Avi Weiss and others, called for justice on all of these Jews — six million — Catholics, Protestants, homosexuals, minorities, elderly, handicapped dissenters and resistors, whose lives were unjustly and brutally snuffed out by the Nazis and all who joined Hitler's henchmen during the period 1933-45. They are gone, never to speak for themselves."

"Very few Christians spoke out during those terrible years. So how can anyone remain silent now, when Kurt Waldheim, a member of the Wehrmacht, the Brown Shirts, sets himself up as a model to govern? Kurt Waldheim was involved in that Nazi war machinery... He belonged to the same group — the SA — that destroyed the 42 synagogues in Vienna... The vote for Waldheim was really a vote for human indecency, because he lied."

PLANS TO ERECT MUNICIPAL BUILDING AT FORMER SYNAGOGUE SITE EVOKE PROTEST

BONN, July 20 (JTA) — Plans by the city of Frankfurt to erect a municipal building at the Boerneplatz, site of a former synagogue in the center of the old Jewish ghetto, was protested Sunday by scores of artists, intellectuals, and local politicians.

The group, led by writer Eva Demski, has launched a major campaign to lobby the city officials against any changes that would forever obliterate the Jewish character of the area. Officials responsible for the project said they would go ahead with the plans.

The local Jewish community has expressed displeasure but stopped short of open opposition. A spokesman, Michel Friedman, said there would have been no controversy if the Jewish community had been given an opportunity to regain the site. Demski said it was in the interest of all Frankfurt residents, not only Jews, to preserve the historical character of the Boerneplatz.

POC ZELOCHONOK HOSPITALIZED

NEW YORK, July 20 (JTA) — Prisoner of Science Raoul (Aliki) Zelichonok, 50, who received a three-year labor camp sentence on August 8, 1985 for allegedly "defaming the Soviet state and social system," has been hospitalized in the Alma Ata prison, according to Jerry Goodman, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Zelichonok, a computer scientist at the Institute of Cytology in Leningrad, was arrested after police conducted a search of his home. Among the items confiscated were letters he had written to the West, including correspondence to the Spanish, Hungarian and Swedish Embassies regarding Raoul Wallenberg.

Zelichonok, who suffers from massive kidney damage, secondary hypertension and lameness (he has undergone several operations for kidney and leg ailments), was hospitalized in February for three weeks because of severe intestinal bleeding and a dramatic rise in blood pressure.

Zelichonok's wife, Galina, who suffers from a degenerative eye disorder and is losing her sight, appealed to the International Red Cross to save her husband's life. "A further stay in the labor camp is identical to passing a death sentence on him," she wrote.

Since May 29 — when he was on his way to the camp in Kazakhstan — there had been no information about Zelichonok. Galina appealed to the Camp Administration, to the Procurator General and to the Ministry of Interior, demanding to be informed immediately of her husband's whereabouts.

UNIFIL MANDATE EXTENDED

UNITED NATIONS, July 20 (JTA) — The 15-member United Nations Security Council has for the first time unanimously approved a six-month extension of the mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping force in south Lebanon.

The government of Lebanon had requested an extension of the mandate, which was granted last Friday, through January 18, 1987. The 5,800-troop force is commonly referred to as the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, or UNIFIL.

Last April, the Security Council extended the force's mandate for three months. At that time, the Soviet Union and Bulgaria voted for the first time in favor of the mandate extension. The Soviet bloc members of the Council traditionally abstain in the voting.

The eight-year-old UN force consists of troops representing Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, Norway and Sweden. The force's precarious financial status has placed it recently under the close scrutiny of UN member-states.

A SINGING AFFAIR

TEL AVIV, July 20 (JTA) — An estimated 300,000 persons attended a concert in Yarkon Park Saturday night and cheered wildly, with good reason. The performers were the internationally famous grand opera star, Placido Domingo, the equally famous violinist, Itzhak Perlman, and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Zubin Mehta.

It was the ninth, and by far the best attended in the series of open air concerts by the IPO. There was no charge for admission. But the public was asked to make donations in response to Domingo's request for aid for child victims of the earthquake that devastated Mexico City last year. Domingo began his career with the now-defunct Israel Opera.

According to the Tel Aviv Development Fund which organized the concert, it drew the largest audience ever in Israel. Mayor Shlomo Lehat of Tel Aviv presided.

TREATMENT KEEPS AIDS VICTIM ALIVE

JERUSALEM, July 20 (JTA) — There have been about 27 known cases of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in Israel and only one victim of the fatal disease, a 17-year-old hemophiliac, is alive more than two years after he was diagnosed, according to Dr. Zeev Handzel, head of the immunology unit at Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot.

The patient has been pronounced "free of all signs" of AIDS following 2 1/2 years of treatment at Kaplan Hospital where Handzel is conducting clinical tests involving the thymic humoral factor. So far it has proved effective in AIDS treatment if administered in the early stages of the disease.