

CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL BRANDS JDL AS ONE OF THE WORST TERRORIST GROUPS IN THE STATE

By Winston Pickett

Northern California Jewish Bulletin Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- Five mainstream Bay Area Jewish organizations have expressed a resounding approval of state Attorney General John Van de Kamp's report last month singling out the Jewish Defense League as one of the most active terrorist groups in California.

The San Francisco offices of the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith joined the Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma, and the JCRC of the Greater East Bay in condemning the Los Angeles-based Jewish militant organization.

Said AJCongress director Joel Brooks in an interview, "There is no question that the JDL has contributed to an atmosphere of terror; its members have been tried, convicted and sentenced, often to long prison terms, for their active participation in terrorist activities in this country and abroad."

Alleged Acts of Violence

Brooks cited as "the most notorious, egregious example" the January 26, 1972 bombing in New York City of Russian-born impresario Sol Hurok's office for bringing Soviet cultural groups to the United States on tour. Hurok, who was of Jewish descent, was injured, as were 13 others, and his company's Jewish receptionist, Iris Kones, later died of smoke inhalation.

A 1982 report prepared by the State Department's Threat Analysis Unit listed 99 acts it believed were committed by JDL members from 1969 to 1982, ranging from bombing to an airplane hijacking attempt.

They included three in San Francisco, according to the report: In 1978, the JDL allegedly ignited flammable liquid at the entrance to the Egyptian Consulate; a year later, 13 JDL demonstrators reputedly kicked in the front of the gate of the Soviet Consulate during a demonstration; and in 1981, the JDL claimed credit for a bombing at an Iranian bank.

This year, in his annual report to the state legislature, Van de Kamp linked the JDL with the October 1985 bombing of the headquarters of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) in Santa Ana that killed the group's regional director, Alex Odeh, and wounded eight others. The night before the bombing, Odeh had appeared on television to defend the Palestine Liberation Organization's role in negotiating an end to the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship, the Achille Lauro.

Denial By JDL Director

Reached at his home in Los Angeles, JDL director Irving Rubin denied any connection with, and little remorse over, Odeh's death. "I'm not sitting shiva (in mourning) for him," he said, citing the FBI's recent retraction from its earlier allegation that the JDL was involved.

July 16, the FBI's assistant executive director, Oliver Revell, told a House subcommittee that his organization now is focusing its investigation into the Odeh murder on unspecified "Jewish extremists."

"If the FBI has the evidence, they should do something about it instead of simply talking," Rubin said, adding, "I'm devastated by Van de Kamp's report, which doesn't have the decency to mention the FBI's retraction. To put us in the same league as neo-Nazis, drug dealers, the syndicate and motorcycle gangs is downright obscene."

Two Other Violence-Prone Groups Named

In his 59-page report, released late last month, the Attorney General named two other violence-prone groups that merit special attention. One is the White American Bastion, known elsewhere as The Order, a clandestine white-supremacy group whose stated goal is to overthrow the U.S. government in a race war funded by robberies and counterfeiting. The other is the Animal Liberation Front, a group dedicated to stopping experimental research on animals.

Most of the report, called Organized Crime in California, deals with such areas as drug trafficking, pornography, gang violence and illegal gambling. The JDL's activities are listed under a five-page section, Non-Traditional Organized Crime -- Terrorist Groups.

Rubin, who was chosen in 1985 by JDL founder Rabbi Meir Kahane as the militant organization's head, admitted the JDL's involvement in the New York City bombing but claimed it was "an accident." In the case of the chieftain of the ADC, who he maintained had close ties to the PLO, the 40-year-old JDL leader asked: "Why would we take an unknown figure like Alex Odeh and make him a martyr? It's sheer insanity."

Stands By Charges Regarding The JDL

William Sanderson, chief of the state's Bureau of Organized Crime and Criminal Intelligence in Sacramento, and coordinator of Van de Kamp's report, said he stands by the charges involving the JDL, including the original FBI allegations.

"This study covers those groups who were most active in 1985 and who warrant the most attention in the future," he explained. "I would be hard pressed to identify another Jewish extremist group in California other than the Jewish Defense League."

The Jewish Defense Organization, a splinter group of the JDL formed in 1982 because it felt that the JDL wasn't militant enough, has been active in California in the past, Sanderson admitted, but he contended that "lately, they've been quiet."

Attitude Of Jewish Organizations

Meanwhile, representatives of mainstream Jewish organizations in the Bay Area said they also think the JDL merits close scrutiny, voicing stern opposition to the content and tactics of its activities. "I understand their theme of 'never again,'" said Robert Jacobovitz, head of the JCRC of the Greater East Bay, "but in case after case, their vigilante actions and their aggressive behavior actually hinder the causes they're fighting for."

Jacobovitz, cited local instances in which JDL members violently infiltrated Soviet Jewry rallies, causing arrests and a spate of negative, counter-productive publicity. As for domestic concerns, he said, "There is ample protection for Jewish civil liberties under due process."

Barry Cohen, assistant director of the Anti-Defamation League, also decried the JDL's activities. "We've denounced them repeatedly and publicly, and will continue to monitor their activities, just as we would any other extremist group that espouses violence as part of its philosophy," he said.

Rubin, who characterized organizations such as the ADL and the JCRC as "do-nothing groups," defended the JDL's activities. "We are the first line of defense for the Jewish community," he insisted. "We're the ones who go into neighborhoods where Jews are maligned, who patrol the streets, and who camp out in synagogues. If the JDL had been around 40 years ago, we would have known how to deal with anti-Semitism."

The defense organization head added that the 17-year-old JDL, contrary to its popular image, "spends 40 percent of its energies on street demonstrations, 35 percent on securing Jewish homes, 15 percent on education at our evening yeshiva, and 10 percent on martial arts and weaponry training."

Avowed percentages aside, the director of the AJCommittee, Ernest Weiner, thinks that there is no reason for a Jewish group to use violence even if the actions are defensive. "There is no justification for their behavior whatsoever," he said. "Regardless of the specifics contained in the Attorney General's analysis, the very fact that a Jewish group is involved in violent crime is deeply disturbing."

Tanette Goldberg, chairwoman of San Francisco's JCRC, took this sentiment a step further. Stating that the Van de Kamp report "just skims the surface," she expressed the hope that "the Attorney General and his staff will be able to substantiate the charges and to arrest and prosecute the terrorists whenever and wherever they may be found."

EGYPT WELCOMES LIMITED ISRAELI INVESTMENTS IN EGYPTIAN INDUSTRY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- Egypt seeks limited investments by Israelis in Egyptian industry, Egypt's visiting Minister of Tourism told reporters here Monday. Dr. Fouad Sultan said Israelis would not be permitted to acquire total control of a company's assets or obtain property in Sinai. "Egypt is concerned about the intentions behind such investments," he said.

Israel completed return of the Sinai to Egypt in 1982 as part of the two nations' peace agreement.

Sultan also visited Taba, the strip of Sinai beach whose ownership is disputed by Israel and Egypt. He said tourism contacts between the two nations would deepen once the dispute is resolved.

Ten Egyptian travel agents also are visiting Israel this week to explore the introduction of travel packages to both nations and increasing the number of Israeli tours to Egypt.

LITTLE ENTHUSIASM IN THE TERRITORIES OVER PERES' MEETING WITH PALESTINIANS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- There is little enthusiasm in the territories over Sunday's meeting between Premier Shimon Peres and a group of 25 Palestinians from the West Bank.

Hanna Seniora, who has the approval of both Israel and the PLO to represent the Palestinians in any future peace negotiations, told the JTA that Israel was on the wrong course by refusing to deal directly with the PLO.

Seniora, an editor of the pro-PLO East Jerusalem newspaper Al-Fajr, had not been among those invited to the meeting between Peres and the Palestinians. Seniora called the meeting a reflection of misguided policy and said he would be happy to meet with Peres in order to tell him just that.

In the wake of this chilly reception, Sunday's meeting was not expected to be followed by immediate political developments.

It was seen here as fulfilling a pledge by Peres to King Hassan II of Morocco to speak to "authentic" Palestinians. The meeting was also viewed as a part of an ongoing process of weakening the pro-PLO elements and strengthening supporters of Jordan in the territories.

SENATE LEGISLATION BARS TAX CREDITS TO FIRMS OPERATING IN COUNTRIES THAT SUPPORT OR HARBOR TERRORISTS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- An amendment denying foreign tax credits to corporations that operate in countries that support or harbor terrorists was passed unanimously in the Senate last Friday.

Sen. Charles Grassley (R.-Iowa) sponsored the bill.

The amendment, directed against Syria and Libya and supported by various Jewish organizations, affects corporations in countries recognized by the Export Administration Act as terrorist-supporting countries. These nations are Libya, Syria, Cuba, Iran and South Yemen. Sen. Paula Hawkins (R.-Fla.) and Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R.-N.Y.) proposed the amendment be revised to include Angola because that country is not recognized by the United States.

The amendment was attached to a bill to extend the debt ceiling in the Senate and will be considered by the House during their debate on the debt ceiling. Two months ago, the amendment was attached to a tax reform bill, but failed to pass Congress.

If corporations are denied foreign tax credit, it will be a disincentive for those companies to continue operating in a given country, a spokesman for Grassley told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The amendment will also prevent terrorist-supporting countries from using tax revenue to subsidize training terrorists.

VOA TRANSMITTER STATION IN THE NEGEV IS CLOSER TO REALIZATION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- The building of the Voice of America transmission station in the Negev came one major step closer to realization Sunday when the Cabinet formally endorsed an agree-

ment initiated last week by visiting U.S. Vice President George Bush and Israel's Communications Minister, Amnon Rubinstein.

The Cabinet step follows formal U.S. assurances that no less than half of the contracts for the construction of the facility will go to Israeli companies. The estimated cost of \$250 million is considered by experts here to be too low.

The Cabinet move allays the concerns of some of Israel's major industrial complexes who were anxious to secure a substantial part of the construction contracts. It has not allayed, however, the concerns of various environmental groups about the long-term effects of the project.

Some experts warn that the ecological balance in a wide area of Europe, Asia and Africa — particularly the migration patterns of millions of birds — could be seriously affected by the transmitters. Moreover, the facility will radically alter Israel's physical and geographical contours. A group of 16 tower-antennae is planned, each the height of a 70-story building.

The Cabinet decision apparently was influenced by the Reagan Administration assertion that it attaches major importance to boosting VOA's output to the Soviet Union and its satellites.

U.S. WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY REMOVE OBJECTIONS TO USSR PARTICIPATION IN MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS EVEN IF THE SOVIETS RESUME TIES WITH ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA) — The State Department made it clear Monday that if the Soviet Union resumes diplomatic relations with Israel it will not automatically remove the Reagan Administration's objections to Soviet participation in the Middle East peace process.

State Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman stressed this point as he said he had "no specific comment" on reports that the Soviet Union and Israel will hold talks soon about restoring consular relations. The USSR broke off diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967 Six-Day War.

"It has been our consistent position that Israel should enjoy diplomatic relations with the widest possible number of foreign governments," Redman said. But, he emphasized that the U.S. position has been that restoring relations with Israel is one of the "kinds of things" the Soviet Union could do if it wanted "to show that it's willing to play a responsible role" in the Mideast.

He said there were other requirements such as "a more forthcoming position on the question of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union" and an end to supporting regimes such as Col. Muammar Gaddafi's in Libya.

As for the U.S., Washington is engaged in a process of "looking toward the initiation of direct negotiations between Israel and credible Arab interlocutors," Redman said. He said progress will only come "step-by-step." He added, "We remain committed to a negotiated peace between Israel and all its Arab neighbors."

Redman had no assessment of Vice President George Bush's trip to the Middle East. On a visit to the Sinai Sunday, Bush said he believed peace would come to the Mideast within the next 10 years.

Meanwhile, Redman welcomed the report in Israel by Anatoly Shcharansky that his mother, Ida Milgrom, his brother, Leonid, and Leonid's wife, Iraida, and their two sons, will be allowed to leave the USSR for Israel August 23.

This is a "positive gesture," Redman said. "We hope it is a sign of Soviet determination to move forward with significant sustained progress on Jewish emigration." Redman had no comment on Shcharansky's statement in Israel Sunday that the Soviets had agreed to allow his family to leave because of pressure from the White House and State Department.

Shcharansky said the U.S. had acted after he had revealed recently that the Soviet Union had violated a secret written agreement when he was released last February in an East-West prisoner exchange that his family would be allowed to join him in Israel soon.

While refusing to discuss whether there had been any U.S. pressure, Redman noted, "We've been extremely interested in this case as well as many, many other cases of a similar nature. And we continue to work all those cases to the best of our ability."

JEWS CONDEMN ATTACKS ON OTHER RELIGIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 4 (JTA) — The Jewish leadership of Peru and Argentina formally condemned bombings of Catholic and Moslem houses of worship in their countries and have conveyed their sympathy and solidarity with the other religious faiths, the World Jewish Congress reported here.

In Peru, the Asociacion Judia del Peru, the representative body of Peruvian Jewry and the WJC affiliate there, issued a communique over the signature of its President, Jose Behar, expressing "deep indignation" at the violent attacks against two Roman Catholic churches in the country.

"It is painful for us to witness how far intolerance has gone throughout the nation, since not even the respectable and virtuous houses of prayer have been spared. As Jews, having been victims of all sorts of persecutions, outrages and murder throughout our long history, we cannot keep silent in the face of this barbarous attack, full of fanaticism and violence." The message was personally conveyed to Bishop Augusto Vargas Alzamora, Secretary General of the Peruvian Bishops Conference.

In Buenos Aires, the DAIA, the representative body of Argentine Jewry, condemned the bombing of a mosque in the city which was about to be inaugurated.

The DAIA's statement, signed by its president Dr. David Goldberg, expressed "its most energetic condemnation and repudiation in the face of the criminal attempt against the socio-cultural Islamic complex of this city. The Jewish community expresses its solidarity with its fellow citizens of Moslem faith in view of this rash of intolerance, and reaffirms that the traditional coexistence of all religious communities will not be altered by extremists interested in shaking peace, pluralism and the normal democratic procedure which this country elected."

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
B'NAI B'RITH SPONSORS
FEDERALLY-FUNDED HOUSING FOR ELDERLY**
By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- Decent affordable housing is one of the most urgent needs of a steadily aging American population -- American Jewish elderly -- and one Jewish organization has, for 15 years, sought to at least partly meet that need by sponsoring erection of apartment buildings for the elderly.

Since 1971, B'nai B'rith International has sponsored the construction of 21 apartment buildings for senior citizens, serving the housing needs of more than 3,000 elderly Americans in more than 15 communities in the United States, Americans fighting to make ends meet on fixed incomes, according to Harvey Gerstein, chairman of the B'nai B'rith Senior Citizen Housing Committee.

The housing program is funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the program depends entirely on the expertise and involvement of B'nai B'rith volunteers who create and develop these housing projects from inception to occupancy, Gerstein reported.

B'nai B'rith's first apartment building for the aged was opened at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in 1971, with 173 units and 220 residents. A facility with 60 units and 75 residents has been opened in Fort Worth, Tx. There are two B'nai B'rith housing projects in Silver Spring, Md.

The first Silver Spring project was opened in 1979 with 135 units. The second, with 100 units, was opened in 1985. The second Silver Spring facility is a separate one and not an addition to the first facility, though the two buildings are connected by a glass enclosed promenade. There are 238 residents in the two Silver Spring facilities.

More Housing Facilities Planned

B'nai B'rith housing facilities are planned for Deerfield Beach, Fla., and South Orange, N.J. The Deerfield Beach facility will have 100 units. The South Orange project will have 97 units. Construction is under way on the Deerfield Beach facility and construction of the South Orange facility is expected to begin in 1987.

Gerstein said that the agency's housing projects have facilities and staffs which provide programs to meet the social and cultural needs of residents. He said, "We want our residents to take advantage of opportunities offered in the surrounding community."

He said this was "part of our effort to establish a caring, supportive environment that allows our senior citizen residents to live in dignity and independence."

Gerstein reported that almost all residents receive rental subsidies under Section 8 of the Federal Housing Act. Basically, he reported, the B'nai B'rith requirement is that 30 percent of a resident's income be paid as rent, with the balance covered by the rent supplement.

Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency if B'nai B'rith had any firm estimates as to the number of elderly persons who would want to live in such facilities, if the apartments were available, Arthur Shulman, B'nai B'rith communications director, replied, "We believe that figure would be many thousands, judging from the waiting lists for current facilities and the fact that each new facility achieves total occupancy readily."

He added that almost all B'nai B'rith residences maintain a mailing list, usually made up of the names of about 100 applicants. Sometimes, such a list may be "frozen," since it would be futile to add more names when there is little possibility that many vacancies will become available.

First-Come, First-Served Basis

As to procedures, waiting lists are maintained on a first-come, first-served basis. Most residences review the waiting lists annually to determine whether the applicants still wish to be considered.

Another B'nai B'rith service to elderly Jews stems from cutbacks in recent years in federal support for local community service programs which have had a severe impact on many elderly persons living on fixed incomes in urban areas. Isolated elderly Jews are often unable to join in community services. Some are shut-in, or handicapped, unable to fend for themselves.

B'nai B'rith has created a Community Volunteer Service Commission (CVS), which has developed a range of programming efforts to meet the needs of isolated elderly Jews.

Harry Levitch, CVS chairman, said, "If you help an older person change a light bulb, or drive a senior citizen to the doctor, or deliver food packages to isolated, elderly citizens, or visit patients in nursing homes, or ease a shut-in's loneliness with a reassuring daily telephone call, that simple act might not seem like much. But it can make an enormous difference in the life of a senior citizen."

The CVS, whose participants make up CVS Mitzvah Corps, was formally started in 1973, but many of the programs had been under way for some 50 years in B'nai B'rith.

Currently, the JTA was told, the Mitzvah Corps functions in 11 cities, with some 120 members. They are men and women, ranging in age from the 20s to the 70s, each investing about three hours a week in Mitzvah Corps work.

ANDREW MUCHIN APPOINTED ASSISTANT EDITOR OF THE JTA

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- Andrew Muchin, former managing editor of The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle, Milwaukee, has been appointed assistant editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Muchin, 28, began Monday in this newly created position. His duties will include coordinating JTA's weekly feature package, Community News Reporter and Weekly News Digest, as well as reporting and rewriting and serving as liaison to JTA's client newspapers.

Muchin comes to JTA after nearly three years of editing the Wisconsin weekly. He began there as a reporter and copy editor in 1981. He received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin in 1980.

He has reported from Washington, D.C., and Israel and won second prize for editorial writing in the Simon Rockower Jewish journalism competition for the Jewish year 5744.

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Thousands of pine trees have been damaged or destroyed in forest fires in Western Galilee during recent weeks.

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