



SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO HEAR NAZI WAR CRIMINAL'S APPEAL AGAINST BEING DEPORTED; MOVE HAILED BY JEWISH GROUPS
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court refused Monday to hear an appeal by Nazi war criminal Karl Linnas against deportation to the Soviet Union where he was convicted and sentenced to death in absentia for participating in the mass murders of Jews and others at a concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia, during World War II.

Linnas, 66, was charged by the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) with lying about his wartime activities when he came here in 1951 from Germany under the Displaced Persons Act of 1948. He became a U.S. citizen in 1960. The Justice Department said he will be deported to the USSR, the only country that will accept him.

According to the charges, Linnas joined a Nazi execution squad in 1941 when Germany occupied Estonia, the purpose of which was to exterminate "undesirables," mostly Jews. He is accused of commanding firing squads that killed men, women and children forced to kneel before mass graves and of personally shooting several inmates at the Tartu camp.

Tributes To The Work Of OSI

The Supreme Court decision was hailed by Jewish organizations, Holocaust survivor groups and political figures.

Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman, who as a New York Congresswoman sponsored legislation that allows deportation of Nazi war criminals, congratulated the OSI "for its untiring efforts to bring Linnas to justice. Our country should no longer be a sanctuary for this brutal killer. The Second Circuit called Linnas 'a man who ordered the extermination of innocent men, women and children kneeling at the edge of a mass grave.'"

"I am particularly pleased by the Supreme Court's action because Linnas claimed that the law I wrote to prevent the United States from providing haven for Nazi killers, the so-called Holtzman Amendment, was unconstitutional. Linnas mocked U.S. justice by arguing that he should be deported to the Estonian Consulate, the New York City headquarters of the former government of Estonia. I urge the Department of Justice to take swift action to deport Linnas."

Eli Rosenbaum, World Jewish Congress general counsel and former OSI prosecutor, said: "It's really a tribute to the work of OSI and the work of Elizabeth Holtzman; without whom this would never have been possible, and also to the fine work of U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani, who personally argued the appeal in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals."

Rosenbaum said that "there was an unconscionable delay for 19 years in commencing legal proceedings" and that "at long last, the day for which we have waited 25 years has arrived. Karl Linnas's final appeal has been heard and he will be deported at last."

Abraham Foxman, associate national director and head of the International Affairs Division of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, called the deportation of Linnas "more than an act of justice. It is a warning to present and future generations against the horrors of genocide and a reminder that apathy and indifference helped make possible the Holocaust."

No Remorse For Wartime Activities

Charles Allen, Jr., who began investigations of Linnas in 1962 and interviewed him several times, both by phone and in person at his Greenlawn, NY, suburban home, said that Linnas had even then "expressed no remorse" for his wartime activities. Allen said that Linnas had then threatened him and his family with "liquidation" for being "a Jew Communist Bolshevik" while screaming hysterically.

Allen said that Linnas had shown anger and anxiety that the charges had surfaced in the media. However, Allen told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Linnas "talked fully, very volubly, admitting he was a member of the guard unit" at the Tartu concentration camp, as well as a member of the Estonian National Army, a collaborator group.

Allen wrote about Linnas in his 1963 book, "Nazi War Criminals Among Us," and in "The Basic Handbook of Nazi War Criminals in America," published in 1985. Allen said that Linnas had been living quietly in Long Island since 1959.

Legal Moves Against Linnas

Linnas was found guilty by the U.S. District Court, Eastern District, in July 1981, a decision he appealed before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in January 1982. That court unanimously affirmed the appeal for denaturalization. He then tried to have the Supreme Court strike down the second court's ruling.

In June 1982, the OSI filed charges against Linnas, and hearings were heard on these charges in December 1982 and January 1983 before the New York Immigration Court in New York City. He was ordered deported on May 29, 1983. Linnas appealed the deportation decision to the Board of Immigration Appeal (BIA) in July 1983.

On July 31, 1984, he was found deportable by the BIA, which remanded his case to the immigration judge over the question of U.S. refusal to recognize Estonia's incorporation into the Soviet Union. "Notwithstanding this move, both the BIA and the State Department ruled that such consideration did not debar his deportation," said Allen.

Linnas has been held since April at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York, a detention facility for those awaiting sentencing.

The Supreme Court decision was hailed by the World Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Committee, Simon Wiesenthal Center, International Network of Children of Holocaust Survivors, Holocaust Survivors USA, The Generation After, The American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAYS REAGAN WAS NOT BLAMING ISRAEL FOR PROVIDING FUNDS TO THE CONTRAS FROM MONEY RECEIVED IN ARMS SALE TO IRAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- President Reagan, in an interview published in the current issue of Time magazine, seems to blame Israel for providing funds for the Contras from the money received in the secret arms sales to Iran.

But White House spokesman Larry Speakes said that this is not what Reagan meant since he knows nothing about the secret bank account set up for the Contras in Switzerland.

Reagan's interview with Time was conducted on November 26 two days after Attorney General Edwin Meese told him he had discovered the secret fund and the day after Meese made the discovery public.

"Another country was facilitating those sales of weapons systems," Reagan told Time. "They then were overcharging and were apparently putting the money into bank accounts of the leaders of the Contras. It wasn't us funneling money to them. This was another country."

Israel Not Mentioned By Name

Reagan did not mention Israel by name, a practice he has followed since his Administration's secret negotiations with Iran became public. But Meese, in his White House press conference November 25, was the first Administration official to admit publicly that Israel had been the go-between for all the U.S. arms sales to Iran.

Speakes said Monday that Reagan, in his remarks to the news weekly, was referring to the sale of arms by Israel to Iran before the involvement of the U.S.

Meese, in his briefing to the press, was clear that the \$10-\$30 million Iran paid for arms above the \$12 million cost of the arms to the U.S. was placed in the secret accounts at the direction of Marine Corps Lt. Col. Oliver North, a staff member of the National Security Council, who was fired for this reason.

Vice Admiral John Poindexter, who Meese said knew something was occurring but "did not look into it further," was allowed to resign as the President's National Security Advisor. Meese also said that former National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane, who participated with North in the secret Iranian negotiations learned of the secret accounts last spring.

Meese said the money went from representatives of Iran to representatives of Israel and then to Switzerland. The money owed the U.S. was transferred to the CIA which repaid the Department of Defense.

It was never made clear who had actually deposited the excess funds in the Contra accounts. Israeli officials have defended helping the U.S. in the arms sales to Iran but have vehemently denied any knowledge or connection with the secret Contra accounts.

This was stressed by MK Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, in an appearance on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley" Sunday. "You cannot involve Israel in things which lie outside its action, and beyond its experience and beyond its jurisdiction," Eban said.

Meanwhile, Reagan told Time he does not "feel betrayed" by North, whom he called "a na-

tional hero." He added, "My only criticism is that I wasn't told everything."

Reagan Promises Full Airing Of The Facts

The President promised a "full and complete airing of the facts" on Monday as he met with the three-member special review panel that will study the role of the National Security Council and especially whether it should be engaged in operational diplomatic, security and military actions.

The board is headed by former Sen. John Tower (R. Tex.). The others members are former Secretary of State Edwin Muskie, a former Democratic Senator from Maine, and Gen. Brent Scowcroft, President Ford's National Security Advisor.

SOLOIN SAYS IRAN ARMS SALE SHOULD NOT DAMAGE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Sen. Daniel Inouye (D. Hawaii) said here Monday that the Iran arms sales affair need not damage U.S.-Israel relations, though he thought it possible that Israeli officials would be asked to testify before Congressional committees investigating the matter.

"I don't see how Israel could have said no ... if the government of the United States asked for its help," the Senator commented to reporters after a meeting with Premier Yitzhak Shamir. He was referring to the Israeli shipment of weapons to Iran which Israeli leaders insist was done with the approval of the U.S. and at its behest.

He observed that even if the request did not come from President Reagan directly but from a member of his National Security Council, "Israel would have naturally assumed it came with the President's approval. Israel could hardly have telephoned the President of the United States to ask him if this indeed was the case," Inouye said.

The Senator, who will become chairman of the key Appropriations Committee when the new Congress convenes in January, reportedly discussed the Iran affair with Shamir, including the possibility that Israeli officials may be asked to testify before Congressional committees.

Shamir told reporters that Israel has received no such request to date but indicated it would not be viewed askance. "Examinations and interrogations are not necessarily a sign of lack of confidence ... At any rate, I am sure that very soon everything will be clear and everyone will see that Israel acted properly," he said.

Inouye also reportedly discussed with Shamir a bill he is sponsoring along with Rep. Robert Kasten (D. Wis.) to reduce Israel's interest burden on debts to the U.S. The bill "should become a reality soon," he told reporters. Israeli sources said that if it does indeed pass through Congress it could save Israel more than \$300 million a year in interest payments.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The police Monday banned all protest marches and demonstrations inside Jerusalem's Old City to avoid a repetition of the disorders that followed the fatal stabbing of yeshiva student Eliahu Amdit by Arabs in the Old City November 15. The ban, which applies to Jews and Arabs alike, was denounced by both leftist and rightwing elements. It was ordered by Police Chief David Kraus, who said funeral processions would be restricted to cemetery grounds.

ORTHODOX JEWISH GROUP CALLS ON ITS MEMBERS TO DIVEST ALL INTERESTS IN FIRMS DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA

BALTIMORE, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (UOJC) unanimously adopted a resolution at the close of its national convention here Friday calling on "all Jewish institutions, our member congregations and their congregants to divest from their portfolios all investments in companies that do business with South Africa and do not comply with the 'Sullivan Principles'."

Sidney Kwestel, president of the UOJC which represents 1,500 Orthodox congregations in the U.S. and Canada with a membership of 1.2 million, called the move "not just a statement, but a call to action." He noted that the UOJC has spoken out against apartheid in the past but had not previously taken a position on divestment.

The resolution noted that "Racial discrimination is anathema to the Jewish tradition As Jews we are particularly sensitive to the tragic consequences of racial and religious prejudice and are committed to speak out against such practices wherever they appear, whether it be against the Bahai in Iran or our fellow Jews in the Soviet Union or Syria."

The resolution said the UOJC "remains sensitive to the interests of our Jewish brethren living in South Africa" and took note of "the courageous statements made by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies rejecting apartheid and renewing its commitment to justice, equal opportunity and the removal of all provisions in the laws of South Africa which discriminate on the grounds of color and race."

The UOJC affirmed in its resolution that the Sullivan Principles "have become a standard guiding many institutions that are contemplating divestment of holdings in American corporations doing business with South Africa."

The Sullivan Principles were developed by Rev. Leon Sullivan, a Philadelphia Baptist minister. They call on American corporations doing business in South Africa to voluntarily comply with specified standards regarding equal and fair employment practices, training programs to prepare Blacks and other non-whites for supervisory and administrative positions, programs to promote more Blacks and non-whites in these jobs and efforts to promote a higher quality of life outside the white environment.

UOJC officials said they believe the UOJC resolution is the first time a major national Jewish organization has called on its individual members to divest themselves of interests in South Africa.

Other Jewish groups which have either called for or have divested interests in South Africa include the Council of Jewish Federations; Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles; Jewish Federations of Baltimore, Boston, New York and Rhode Island; Union of American Hebrew Congregations; National Council of Jewish Women; and Brandeis University.

WORLD JEWISH POPULATION IS DWINDLING By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- The world Jewish population is declining rapidly and may be reduced to a total of six million within one generation, according to a report of a demographic study presented to the World Zionist Organization

Executive Monday. Diaspora Jewry is dwindling due to intermarriage and a low birthrate, the study found. The Jewish population of Israel is growing slowly because of immigration and a slightly higher birthrate. The birthrate among Jews worldwide is only 1.5 children per family. In Israel it is 2.8 children per family.

But on a global basis this is not enough to sustain equilibrium, the study said. It noted that the Holocaust reduced the number of Jews in the world from 16.5 million before World War II to 10.4 million after the war. By the end of 1985 the world Jewish population was down to 9.5 million.

The study projects a Jewish population of nine million by 1990, eight million in the year 2000 and six million by 2025, less than the population of large cities today.

GREECE AND ISRAEL IN A JOINT VENTURE By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Greece and Israel have put the finishing touches to a joint advertising and promotional campaign aimed at attracting North American tourists to both countries. Details of the campaign and its timing were agreed to last week during the visit to Israel by the Greek Deputy Minister of Economy Panayiotis Roumeliotis.

The Economic Ministry announced that the campaign will be conducted in the United States and Canada with the objective of promoting package tours to Greece and Israel using the air carriers of each country. Roumeliotis was in Israel to reciprocate the visit to Greece last May by the Israeli Minister of Tourism, Avraham Sharir, who is also Minister of Justice.

According to the announcement, they met again in Jerusalem to review bilateral measures by which the cooperation will be implemented. The Israelis are particularly interested in Greek expertise in the construction of marinas, the announcement said.

Roumeliotis told a press conference in Jerusalem last week that the Greek Minister of Culture, actress Melina Mercouri, would visit Israel next year and that Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias also intends to visit at a time yet unannounced. Greece and Israel do not have full diplomatic relations.

NEW GENERATION OF ORTHODOX JEWS HAILED

STAMFORD, Conn., Dec. 1 (JTA) -- U.S. Orthodox Jewry is now able to provide "alternative leadership" to American Jewry in lieu of those leaders who have abandoned Jewish tradition, according to Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America.

Speaking here last Thursday at the opening of the Orthodox organization's 64th national convention, Sherer hailed the ascendancy of a new generation of Orthodox Jews committed to the Torah and activism on its behalf.

He criticized what he said was an "unholy alliance" of secular, Conservative and Reform Jewish leaders to change the policies of non-Zionist yeshivah in Israel by attempting to cut off their Jewish Agency funding raised through the United Jewish Appeal.

Rabbi Berel Wein of Monsey, NY, rapped non-Orthodox leaders and the media, including the Anglo-Jewish press, for portraying Orthodox Jews as fanatical fragmenters of Jewish unity rather than the keepers of tradition.

FOCUS ON ISSUES A MAN WITH A MISSION

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- The man who provided the Allies with their first full eye-witness account of what was happening inside Auschwitz complained here that "many major war criminals are still at large" and that "the present generation has to be taught all over again exactly what happened."

Dr. Rudolf Vrba, who was interviewed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was one of two Slovak Jews who escaped from Auschwitz on April 7, 1944. Their report, including a description of the preparations to exterminate Hungarian Jewry, eventually shattered the "conspiracy of silence" about the Holocaust.

But Vrba has never forgiven the Jewish leaders of Hungary for the slowness of their reaction at a time when thousands of their brethren were being sent daily to their deaths.

Although he was one of the key witnesses of the Holocaust, he believes that his uncompromising criticism of the wartime Jewish leadership was the reason for his being debarred from appearing as a prosecution witness in the Eichmann trial in Israel.

His personal experiences nevertheless became world famous in 1964 when he described them in a popular book, entitled "I Cannot Forgive," which at the time ran into 15 editions.

Time To Retell The Story

Twenty-two years later, he has decided that it is time to tell the story again, and the book, re-named "Escape From Auschwitz," has just been republished in paperback in the United States. (Escape from Auschwitz-I Cannot Forgive, by Rudolf Vrba and Alan Bestic; Black Cat Books, Grove Press, New York; 359 pages; \$3.95.)

Nobel Prize Winner Elie Wiesel, in a review, described Vrba as "an authentic hero" and said that compared to Vrba's adventures "the great escape is a fairy-tale."

Now aged 62, Vrba lives in Vancouver where he is a pharmacology professor at the University of British Columbia. In Canada, he has been the major witness in court cases against neo-Nazis trying to write off the Holocaust as a Jewish invention. He also sits on an official commission which sifts evidence about allegations of Nazi war criminals still living in Canada among its East European emigre communities. "There are too many of them," he said.

But he is also deeply concerned by the number of present day youngsters, including Jewish students, who express bafflement at how the Holocaust could have happened. "With every new generation, the truth has to be explained all over again," he said.

An Exciting Life

His dramatic escape from Auschwitz and his desperate attempt to alert the world was the highlight of his life. Nevertheless, his subsequent life was far from dull. He spent the rest of the war in a distinguished Slovak partisan unit against the Germans.

It was then that he changed his family name Rosenberg to Vrba -- the Slovak for willow. "It blends with the wind but never breaks," he said. After the war, he became a student in Prague and embarked on a distinguished scientific career.

During the Slansky trials of the early 1950's, he narrowly escaped arrest after coming under suspicion because of his acquaintance with one of the other main Jewish defendants, Artur London, who died in Paris last month. He was then a student and believes he was spared because of the authorities' reluctance to antagonize other university students.

In 1958, after attending a scientific conference in Vienna, he decided not to return to Czechoslovakia. Instead, he went to Israel and 16 months later moved to Britain where he worked at the Medical Research Council.

In 1961, Vrba submitted evidence to the Israeli Embassy in London for use in the trial of Adolf Eichmann. In Jerusalem, however, two of the three judges of Eichmann decided that his presence at the trial was not necessary.

They justified their decision on grounds of expense. But Vrba thinks they feared his presence would have been used to revive the painful controversy over the attempts to persuade Eichmann to "sell" Jewish lives in exchange for trucks and money, of which Vrba was harshly critical.

A Happier Sequel

A happier sequel of his great escape occurred more recently at the dedication of a plaque in Vancouver to honor the Swedish humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg. It was unveiled by Per Anger, a former Swedish Ambassador to Canada, who in 1944 had been Wallenberg's principal associate in trying to save Hungarian Jews.

Wallenberg had been posted to Hungary as a direct result of Vrba's report on Auschwitz. Per Anger was the man who had dispatched that report from Budapest to the Swedish government which passed it on to the Allies.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Retired Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohen suffered a massive heart attack Sunday and was reported to be in a coma in the intensive care unit at Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba Monday morning. The 75-year-old jurist was stricken while attending a B'nai B'rith meeting in Herzliya. A mobile emergency unit of the Magen David Adom was at the scene in minutes. Attending doctors revived him after he was pronounced clinically dead.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Only 102 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union last month, it was reported Monday by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Of this total, 32 went to Israel, according to the Conference. In November 1985, 128 Jews left the USSR.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Dedi Zucker, 34, a political scientist and leader of Peace Now, was sworn in as a member of the Knesset Monday, representing the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM). He replaces Mordechai Bar-On who resigned his seat recently. Bar-On quit voluntarily, saying he did not want to stand for re-election but wanted his successor to gain parliamentary experience before the next elections. In addition to Zucker, the CRM Knesset faction consists of Shulamit Aloni and Ran Cohen.