

'THREE-WAY SUMMIT' BETWEEN ISRAEL, EGYPT AND JORDAN SEEN AS A POSSIBILITY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- A "three-way summit" meeting between Israel, Egypt and Jordan was described as "possible" by a top aide to Premier Yitzhak Shamir following Shamir's meeting Thursday with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy who arrived from Jordan, Israel Radio reported.

The radio report quoted a remark by Yosef Ben-Aharon, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, in a television interview taped for broadcast Thursday evening.

According to the report, Ben-Aharon said "It is possible to expect a three-way summit between Premier Shamir, the President of Egypt (Hosni Mubarak) and King Hussein" (of Jordan). He said the meeting would be held "in Aqaba (Jordan) or El Arish" in Egypt.

Ben-Aharon was also quoted as saying that Shamir would meet shortly with Palestinian leaders in the West Bank to urge them to form a delegation for peace talks with Israel and Jordan.

Exploratory Mission By Murphy

Murphy, who is Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs and the State Department's leading expert on the Middle East, is on his first visit to the region since last September. His mission has been described as exploratory, to see how the stalled peace process could be advanced. But American diplomats have cautioned against expectations of a breakthrough at this time.

Murphy has meetings scheduled with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin before he leaves for an Arab capital Friday. His destination was not disclosed for security reasons, but expectations are that he will go to Cairo.

In Amman Wednesday, Murphy indicated that the U.S. does not favor a joint preparatory committee for an international conference on Middle East peace. Peres and Mubarak agreed to set up such a committee when they met in Alexandria last November.

CHARGES TRADED OVER THE HANDLING OF CONVERTS TO JUDAISM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The ultra-Orthodox Shas Party and the more mainstream National Religious Party traded charges Thursday over the handling of converts to Judaism.

Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, leader of Shas, who resigned as Interior Minister this week rather than comply with a Supreme Court order to register American immigrant Shoshana Miller as a Jew, because she was converted by a Reform rabbi, charged that the NRP, when it held the Interior Ministry portfolio, "registered gentiles as Jews."

Peretz was responding to NRP charges that he had mishandled the Miller case. Shas has threatened to quit the unity coalition government unless the definition of a Jew in the Law of Return is amended according to Orthodox de-

mands. Shas has four seats in the Knesset, as does the NRP.

If Shas leaves the coalition it would be difficult for the other Orthodox factions to remain, particularly if a non-Orthodox person is appointed to replace Peretz and registers Miller as a Jew, as ordered by the court.

The religious parties planned to bring the controversial Who is a Jew amendment to the Knesset for a vote this week. They backed off when it became clear they lacked the votes to pass it.

PROCEEDINGS PENDING AGAINST SOME 1,200 SUSPECTED NAZI WAR CRIMINALS IN WEST GERMANY
By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The federal prosecutor's office in Ludwigshaven reported Wednesday that proceedings are pending against some 1,200 suspected Nazi war criminals but few if any are expected to be brought to trial because of their advanced age and the reluctance of many witnesses to testify.

The suspects are mainly former guards at Nazi concentration camps who were involved in the mass killings of Jews and others. Most of them range in age from 75 to 80 and the average age of witnesses is 73.

According to the prosecutor's office, state attorneys encountered tremendous difficulties compiling evidence against individual suspects, a process that took years in many cases. In addition, many potential witnesses refuse to testify, or suffer severe health problems or are unable to remember events or identify suspects.

If any are brought to trial, the prosecution would have to rely mainly on written testimony from other countries, mostly in Eastern Europe, and it is questionable that convincing cases could be made in those circumstances.

Nevertheless, a spokesperson for the prosecutor's office said it will continue to function as long as proceedings are pending against any suspected war criminals in West Germany.

NCSJ REPORT REBUKES USSR FOR 'HOLLOW' HUMANITARIAN MOVES

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), in its year-end report, rebukes the Soviet Union for "a year of dramatic, but largely disappointing developments" in human rights and Jewish emigration.

In an 18-page wrap-up of Soviet moves and statements on human rights, released Thursday at a press conference in Washington, the NCSJ assails the new policy of what is being called "glasnost," or openness, in the USSR since Mikhail Gorbachev assumed leadership as merely a tactical shift, more cosmetic than real, and decries the new Soviet "humanitarian campaign" as "hollow."

The NCSJ reports that Jewish emigration dropped 20 percent from the already low 1985 figure, with only 914 Jews leaving the Soviet Union last year as compared to 1,140 in 1985.

The NCSJ also accuses the USSR of attempting to "close the book" on Jewish emigration by making statements such as that at the Bern follow-up conference on the Helsinki Accords in April, when they said that "they could not permit the sending of Jews to the 'war danger zone' of Israel."

Such statements have been followed, says the NCSJ, by the concrete new emigration regulations which went into effect January 1, which "fixed in law the narrowly defined family" of parents, children and siblings who may invite relatives to join them abroad, "condemning hundreds of thousands of Jews from ever applying for, much less receiving, permission to emigrate."

The NCSJ report says that "nearly 380,000" have begun the process of applying to emigrate. Of the 380,000, the NCSJ identifies over 11,000 as refuseniks. These cases, states the NCSJ, have been repeatedly raised with Soviet officials, notably by President Reagan at the Reykjavik summit last October.

The NCSJ report, titled "The Illusion of 'Glasnost': A Survey on the Status of Soviet Jewry in 1986," notes that in April, a top Moscow specialist on nationality questions delivered a lecture before a leading Soviet propaganda body in which he "acknowledged that 10 to 15 percent of Soviet Jews currently would seek to emigrate," a figure which tallies more with Western figures than with official Soviet statements on the number of Jews wishing to emigrate.

This acknowledgement, says the NCSJ, was rendered "hollow" by the actual numbers of Jews permitted to emigrate.

Good News And Cynical Twist Of Fate

The "good news" of the release of "several prominent former POC's and long-term refuseniks ... allowed to emigrate," was accompanied by "a cynical twist" of the release of Inessa Flerova and her family to go to Israel to give her bone marrow to her leukemia-stricken brother, Michael Shirman, when it appeared to be far too late for the procedure.

The NCSJ report also noted that David Goldfarb, released suddenly in October and brought to the U.S. aboard Armand Hammer's private jet, was subsequently found to have lung cancer, "tragic proof," it says, "that he had not received adequate medical attention in the Soviet Union."

The NCSJ report notes that nearly half the number of Prisoners of Conscience were sentenced to prison or labor camp since Gorbachev took the reins of the Soviet government. Just within the past eight months, the report says, "alarming news continued to reach the West of the physical abuse of several Jewish prisoners, especially Aleksai Magarik, Yuli Edelshtein, Iosif Begun and Vladimir Lifshitz."

The report also notes the tightening of the vice on religious observances, including the shortage of matzoh at Passover, raids on private homes at Purim, warnings of prominent teachers of Jewish culture and religion, and the denial of basic rights of religious observance as written into the Helsinki Accords.

Gorbachev's promise at the Geneva summit of November 1985, as well as in other public statements, to resolve "humanitarian cases in the spirit of cooperation," writes the NCSJ, remains "more words."

At The First Zionist Assembly: A CLASH OF GENERATIONS By Margie Olster

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Several generations of Zionists gathered here last weekend at the posh Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel, for the First Zionist Assembly. The scene was one of stark contrasts: Activists in blue jeans and backpacks, professionals and functionaries in blue suits with briefcases. They mingled with each other against a backdrop of pink-with-roses carpeting lining the wide hallways, an alluring bar and five restaurants. And in the midst of this mosaic stood an easel with a display of black and white photographs of Degania, 1910. A group of early pioneers posed on the steps of a rickety wooden shack on this first kibbutz, their clothing tattered and their faces toughened by difficult conditions. The old and new generations confronted each other.

About 470 members of Zionist youth movements, some of them still in high school, others college graduates, met for a weekend of speakers, brainstorming and getting acquainted.

They came from the four corners of North America and from diverse political backgrounds to unite under the banner of "Magshimim," those individuals committed to aliya and Zionist fulfillment.

They came from 12 garinim, or groups organized for aliya to kibbutz, and youth movements from Betar on the right to Hashomer Hatzair on the left. Four aliya activist groups comprised primarily of university students and graduates also participated.

Subsidized Flights And Accommodations

About 1,000 American delegates from 16 constituent organizations of the American Zionist Federation, which organized the assembly, participated in addition to the magshimim. Their convention began Sunday afternoon as the magshimim concluded their weekend.

According to some organizers, the AZF, World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency provided some \$200,000 to subsidize the flights, accommodations and food for hundreds of North American magshimim. Most of the organizers agreed that AZF brought the younger generation to demonstrate that aliya is still a vital force in the American Zionist movement.

Last Sunday, the only day that the magshimim conference intersected with the official four-day Zionist Assembly, the younger generation had some harsh words for the elders.

Harsh Words For The Jewish Agency

Joel Sweet, a member of Garin Gal Hadash and Habonim, criticized the Jewish Agency which funds the Zionist youth movements.

Following an appeal for aliya by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and of the Jewish Agency Executives, Sweet said, "I am really beginning to doubt the integrity of the men who run the Jewish Agency." Sweet told Dulzin that the youth movements still have no budgets for educational campaigns and group activities. "If you really think we're relevant, don't tell us, show us."

Sweet argued the convention was a waste of resources because almost all of the magshimim are already committed to aliya. "We are still

walking back to our groups with empty pockets," he said. Gonen Hacklay, treasurer of Habonim Dror of America, told Dulzin, "Zionist youth movements waste much of their time worrying about where funds will come from for their next activity...The money used to plan this seminar could have been better used to support the youth movements in Batim (collective Jewish housing on campus) and in summer camps."

No Longer A Monopoly

Simmy Zivell, director of the United Kibbutz Movement of North America, said the Zionist establishment called the conference because "The Zionist organizations in America no longer have a monopoly on issues related to Israel."

"Everyone in the Jewish community realizes that some relationship with Israel is the single most important component in most American Jews' identity. So people, non-Zionists, will naturally ask the Zionist organizations, How are we different?"

"The only way the Zionist movement can justify its ongoing existence is by dealing with the one issue that non-Zionists are not able to make an ideological stand on—namely Zionism."

Many of the magshimim expressed resentment at being brought in as a showpiece, a display for the professionals.

But Becky Rowe, an organizer of the magshimim conference and the director of the Progressive Zionist Caucus (PZC), explained the necessity of the conference.

"It is important to show that there's a youthful contingent, that there's vitality in the AZF," Rowe said. However, she added, "The hotel is a horrible statement. The shlichim (emissaries) said this is not for us, it's a 'busha' (embarrassment). The movements have no money and they (AZF) waste so much money. But the Jewish professionals want their conference in a five-star hotel."

Acknowledges Generation Gap

Dulzin, responding to his youthful critics, acknowledged the generation gap. "I don't claim to represent you," he said. "There is a gap in age, in time and in temperament. But nobody will decide aliya for you but yourself. We will assist you, we will give you all our help. But you have to work out programs of activities and we will give you our support."

Akiva Lewinsky, treasurer of WZO and the Jewish Agency, sought to explain why the Jewish Agency subsidized the magshimim, addressing the question of wasted money and resources.

"Why did I agree to it?" Lewinsky said. "The presence of the Zionist movement has not been felt. If a Zionist presence is not felt, the community will move away from Israel. This is the greatest danger to the Jewish people I see."

"I would have liked to save the money. But this was an opportunity for garinim to meet and for the movements to show that there is a unity of purpose. Here are 500 people for whom aliya is important."

Assurances About Redirecting U.S. Zionism

Lewinsky assured the magshimim that their funding would not suffer as a result of money spent on the conference. He explained that all Jewish organizations need more money for education. Rowe summed up the essence of the weekend following Lewinsky's remarks. "Akiva Lewin-

sky said aliya is a process that starts with decisions. I disagree. Aliya is a process that starts with questions and that is why we're here this weekend. I hope that not only can we come closer to achieving a tangible political goal but that we faced some intellectual and personal challenges related to our own future."

Ben Cohen, AZF president, said the aliya activists have long been at odds with and suspicious of the establishment which has neglected them. But, he said, there is a genuine attempt to redirect American Zionism back towards aliya.

"Our intentions are honorable," Cohen said. "We are trying to get the American Zionist movement to dedicate much more of its resources to education and the aliya process."

FLAP OVER BANK PENSION, SEVERANCE DEAL By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The Board of Directors of Bank Leumi, Israel's largest bank, seemed to recoil in horror late Thursday night from the outsized pension and severance deal they had made with the bank's former chairman and chief executive officer, Ernst Japhet, when he resigned last spring.

Japhet was one of the top executives of Israel's five largest banks forced to resign after a committee of inquiry found that the banks had artificially inflated the value of their shares to mislead the investing public. The scandal came to light after bank shares collapsed in 1983, wiping out the savings of thousands of Israelis.

Under fierce denunciation from the Knesset Wednesday and with angry bank employees camped in the corridors outside the executive offices, the Board decided to suspend the \$30,000 a month pension awarded to Japhet. But they could take no action on the \$4.5 million in severance pay which Japhet has already received.

In a statement released just before midnight, the directors said the legality and reasonableness of the terms of Japhet's resignation were questionable. Japhet was unavailable for comment. Eli Hurwitz, the new Board chairman who replaced Japhet, said after the meeting, "I was not at peace with the agreement. My conscience was not quiet and my nights were not quiet after I heard of the sums Japhet was to receive."

Meanwhile, Leon Dulzin, Governor of Bank Leumi, lashed back at media and Knesset critics who accused him of allowing Japhet to receive excessive compensation. Dulzin, who is chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, said he first learned of Japhet's \$4.5 million "golden handshake" when he read about it in the newspapers. He said he urged Board chairman Hurwitz to cancel the deal but was told it was too late because the severance had been paid.

But he ordered the board to rescind the \$30,000 a month pension, Dulzin said. He said he considered Japhet's terms "scandalous." He also stressed that his position as Governor was ex-officio, without compensation and stemmed from the fact that the Jewish Agency is the majority shareholder in Bank Leumi. Dulzin said he attended "some seven or eight board meetings a year ... that hardly means I was involved in the running of the bank." He said he saw no cause for him to resign.

POLL ON FUNDAMENTALIST AND EVANGELICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD JEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- The results made public Thursday of a nationwide survey of evangelical and fundamentalist Christian attitudes towards Jews challenge some commonly held assumptions, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith which commissioned the poll.

Conducted telephonically among a sampling of 1,000 religiously conservative Christians in September and October by the Houston-based Terrance, Hill, Newport and Ryan research organization, the survey revealed that most of them do not "consciously use their deeply-held Christian faith and conviction as justification for anti-Semitic views of Jews."

The survey sampling was made up of 36 percent Baptists, 12 percent Methodists, 10 percent Lutherans, 7 percent members of the Church of Christ and the remainder included other Protestant evangelicals such as Pentecostal, Mormon and Assembly of God.

Some Of The Attitudes

Ninety percent disagreed with a statement that "Christians are justified in holding negative attitudes towards Jews since the Jews killed Christ," five percent agreed and five percent said they were "unsure."

Twenty-four percent felt that God views Jews "more favorably than other non-Christians" based on their belief that "Jews are God's chosen people" and the fact that Jesus was himself a Jew. Ten percent felt that God views Jew "less favorably than other non-Christians."

Eighty-six percent disagreed with the assertion that "God does not hear the prayer of a Jew," a statement that was originally made in 1981 by the then president of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Rev. Bailey Smith. Only 12 percent agreed with this statement.

Sixty-eight percent said Jews are viewed by God "no differently than other non-Christians" because they have not accepted Jesus, 20 percent said they may be judged "more harshly" and 12 percent were "unsure."

Part Of An Ongoing Analysis

ADL national director Nathan Perlmutter said the survey is part of the agency's ongoing analyses of Christian attitudes toward Jews and that many of the findings of this particular poll are significant in view of the increased prominence in recent years of religiously conservative Christians in this country -- "a group about which Jews have expressed apprehension." He added:

"While there are areas of important disagreement between the Jewish community and evangelicals and fundamentalists, such as prayer in schools and the teaching of evolution, these reflect differing values. Their support of voluntary prayer in the school, for instance, is no more necessarily anti-Semitic than our opposition to prayer is anti-religious. In a culturally pluralistic society, it is possible to be at opposite ends of an issue without religious bigotry being operative." Perlmutter cited as "troubling" the survey's finding that although 57 percent of the sampling revealed no secular anti-Semitic attitudes as measured by their responses to seven statements in an "anti-Semitic index," 22 percent agreed with one of the anti-Semitic characteriza-

tions and another 21 percent with two or more. Only five percent of those surveyed accepted four or more of the statements as valid.

It was found that 49 percent of those between 18 and 34 years of age agreed with at least one of the anti-Semitic characterizations compared to 34 percent of those 55 and over.

The survey noted a statistically significant relationship between belief in a literal reading of the Bible and expression of one or more secular anti-Semitic views.

The seven statements reflected stereotypical attitudes towards Jews, including the following: "because Jews are not bound by Christian ethics, they do things to get ahead that Christians generally do not do," 27 percent agreed; "Jews are tight with money," 51 percent agreed; "Jews want to remain different from other people, and yet they are touchy if people notice these differences," 39 percent agreed; "Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the U.S.," 27 percent agreed.

Some 'Positive' Traits

But, sizeable percentages of those who accepted these characterizations felt they were "positive" traits. For example, of those who believe "Jews are tight with money," 60 percent thought that was a positive trait. On the statement about greater loyalty to Israel, 49 percent of those who agreed thought it was a positive trait and 30 percent of those who saw Jews as wanting to be "different," viewed the characteristic positively.

On their perceptions of how much power is wielded in America today by six selected groups--big business, organized labor, Arabs, Catholics, Blacks and Jews -- 67 percent thought big business has too much power; 55 percent cited organized labor; 38 percent, Arabs; 23 percent, Catholics; 11 percent said Blacks have too much power; 31 percent felt Blacks do not have enough power; 7 percent said Jews have too much power and 11 percent said they have too little power.

"The findings on Blacks and Jews," Perlmutter said, "are particularly instructive. The old canard that Jews have too much power in this country is overwhelmingly rejected by the interviewees. Regarding Blacks, the fact that nearly a third of the sample, the largest percentage by far, felt that they do not have enough power suggests that the view that evangelicals and fundamentalists are disinterested in the Blacks' struggle for social justice may not be justified."

TERRORIST ACT IN KIRYAT MALACHI

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- A number of suspects were detained Thursday after a small explosive device detonated in Kiryat Malachi, about 60 kilometers southwest of Jerusalem. A car was damaged but there were no casualties. Police suspect a terrorist act.

Security forces, meanwhile, continued to take anti-terrorist measures in the West Bank and acted to prevent possible rioting by students in Nablus.

The homes of three suspected terrorists in the Shuafat refugee camp near Jerusalem were cordoned off Thursday. The occupants were accused of throwing grenades and Molotov cocktails at Jewish targets last year.

The West Bank civil administration closed A-Rawda College and A-Najah University, both in Nablus, until the end of the week on the basis of "information" that the students intended to riot.