

FRENCH JEWISH LEADERS URGE REMAINING JEWS IN LEBANON TO LEAVE THAT COUNTRY
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The Representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF) urged Lebanon's remaining Jewish community Wednesday to flee the country at the earliest possible moment to save their lives. Fewer than 100 Jews are believed to remain in Lebanon.

Roger Pinto, head of CRIF's committee for imperiled Jewish communities, made his plea a day after a Shiite terrorist group in Lebanon announced the "execution" of another Jewish hostage, bringing to nine the number of Lebanese Jews kidnapped and murdered in less than two years.

The latest victim was identified by the killers as Yehoudah Benesti, 70, whose two sons, Ibrahim and Youssef, were slain by the same group last year.

Pinto stressed that Lebanese Jews "belong to no community" as do Moslems and Christians, "have no militias of their own and do not enjoy the help or protection of any foreign powers." According to Pinto, "They remain in Lebanon because they love their country," but the time has come for them to flee.

Two Lebanese Jewish hostages are believed here to be still alive. They are Isaac Sasson, the former president of the Lebanese Jewish community, who was kidnapped on March 31, 1985; and Selim Jamous, the community's former secretary, who was kidnapped from his office on August 14, 1984.

They are believed held by the same extremist terrorist group responsible for the murders of Jews, the self-styled "Organization of the Oppressed (Mustadafin) in the World."

Meanwhile, French sources in contact with various factions in Lebanon believe the latest victim, Yehouda Benesti, was not murdered, as his captors claimed, because of his activities "on behalf of Israeli intelligence," but died as a consequence of mistreatment and ill health.

GOVERNMENT DEFEATS FIVE NON-CONFIDENCE MOTIONS OVER THE NEW ECONOMIC PLAN, BUT DISPUTE WITH HISTADRUT CONTINUES
By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The government defeated five non-confidence motions in the Knesset Wednesday over the new economic plan approved by the Cabinet Tuesday. But it remained locked in dispute with Histadrut over a proposed \$30 million cut in subsidies to the Kupat Holim (sick-fund) which was excised from the Health Ministry's budget.

The imbroglio forced postponement of the ceremonial signing of the economic plan by the government, Histadrut and the Association of Manufacturers and Employers. It had been scheduled for Tuesday night.

Talks continued throughout Wednesday between Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, the heads of the Treasury's budget department, and Yisrael Kessar, Secretary General of Histadrut. They are

expected to continue through the night and possibly all day Thursday.

The labor federation has dug in its heels against the subsidy cut. Kupat Holim, which provides comprehensive health care benefits, is a major inducement for Israelis to join Histadrut.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry is conducting its own battle against cuts in the education budget. Members of the Histadrut Teachers Association, mainly elementary and junior high-school teachers, staged a one-day strike Thursday against the cuts and the education tax which is another feature of the new economic program. Classes were held for only the first two grades.

Plan Under Fire From Right And Left Parties

During the Knesset debate, the government's plan was attacked by both the left and rightwing parties. Yair Tzaban of Mapam, pointing to Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, the Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, who is a strong supporter of the economic plan, declared, "You will go down as the man who organized the counter-revolution against social security in Israel."

Rafael Eitan of the Tchiya Party charged that the coalition government encouraged "destructive apathy" among the public. He said Israelis have no confidence in the government and have lost hope for the future.

Shulamit Aloni of the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM) attacked the devaluation of the Shekel, a major feature of the economic plan. She said it was part and parcel of the government's skewed priorities.

Matityahu Peled of the Progressive List noted that the military's refusal of cuts in the defense budget was accepted by the government while it slashed the budgets for health, education and housing.

Communist Party leader Meir Vilner assailed Histadrut for "helping cut off the legs of the workers." He added that the government "wants to cut off their arms as well."

Nissim, replying for the government, was repeatedly heckled by Yaacov Shamai, who heads the Likud faction in Histadrut. When a hand vote was taken on the non-confidence motions, both Shamai and Histadrut chief Kessar were absent from the chamber.

MURPHY IS 'CONVINCED' THAT ISRAEL, EGYPT AND JORDAN ARE SERIOUS ABOUT ADVANCING THE PEACE PROCESS
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, winding up a two-week tour of the Middle East, said here Wednesday that he was "convinced" that Israel, Egypt and Jordan are serious about advancing the peace process, though they remain at odds over how to go about it.

Murphy, who arrived here from Saudi Arabia Wednesday and returns to the U.S. by the end of the week, briefed Premier Yitzhak Shamir on his talks in Jordan and Egypt. His stopover in Jerusalem was his second since he came to the region two weeks ago on his first visit since September.

He told reporters, "I am returning to Washington convinced of the seriousness of purpose about advancing the peace process here, in Jordan and in Egypt." A spokesman for Shamir said Murphy informed the Premier that there was no change in the basic disagreement among the three countries over how to revive the peace process.

"There are good intentions, but there is disagreement over how to proceed," the spokesman quoted Murphy as saying.

Disagreements Over How To Proceed

Egypt and Jordan are pressing for an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and all parties concerned, including the Palestinians. Both countries recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as spokesman for the Palestinians.

Israel refuses to negotiate with the PLO. It insists that any international forum must be a framework for direct negotiations, not a substitute for them and it is determined to prevent the re-entry of the Soviet Union into Middle Eastern affairs.

The U.S. appears to favor the Israeli position. Murphy, who is Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, will meet Shamir again when the latter comes to Washington next month for meetings with President Reagan and top Administration officials. During his visits to Israel, Murphy met with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israeli sources believe Murphy will return to the region after the Islamic Conference in Kuwait later this month. They believe much depends on whether the conference will give Egypt and Jordan a freer hand to act. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is due to visit Washington a week after Shamir's visit.

Israeli sources also maintain that a major purpose of Murphy's current Mideast tour was to allay Arab fears over the Reagan Administration's covert shipment of arms to Iran and to restore Washington's credibility in the Arab world.

If that is the case, his success was only partial, the sources said. They noted that King Hussein of Jordan, presently on an official visit to France, said in Paris Tuesday that because of the Iran affair, American credibility has sunk to "nearly zero."

UN REPORT SAYS ISRAEL IS MAJOR CAUSE OF WORSENING SITUATION IN LEBANON

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The United Nations Secretary General has issued a report in preparation for the upcoming debate on renewal of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon's (UNIFIL) mandate which targets Israel as the major cause of the deteriorating security situation in southern Lebanon.

The report, prepared by UN Undersecretary General for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding referred to the situation in Lebanon and the refugee camp wars as only a secondary factor in the threats against UNIFIL soldiers.

The UN Security Council is scheduled to begin a debate on renewing the UNIFIL mandate on Thursday.

In the past six months, 10 UNIFIL soldiers were killed in hostilities and another 5 in acci-

dents. Eight of the hostile deaths were attributed to "armed elements," a common euphemism for the Hezbollah, according to the Israeli UN Mission.

Goulding's report also conveyed accusations leveled by the Israeli-backed Christian militia, the South Lebanese Army (SLA), that UNIFIL permits Hezbollah to attack the SLA from the vicinity of UNIFIL positions.

The Secretary General also issued a condemnation of the killing by Israel Defense Forces last week of an Irish UNIFIL soldier and of SLA fire on UNIFIL positions described as "unprovoked and deliberate."

The report acknowledged that attacks by Hezbollah have increased recently, and that more terrorists participated in each attack. The Hezbollah forces are aided by elements from outside the region, according to the report. This referred to the support provided by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa valley, according to Eyal Arad, spokesman for the Israeli Mission.

Goulding dismissed the prospects of an imminent dismantling of the security zone by Israel. If the UNIFIL situation continues to deteriorate, the Security Council "may feel that it is no longer right that the troop-contributing countries should be asked to keep UNIFIL in being," the report said.

Arad said the tone of the report was relatively moderate. Yohanan Bein, the Israeli Charge D'Affaires in New York, reiterated the Israeli position that the security problems in south Lebanon stem from the lack of central authority in the region.

Bein said Israel would be open to any alternative arrangement that would ensure the protection of Israel's northern region. He said that UNIFIL serves a positive role and Israel has no intent to attack its forces.

"On the contrary, we regret any attack on UNIFIL and we make every effort possible to prevent clashes between our forces," Bein said.

CONTROVERSY AROUND MILLER CONVERSION CASE IS TEMPORARILY DEFUSED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- Shoshana Miller, the convert to Judaism from the U.S. whose right to status as a Jew was upheld by the Supreme Court although she was converted by a Reform rabbi, appears to have temporarily defused the fierce controversy aroused by her case.

The Jerusalem Post reported Wednesday that Miller, who returned to the U.S. to care for her ailing father, has elected to remain there and not claim the Israeli citizenship the high court said she is entitled to.

(However, the rabbi who converted her and whose Reform congregation employed her as a cantor, Rabbi David Kline of Temple Shalom, Colorado Springs, Colo., told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Wednesday that Miller "hasn't announced her final decision" about remaining in the United States.

(He said she is one of "three or four candidates" for her old job, and that the synagogue would decide on a cantor by the end of the month. Kline added, "There are plenty of people in the temple who would love to have her for a cantor.")

Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, resigned as Interior Minister two weeks ago rather than comply with the Supreme

Court's order to issue Miller an identification card as a Jew, without the description "converted" or any other qualification.

Orthodox Establishment Further Enraged

Deputy Minister Ronnie Milo of Likud, whom Premier Yitzhak Shamir put in direct charge of the Interior Ministry until a new Minister is appointed, announced Monday that he was prepared to issue the ID card to Miller as soon as she applied for it. But her application must be made in Israel, not from abroad, Milo said.

His statement further enraged the Orthodox religious establishment, particularly because Milo acknowledged to the Knesset that the Supreme Court's decision established a precedent which will have to be honored by the Interior Ministry in the future. The Orthodox parties are reported seriously considering leaving the Labor-Likud unity coalition government over this issue.

The Union for Progressive Judaism, as the Reform movement is known in Israel, says it has 15 converted olim waiting to apply for ID cards in the wake of the Miller decision. But it is apparently undecided whether to initiate another test case at this time.

'A Miserable Experience In Israel'

The Jerusalem Post, in an interview with Rabbi Kline, reported him as saying that Miller was being interviewed for the job of cantor in his temple. But he did not say unequivocally that she had decided not to return to Israel. He said that she "had a miserable experience in Israel" and now wants time "out of the limelight" while she considers her future.

The rabbi added, "Her aliya just didn't work out... I'm not ashamed of her having come back. After all, the great majority of American olim end up leaving Israel."

SPIRIT OF WALLENBERG, KING EXPRESSED BY THE PEOPLE OF COEUR D'ALENE By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- "Holocaust, slavery, I-have-a-dream, Selma, Raoul Wallenberg, Howard Beach, the city of Coeur D'Alene, freedom to worship at the Western Wall, apartheid, the right to emigrate -- all of these, and much more, all are part of the story of humanity's struggle for freedom."

This list offered by Hyman Bookbinder of the American Jewish Committee encapsulated the many themes of freedom, human rights and justice at a ceremony here Wednesday commemorating the 42nd anniversary of the arrest and disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg. Wallenberg, who was a Swedish diplomat, is revered for personally aiding in the rescue of more than 100,000 Jews in Budapest, Hungary, during World War II. He was arrested on January 17, 1945 by the Soviets after the Red Army marched into Budapest and disappeared into the Soviet Gulag. His fate remains a mystery. Among those at the ceremony were Jews rescued by Wallenberg and his family members.

Although Wallenberg's heroism was compared frequently during the ceremony to Martin Luther King's struggle for civil rights in America, the real focus of the commemoration was on what many called the contemporary expression of Wallenberg's and King's spirit, the people of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. King's birthday, a national holiday, will be celebrated Monday in America.

The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States presented a civic award to the city of Coeur D'Alene, population 22,000, for its definitive opposition to the entrenchment of the white supremacist Aryan Nations in their idyllic Rocky Mountains town.

Coeur D'Alene, has few Jews and few blacks. Its beauty has been compared to the Swiss Alps. And on a mountain overlooking this seeming utopia, a small number of neo-Nazi extremists calling themselves the Christian Identity or Aryan Nations, sought a warm cradle and a fertile ground to plant the seeds of bigotry.

Instead, they were met with grass-roots revulsion and rejection by the people of Coeur D'Alene who let their neighbors on the hilltop know their ideas were not welcome on the streets of the town.

Wednesday, Mayor Ray Stone, Undersheriff Larry Broadbent and Father William Wassmuth of Coeur D'Alene received a heroes' welcome at New York's City Hall for fighting on the front line against hatred and prejudice. And it was this fight, many noted, that embodied the legends of Wallenberg and King.

Faced Mortal Danger

These three men had faced mortal dangers to stand up against the Aryan Nations. Broadbent was the subject of an Aryan Nations' assassination conspiracy. Wassmuth's house was bombed.

"When neo-Nazis tried to make Coeur D'Alene a base of operations, these three men and others in the town made clear that the hatemongers were not welcome," said Andrew Stein, New York City Council President.

"In essence, the message that the Undersheriff, the Mayor, Father Wassmuth and the residents of Coeur D'Alene sent to the neo-Nazis was clear and unmistakable: You're entitled to your views. But damn it if we're going to stand by passively as you seek to sow your seeds of hate, bigotry and intolerance in our community. We stand against you. We will give you no comfort. And we will resist without end the campaign of divisive hate you seek to sow in this Nation. Your ways are violent. Your views are un-American. Your ideology is repugnant. You will find no home here."

Coeur D'Alene, like the recent racial killing in Howard Beach, Queens, brought home the reality that the spirit of Nazism, of slavery and of prejudice remains viable in our day, the speakers noted.

Mayor Stone, in accepting the Wallenberg Committee's award, said the honor was particularly important because the outspoken advocates of human rights in Coeur D'Alene have recently come under fire. "We are going to stand tall and we are going to stand straight against those who preach, teach, or advocate, in any form or manner, the superiority of one group over another and any form of violence to accomplish their aims," Stone declared.

"Whatever we do, it will be little as compared to the sacrifices made those few years ago by Raoul Wallenberg, and as we learn more and understand more of those circumstances and the courage that was present in those trying times, the award will continue to serve as a light for us in our own way to follow and to emulate not only Raoul Wallenberg, but all who believe in the divinity of the human spirit."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA JEWISH UNEMPLOYED IN THE NEW YORK AREA

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- At least 55,000 Greater New York Area Jews are unemployed, and the number could increase unless existing training and job-creation programs are strengthened, according to two studies.

Prof. Herbert Binstock, director of the Queens College Center for Labor and Urban Programs, Research and Analysis, who conducted the studies for the Federation Employment and Guidance Service (FEGS), a UJA-Federation agency, also warned that the figures are conservative. They include only persons registered at federal employment centers, not part-time workers, recent college graduates or people who have given up looking for work.

Binstock, whose study on Jewish unemployed was completed in November, said the total number of jobless or underemployed Jews in the metropolitan area -- New York area, City and Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk Counties -- may be as high as 160,000, with 105,000 in the city's five boroughs. The reported figures in the study, he said, estimate between 35,000 and 45,000 jobless Jews in the city and 15,000 to 20,000 in the rest of the area. But Binstock also noted that the total Jewish unemployment rate in the area is below the 6.1 percent of the total general jobless rate in the metropolitan area. He said he found that the majority of unemployed Jews are college graduates and middle-level managers. His report did not show the total number of Jews employed in the area labor market.

Some Preliminary Findings

Binstock's other study, a still unpublished demographic report based on interviews with 600 Jewish clients who sought assistance from FEGS in 1985, showed the following preliminary findings:

- * The Jewish unemployed are mostly adults, between 18 and 55.

- * About 30 percent of area Jews who go to FEGS for help have management backgrounds. Another 35 percent have clerical experience, and about 8 percent are manual workers. The remaining 27 percent are classified as "miscellaneous."

- * Unemployed Jews in New York tend to be better educated than the general population. About 75 percent of FEGS clients had attended college; 57 percent had undergraduate degrees, and more than half of those had finished graduate school. Only a negligible number had failed to complete high school.

- * Some 60 percent of FEGS clients wanted permanent jobs. About 16 percent wanted counseling, and 12 percent sought additional training.

Gail Magaliff, associate executive vice president of FEGS, said the unemployment figures confirm that the New York economy has been shifting -- from manufacturing industries that employ many production workers and a large number of middle-level managers, to service enterprises that require information processors and other white-collar employees.

According to Labor Department statistics, the number of jobs in New York City reached a 12-year-high of 3.5 million in 1985, largely because of growth in such fields as finance, insurance, communications, and international trade. By contrast, manufacturing jobs declined by 18 percent between 1981 and 1985. Such changes have serious social and economic implications,

Magaliff said. Many of the manufacturing jobs lost, including those in the garment and jewelry industries, had traditionally provided entry-level work for untrained people.

"People need more training these days, even for low-level office jobs," she said. Many entry level clerical positions require word-processing and other advanced skills. Even years after the trend was recognized, she said, employers still have trouble finding people with the skills now needed.

Steps To Combat Jewish Unemployment

To take advantage of the continuing shortage of skilled employees, and to combat Jewish unemployment, UJA-Federation has allocated \$295,000 for the current fiscal year to the \$632,000 FEGS Jewish Emergency Employment Program. Some 3,596 Jews from throughout the area take part in the program, which includes career guidance, skills training, psychological counseling, and other assistance.

The clients include middle-level managers who lost their jobs when companies closed or relocated; heads of single-parent families; women returning to the work force; Russian immigrants; and recent college graduates.

KLINGHOFFER FOREST DEDICATED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- A forest in the memory of Leon Klinghoffer was dedicated in Yotv near Beersheba on Sunday by Deputy Prime Minister Arnaldo Forlani of Italy. The Ambassadors of Italy and the United States also planted trees in the memorial forest in memory of Klinghoffer, the 69-year-old American Jew killed during the 1985 hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship. Palestinian terrorists killed him and then threw his body overboard.

"Israel and Italy are united in the war against terrorism," Forlani said at the dedication ceremony. He said it was important that Italy should be represented at the dedication because Klinghoffer was killed on an Italian ship. The Klinghoffer forest, sponsored by the Italian government, is part of a five-million-tree forest donated by Italian Jews.

A RARE PRINTED HEBREW BOOK ADDED TO THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- One of the only five known copies in the world of the first edition of "Meshal-Hakadmoni," the first illustrated printed Hebrew book, has been added to the incunabula collection of the Jewish National and University Library at the Hebrew University, the University announced Wednesday.

The copy was donated to the library by Ludwig Jesselson of New York, who purchased it for \$175,000, the highest price ever paid for a Hebrew printed book.

It was written by the 13th-century Hebrew poet and scholar Isaac Ben Solomon Abi Sahula and printed by the Soncino Press in Brescia, Italy, in 1491.

The book is a collection of fables and allegories in rhymed prose embellished with 75 pictorial woodcuts. It will be displayed to the public after undergoing restoration in the library's laboratory for restoration and preservation.