

KOHL CALLS ON GERMANS NOT TO FORGET CRIMES OF THE NAZI ERA

BONN, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl, on the 45th anniversary of the "Final Solution," called on Germans Tuesday never to forget the crimes of the Nazi era.

"We Germans must never forget, repress or trivialize the crimes of Nazism because only by remembering them will we be capable of reconciliation," Kohl said. "The memory of those who were deported in Germany's name, enslaved, humiliated and murdered in the extermination camps of Auschwitz, Treblinka, Birkenau, Maidanek and Sobibor obliges us never again to stir feelings of hatred."

On January 20, 1942, leaders of the Third Reich, meeting in the Wannsee suburb of Berlin, drafted the "Final Solution" to the Jewish problem -- the mass extermination of Europe's Jewish population. On Tuesday, a memorial service was held at the villa where the meeting took place. One of the speakers, Heinz Galinski, chairman of West Germany's Jewish community, warned that many German politicians and historians were attempting to bury the past.

Kohl's statement was seen in part as a response to similar charges by the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) which faces the Chancellor's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in a general election this Sunday. The CDU is expected to win a solid victory, according to opinion polls.

ITALIAN DEFENSE CHIEF WARNS OF POTENTIAL 'NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL' BY INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST GROUPS
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini warned here Tuesday night of the possibility of "nuclear blackmail" by terrorist groups.

Addressing faculty and guests at Tel Aviv University which awarded him an honorary degree, the Italian defense chief called for an international conference to include the two superpowers, the U.S. and USSR, to explore ways to fight international terrorism. The civilized world may not survive into the next century unless terrorism is stopped, he said.

Spadolini contended that nuclear blackmail is a potential threat because simplified nuclear technology is within the grasp of well organized terrorist groups.

"Considering that airplanes and cruise ships are a favorite target of terrorists, modern means of transportation are more dangerous than the roads of the late Middle Ages," the Italian Minister said.

"Voltaire wrote in 1750 that what differentiates Europe from other continents is that diplomats can be sure of returning safely to their countries at the end of their mission. That is no longer true anywhere in the world," Spadolini maintained.

The Italian Defense Minister arrived here Monday night after visits to four Arab countries where, he said, he gained the impression that

there is a growing interest among moderate Arab leaders in an international conference for peace in the Middle East. Spadolini visited Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Saudi Arabia before coming to Israel.

He made a similar statement Wednesday after a 90-minute meeting with six Palestinian leaders--three from the West Bank and three from the Gaza Strip. They met at the Italian Consulate in West Jerusalem.

Spadolini said they had discussed the need for an international conference on Middle East peace with the participation of the major powers and all parties concerned. He said most of the Palestinians favored negotiations for Palestinian autonomy to go hand-in-hand with security for Israel. They stressed the need for the Israeli administered territories to confederate with Jordan.

The Palestinians attending the meeting all stressed that the Palestine Liberation Organization was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They included Rashad A-Shawa, the former Mayor of Gaza, Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, of Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, Mustapha Abd A-Nabi Natshe, the former Mayor of Hebron, and Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu-Rahme.

The latter two have been barred by the Israeli authorities from attending an international symposium on Middle East peace at San Diego State University in southern California. The ban has been protested by Israeli and American invitees.

Not Acting As A Mediator

Spadolini, in statements to reporters on his arrival in Israel, stressed that he was not trying to be a mediator between Israel and the Arab states and was carrying no messages to the Israel government from any Arab leaders. He said he gained the impression that the latter are interested in a peace conference from hours of conversation but not from any specific statements.

Spadolini called on President Chaim Herzog Tuesday morning to discuss Middle East problems and bilateral relations between Italy and Israel. He also met with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who was in Italy recently and with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

ITALY AND ISRAEL SIGN AGREEMENT FOR JOINT PROMOTION OF TOURISM

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Italy and Israel signed an agreement here this week for the joint promotion of tourism between the two countries and to each of them from North America and other areas of the world. Both countries have suffered a slump in tourism over the past year.

The agreement, signed by Israel's Minister of Tourism Avraham Sharir and his Italian counterpart, Nicola Capria, contains a strong condemnation of terrorism. Terrorist acts in the Mediterranean area, particularly the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in 1985, is considered responsible in large measure for the lag in tourist traffic.

The agreement provides for the tourism ministries of both countries to create vacation packages that include stop-overs in Rome and Jerusalem. The ministries will try to arrange direct flights between Milan and Tel Aviv by Alitalia and El Al, the national air lines of Italy and Israel, respectively. Sharir signed a similar agreement recently with Greece.

"Israel Weeks" will be inaugurated for Italian tourists and "Italy Weeks" for Israelis. Both countries will promote health cures based on the many thermal spas in Italy and the curative properties of the high saline waters of the Dead Sea and the hot springs at Tiberias.

Because more Israelis visit Italy than Italians visit Israel, a special inducement for the latter will be the establishment of a duty-free zone at Israel's Red Sea resort of Eilat.

Sharir also discussed tourism with Vatican officials. They spoke at length about encouraging Christian pilgrimages to Israel and how the churches can publicize such trips. Sharir also met with regional representatives from Naples, Sorrento and Positano who expressed interest in tour packages.

PERES IS EUROPE-BOUND

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres left for Europe Wednesday morning for a week of meetings in London, Paris and Brussels. He may also visit Bonn.

Peres will meet with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Thursday. With no major bilateral issues on the agenda, their talks are expected to focus on general Middle East questions and East-West relations.

In Paris on Friday, Peres has meetings scheduled with President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Jacques Chirac. He will be in Brussels Sunday for a meeting with the European Economic Community (EEC) Foreign Ministers and to sign an agreement governing the export of Israeli agricultural products to the EEC countries. The agreement takes into account the effects that the entry of Spain and Portugal into the EEC last year will have on Israeli trade.

A visit by Peres to West Germany is still tentative. In each of the countries he visits, the Israeli Foreign Minister will meet with leaders of the Jewish communities. In Paris he will attend a special performance of Racine's "Esther" a French classic based on the Purim theme, presented by the Comedie Francaise.

The play, now in rehearsal, will offer a special preview for Peres at the request of Israeli Ambassador Ovadia Soffer.

SHAMIR SEES EVENTUAL PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir appears to hold high hopes for an eventual peace between Israel and Jordan.

Hosting a group of Israeli authors and poets at his home Monday night, Shamir said relations between the two countries were much improved over what they were two years ago. He noted that King Hussein is not yet Israel's friend, but felt that relations with Jordan would continue to improve over the next two years.

Shamir defended Israel's role in the sale of U.S. arms to Iran. He said they were part of the strategic cooperation between the two countries and also helped Israel's military industries.

SHAMIR ACCUSED BY PARTY COLLEAGUE OF RENEGING ON NEW JEWISH SETTLEMENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir was accused by his Herut colleague Deputy Premier David Levy Wednesday of dealing "falsely" with his party on the issue of new Jewish settlements in the administered territories.

Levy, who is Minister of Housing, charged in the Knesset that a reported statement by Shamir that previously planned settlements could not be built because of budgetary constraints was without foundation.

According to Levy, the government is allocating hundreds of millions of dollars to various other sectors. "Anyone who claims that the \$10 million needed to establish the new settlements may affect the economic situation deals falsely and is untrue to others and to his party," Levy said. There was no immediate response from Shamir.

The outspoken Minister was cheered at a press conference convened later by the Gush Emunim. They hailed Levy as the only Likud Minister active in building settlements and demanded that Shamir resign if he cannot fulfill his pledge to build the new settlements.

HOSPITAL WORKERS CONTINUE TO STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Some 10,000 government hospital employees on strike since Monday, were ordered by a Jerusalem labor court Wednesday to return to their jobs immediately. But a spokesperson for the strikers indicated that the court order would not be observed.

The strike by administrative, service and maintenance personnel hit 29 government hospitals all over the country. The workers are demanding that their salaries be equalized with those of employees of Kupat Holim, the Histadrut sick-fund.

Meanwhile, hospital conditions deteriorated. Kitchens, laundries and housekeeping services are paralyzed. Heating and water supply systems are untended and there is no one at the desks to handle admissions and discharges.

IDF UNIT REPELS SHIITE ATTACKS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin disclosed Wednesday that an Israel Defense Force unit operating irregularly in south Lebanon repulsed several attacks in recent days by the Shiite extremist Hezbollah on units and positions of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Replying to questions in the Knesset, Rabin said the attacks were repelled with no casualties to either the IDF or SLA. He estimated that at least five attackers were killed and 10 wounded.

Rabin noted that the attacks were launched some distance from the Israel border which only confirmed the importance of the south Lebanon security zone as a buffer against attacks on Israel.

MEIR'S DENVER HOME FACES DEMOLITION

By Chris Leppek
Intermountain Jewish News

DENVER, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The former home of Golda Meir has lost the latest -- and perhaps last -- round in its six-year battle for survival. The City's Building Department Board of Appeals voted unanimously January 15 to demolish the house unless a savior appears within 30 days.

The Board concluded that the house presents a public health hazard and that funds to fix it are not readily available. The dilapidated duplex, home of the late Israeli Premier from 1913-14, is resting on girders in a local park. The city is paying for liability insurance.

The Board also decided, for purposes of the ruling, that the City and County of Denver own the house. This means that the fledgling Golda Meir Memorial Association is no longer the designated custodian of the house, which is widely believed to be the last U.S. structure still standing in which Meir resided.

The Board would consider a request for a rehearing if \$150,000-\$250,000 were committed within 30 days for restoration and a plan were approved by the City's Community Development Agency (CDA), according to Board chairman Ralph Nordhauser.

Court Action May Delay Demolition

The demolition also could be delayed through court action. "We're going to have to talk with counsel before we decide what to do," said Association member Mel Cohen.

The Board had earlier set conditions for restoration and use of the building, including a guarantee of available funds, provision of security and a schedule of renovation. The Association replied in writing, but Cohen contended that the Board didn't regard it seriously.

Nordhauser responded that the Board considered the response unsatisfactory in terms of safety of the building and availability of funds for restoration. The 15-member Association has drained its funds in moving the home to the park and providing security.

Nordhauser said that he has inspected the house. He added, coincidentally, that he lived in the home as a child and is Jewish.

Cohen charged that the city has violated its own commitment to work with the Association in restoration of the home. Since the election of Mayor Federico Pena in 1983, Cohen said, the city has relentlessly pressured the Association with "unreasonable" deadlines.

Home Faced Wrecking Ball Before

The home has faced the wrecking ball before. In 1981, just hours away from being demolished by its then owners, the Boys Club of America, its historical nature was discovered. A grass-roots effort prevented that demolition and gained the support of the city to help finance moving the house from its original West Side location.

Several restoration efforts at the new site failed, and the building survived vandalism, including the painting of swastikas, and a fire. It was moved to the park last summer in an agreement with the City that set a time limit for the Association on restoration. In November, after several deadlines passed, CDA began pressing to either restore or demolish the house.

The Allied Jewish Federation of Denver has not endorsed the restoration project or assisted the effort financially, citing budget restraints and the need for community resources in more pressing areas.

Meir attended high school during the time she resided in the house with her sister and brother-in-law, Shana and Sam Korngold, who owned the building.

BENJAMIN LEVICH DEAD AT 69

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Dr. Benjamin Levich, a former refusenik whose effort to immigrate to Israel garnered worldwide support from scientific communities, died Monday night of a heart attack in Fort Lee, N.J. He was 69 years old. He will be buried Thursday in Israel next to his wife Tanya, who died in 1983.

Levich, creator of a new science known as "physico-chemical hydrodynamics," divided his time equally between New York and Tel Aviv, holding simultaneously the positions of professor of engineering at Tel Aviv University, and Albert Einstein Professor of Sciences, as well as director of the Institute of Applied Chemical Physics and Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering and Physics, at the City College of the City University of New York.

Levich immigrated to Israel in December 1978 after a nearly seven-year struggle to leave the Soviet Union. At the time of his application to emigrate, in February 1972, Levich became the highest-ranking scientist to apply to leave.

Prior to his visa application, Levich was department head of electrochemistry at the Institute of Hydrodynamics of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and held a professorial chair at Moscow University. He was expelled from both positions following his application to emigrate.

During his period of refusal, Levich was deprived of all opportunity to engage in scientific activity, and he and his family were constantly harassed by the authorities.

A Test-Case For The Soviets

Levich was a test-case for the Soviets, and as a result of his application for an exit visa, other Jews in high scientific positions were also emboldened to seek visas.

In May 1976, 1,000 scientists in New York called upon the Soviet Academy of Sciences to use its influence in urging the Soviets to allow Levich and his wife, Tanya, to join their sons Evgeny and Alexander in Israel. In July 1977, more than 100 Western scientists held a three-day conference at Oxford, England, to draw attention to Levich's case.

Levich's arrival in Israel was greeted by Israeli government officials, representatives of universities, other Soviet immigrants and relatives. But Levich seemed particularly pleased by the handshake of a policeman. "I had a good feeling shaking the hand of a friendly policeman," Levich said.

Levich was the author of more than 150 papers in theoretical physics, electrochemistry and hydrodynamics. He also wrote a four-volume textbook on theoretical physics that was translated into English, German, Spanish, Czech, Portuguese and Chinese.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW LABOR'S LOVE LOST By Margie Olster

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Muki Tzur, an historian of the kibbutz movement and the second and third aliyot, educator, writer and Zionist ideologue, expressed concern over the perpetuation of Israel's social democratic system.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here recently where he addressed the American Zionist Federation's First Zionist Assembly, Tzur said modern Zionism is linked inextricably to democracy and criticized the Israeli Labor movement for losing track of its earlier social-democratic values in the constant struggle to maintain political power.

Zionism and democracy have become estranged and Israel today faces the problems of reconciling the dreams of early socialist and democratic Zionist thinkers with a difficult political reality, in Tzur's view.

Even within his own Labor Party, in which Tzur has been active politically and ideologically for almost his entire life, the social-democratic principles on which it was founded have been compromised in the constant struggle to regain the political power it lost in 1977 to Likud, he said.

'Politically ... We Are Very Dull'

"I don't believe we should always be repeating A.D. Gordon or Berl Katznelson. There should be something original about the Labor movement, but politically speaking we are very dull," he said. Tzur attributed this to years of challenges in war and peace and of compromises creating what he called a coalition mentality wherein retaining power in government was the primary goal.

"Even the times we were not in power, we still saw ourselves only in terms of getting back in power," he said.

Tzur, 49, was born in Jerusalem in 1938, a first generation Israeli. His father Yaacov Tzur, a Russian immigrant, served as Israel's Ambassador to Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay and France.

A father of four, Tzur has lived on Kibbutz Ein Gev on the shore of the Kinneret since 1956, where he now works in the children's house.

He authored several books, including "The Seventh Day," a series of interviews with soldiers following the 1967 war, and "Early Spring." He is a professor of Kabbalah and the origins of the kibbutz movement in Haifa University's Department of Education. And in the tradition of his former teacher at Hebrew University, Gershom Sholem, Tzur is a philosopher of Labor Zionism.

The Nature Of Modern Zionism

"I believe Zionism is the political expression of the Jewish people of this century which means, for the Jews, the possibility to express themselves in this world democratically. I don't believe in a totalitarian Jewish state. This is not possible."

Tzur defined modern Zionism as "a way of analyzing the Jewish condition, a discipline of thinking; looking deeply into the sociological conditions of the Jews and taking seriously the possibility of the destruction of the Jewish people."

Although traditional Zionists thought the establishment of Israel would solve the Jewish

problem, the persistence of the diaspora is a challenge to modern Zionism, Tzur said.

"Israel is the most important laboratory of the Jewish people. But it is not the happy ending of the Jewish people. It's the beginning of a new phase of a very difficult self-searching," Tzur said.

Major Problems Facing Israel

Among the major problems facing the State currently and throughout its short history is the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict, a problem which mandates a democratic solution according to Tzur.

"I don't believe that the conflict is eternal. I don't believe peace is eternal," he said. "I personally believe we should avoid any kind of false messianic ideas in the sense of believing we can make peace tomorrow morning."

But Tzur has no easy solutions. "The important thing for me in the long run is that Israel must be a democratic society. If the West Bank will be Israel, we have to give (the Palestinians) full rights and pay the consequences or create an independent political entity with all the costs."

The peace process should follow what Tzur called a natural sociological pattern in which the Palestinians in the West Bank would move closer to Jordan.

"I personally feel that we should prepare ourselves not to map out solutions but to try to see where we want to arrive and move towards peace with the Arabs."

Arab-Israeli Conflict

Tzur disclaimed any notion that the Arab-Israeli conflict is currently worse than ever. In the early years of the State, as today, there was always a debate about the realistic possibility of coexistence, Tzur said. "Some people felt the conflict was inevitable, others said it didn't exist. Some felt we should do something about it." But there was never a consensus, he said.

Arab-Israeli relations plunged to their lowest point in 1948 when five Arab states waged war against Israel and, as a result, many Arabs were thrown out of the country.

Problem Of The Kibbutzim

Tzur also addressed the problems plaguing kibbutzim, their economic crisis and the questions raised about hiring outside laborers.

Hired labor, especially Arab labor, to do many of the menial tasks, remains an ongoing dilemma in the kibbutz movements. Tzur explained this in part by saying many Jews simply will not do these types of jobs anymore.

"The kibbutz has an ethic of producers. In many cases, the kibbutz could not fulfill the demands on itself to produce all the things. So they hired Arab labor."

Tzur also lauded a new phenomenon that has arisen in the kibbutz movement as a result of the present economic crisis, mutual aid among kibbutzim.

"We have to seriously rethink what our socialism means," Tzur said. "We have to try new ways of living, new schools, communes in the city, new ways of spiritual and cultural dialogue. All these kinds of things are very urgent."

In the meantime, Tzur said he will continue to seek the deeper meaning in washing 50 dirty dishes a day in Ein Gev's children's house.