

## AUSTRALIAN P.M. SAYS HIS GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING REPORTS THAT EX-NAZIS AND SS OFFICERS ARE LIVING IN AUSTRALIA

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Robert Hawke of Australia said here that his government is studying reports that many former Nazis and SS officers have found refuge in Australia.

The reports, submitted by Jewish groups, concern alleged Nazi war criminals who immigrated to Australia after World War II. "We will undertake whatever steps are necessary," Hawke told reporters. (See Related Story.)

The Australian leader is on a three-day visit to Israel, the first ever by a Prime Minister of Australia. He arrived from Jordan where he had meetings with King Hussein.

At a dinner in his honor at the Knesset Tuesday night, Hawke called for Palestinian self-determination. However, he said he had the impression from his visit to Jordan that a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation was a widely supported solution to the Palestinian problem.

### 'Differences Among Friends'

Hawke, who heads a Laborite government in Canberra, acknowledged that his views on the Palestinians are not generally shared by Israelis. He spoke Wednesday of "differences among friends." He told the newspaper Davar that those differences did not cloud relations between Israel and Australia.

In fact, Hawke's remarks on the Palestinian issue were carefully worded and followed close consultations between his aides and the Foreign Ministry in Canberra. They also reflected his private conversation Tuesday with President Chaim Herzog who urged his guest not to issue a direct call to Israel to support a Palestinian state, as apparently he intended to do originally.

Nevertheless, Hawke is regarded as a staunch friend of Israel. He was introduced in the Knesset Tuesday by speaker Shlomo Hillel as a "long-time friend of the Jewish people and the State of Israel." Hillel also expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome Herzog received when he visited Australia last year.

Hawke had a private meeting Tuesday with Premier Yitzhak Shamir. He reportedly stressed his impression that Jordan's King Hussein is earnestly seeking progress in the peace process "but needed the international umbrella" of a peace conference which would include the participation of the Soviet Union and the United States.

### Bilateral Trade Discussed

On the bilateral level, Shamir and Hawke agreed to establish a joint committee to promote trade between their countries and particularly to try to increase Israeli imports of Australian coal and exports of industrial goods to Australia. Figures released here last week by Israel's Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed that Israel enjoyed a favorable balance of trade with Australia in 1986. Israel's exports to Australia totaled \$57 million against imports of \$51 million.

Exports to New Zealand totaled \$5.7 million compared to only \$500,000 of imports.

According to the report, Israel's exports to New Zealand grew by 17 percent last year but there was a three percent decline in exports to Australia. That was attributed to the decreased value of the Australian Dollar against the U.S. Dollar. Israeli exports to Australia include chemicals, irrigation equipment, medical supplies, and polished diamonds. Israel buys coal and wood from Australia.

Hawke, who is accompanied by his wife, Hazel, spent an hour at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Tuesday where they placed a wreath. The Prime Minister observed: "If anyone wants to understand the commitment of the Jewish people to the State of Israel and their commitment to ensuring that Israel will have the right to exist behind secure and recognized boundaries, one only has to come to the Yad Vashem to understand."

## AUSTRALIAN JEWISH LEADER FORESEES SWIFT GOVERNMENT ACTION ON NAZIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Leslie Caplan, said he expects the government of Prime Minister Robert Hawke will take steps within the next two months to implement most of the recommendations of a recently concluded official probe into the presence of fugitive Nazi war criminals in Australia.

Speaking in New York at a meeting of the World Jewish Congress-American Section, Caplan outlined the history of the war criminals issue in Australia. He noted that in 1961, Australia's then Attorney General, Sir Garfield Barwick, had flatly ruled out taking legal action against suspected Nazis.

Barwick said at the time, "We think the time has come to close the chapter" so that Australia might "enable men to turn their backs on past bitterness and make a new life for themselves and for their families in a happier community."

In June 1986, following more than a year of investigative reporting by the media disclosing the presence of accused Nazi war criminals in the country, the government appointed Andrew Menzies, a retired government official, to direct a comprehensive investigation into the matter. But after decades of government inaction, Australia's Jews remained skeptical, Caplan noted. "Frankly, we feared a whitewash was being planned," he told the WJC Congress meeting.

### A Landmark Document

But, Caplan added, Menzies' final report, which was made public in Canberra last month, is a landmark document "that endorses precisely what we have been calling for." Menzies principal recommendations include:

- The government should announce "that it will take appropriate action under the law to bring to justice persons who have committed serious war crimes found in Australia."

- The government should establish a war crimes prosecution unit along the lines of the

U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations.

\* The government should consider amending the War Crimes Act of 1945 to shift jurisdiction in such cases from military to civil courts.

In his 200-page report, Menzies also confirmed allegations made in 1985 by the World Jewish Congress that requests made by the U.S. Justice Department for information to be used in investigations of suspected Nazis in the U.S. had been regularly refused by Australian officials.

These requests, Menzies concluded, were "handled by Australian departments in an unsatisfactory manner." Caplan's predecessor, Isi Leibler, had raised this matter in a private meeting with Hawke in February 1986.

## VALERIAN TRIFA DEAD AT 72

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Archbishop Valerian Trifa, the Rumanian-born cleric who was accused of being a Nazi collaborator and a rabid anti-Semite, died Wednesday in the town of Cascais, Portugal, at the age of 72. He reportedly suffered a heart attack recently.

Trifa was deported from the United States in 1984 after a prolonged campaign by Jewish Holocaust survivors, Jewish organizations and the U.S. Justice Department. He was ordered to leave the U.S. in 1982, but he was unable to find a country that would admit him until two years later, when Portugal accepted his request to settle there.

Trifa was accused of being a member of the Iron Guard, a Rumanian fascist group similar to the notorious Nazi storm troopers in Germany. One of the major charges against Trifa, who was until his deportation the spiritual leader of 35,000 members of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate in Grass Lake, Mich., was that he incited attacks against Jews in a speech on January 20, 1941 in Bucharest. His speech touched off four days of violent attacks in which 300 people, mostly Jews, were murdered.

The Justice Department began its proceedings against Trifa in 1975. He was deported on the ground that he concealed his past when he entered the United States in 1950. In 1980 Trifa voluntarily surrendered his citizenship, but the U.S. continued nonetheless in its efforts to deport him. The Archbishop agreed in 1982 to be deported, claiming that his trial was putting a heavy financial burden on his church.

## ACTION CONTINUES ON FORMER CHAIRMAN OF BANK LEUMI

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- A two-man committee set up to study excessive severance pay and pension awarded to former Bank Leumi chairman Ernst Japhet when he was forced to resign last spring, recommended Tuesday that the matter be resolved through negotiations with Japhet or by legal action in court.

The committee, composed of Eli Hurvitz, who succeeded Japhet as chairman and then resigned on Sunday, and former Justice Minister Haim Zadok, also recommended that the pension payments be placed in escrow until the matter is settled. It maintained that a suitable severance and pension should be calculated on the basis of a "suitable salary."

But Japhet's salary and emoluments in 1986, his final year as Bank Leumi chairman and chief

executive officer, exceeded \$800,000, a sum the committee plainly does not consider "suitable."

Japhet was forced to resign as a result of his role in the bank shares manipulation scandal which touched off a panic on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in 1983, with severe losses to thousands of Israelis who had invested their savings in shares issued by the country's largest banks.

The committee's report contained disclosures embarrassing to the former Board members who resigned en-bloc Sunday when a new Board was installed.

## Payments To Other Bank Directors Revealed

It reported, for example, that Japhet managed to delay his final act of resignation until the compliant bank directors agreed to his demands for severance pay of \$4.5 million and a \$30,000 a month life pension.

The committee also revealed that payments of hundreds of thousands of Dollars were made to several other top executives of Bank Leumi, in salary and later pension and severance pay.

The committee believes that the payments to Japhet can be brought in line with normal Israeli standards either through negotiations with him, binding arbitration or by going to court. According to the committee, Bank Leumi could legally cut back the payments and win in a court action.

Hurvitz, who was replaced as chairman by Meir Heth Sunday, urged that the committee's recommendations be accepted in order to end the affair so that Bank Leumi, under its new chairman and Board of Directors, can rebuild public confidence. Apart from the scandal, the bank is considered sound.

## NEW UNREST IN WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Unrest flared in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank Thursday. Border police broke up a riot in the Gaza Strip town of Kahn Yunis, wounding a Palestinian youth who disregarded their orders to halt. Several rioters were arrested.

The latest eruption was a continuation of disturbances which flared last week after the Israeli authorities expelled a 26-year-old Palestinian, Mohammad Dahlan, an alleged Palestine Liberation Organization activist.

An Egged bus driver was slightly injured when his vehicle was stoned near the Dahariya refugee camp south of Hebron Thursday morning. Five local youths were detained on suspicion of stone-throwing.

It was announced, meanwhile, that local branches of the Jordanian-owned Cairo-Amman Bank will be allowed to open in Hebron and Ramallah. The Israeli civil authorities agreed last year to allow the bank to do business in the administered territories. The first branch was opened in Nablus.

## ISRAEL SAYS UNIFIL CHARGE IS FALSE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Israel registered a sharp protest with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Thursday, branding as false a charge that Israel was responsible for wounding six soldiers of the Irish contingent whose billet in the south Lebanon village of Tibnin was ripped by an explosion early Wednesday.

day morning. The soldiers were asleep at the time. Maj. Gen. Yossi Peled, commander of the Israel Defense Force in the northern region, handed the protest to UNIFIL's commanding general Gustav Haglund after the Irish commander accused the IDF of opening "tank fire" on the two-story billet. Unknown persons are believed to have planted the explosives.

The incident was the second this month involving Israel with UNIFIL's Irish troops. Israel apologized to Ireland earlier for accidentally causing the death of an Irish soldier, Cpl. Dermot McLaughlin, on January 10 when IDF tanks fired on suspected terrorist positions in the south Lebanon security zone and inadvertently hit a UNIFIL command post.

#### LABOR AND LIKUD CLASHING OVER ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST PEACE CONFAB By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Labor and Likud are clashing again over the issue of an international conference for Middle East peace, specifically whether Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres stepped beyond the bounds of government policy when he stated during his trip to Europe last week that Israel was amenable to such a conference under certain conditions.

At a Labor Party caucus Wednesday night, calls were heard to dissolve the unity coalition government because of Likud attacks on Peres while he was abroad. But most pundits believe the latest flare-up will subside, as others have in the past. Nevertheless, fundamental differences exist between the coalition partners over how to pursue peace, new Jewish settlements in the administered territories and other issues.

On Monday, Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens of Likud accused the Foreign Minister of "creating policies" which other members of the government learned of only from the newspapers. When he returned from Europe Wednesday, Peres insisted that his remarks about an international conference and the conditions for participation by the Palestinians and the Soviet Union conformed with government policies approved by the Knesset.

But Premier Yitzhak Shamir told the Knesset Wednesday, an hour before Peres landed, that the Cabinet has as yet reached no decisions with respect to an international conference. Shamir's own opinion, expressed several days ago, was that such a conference would pose a grave danger to Israel.

#### Peres Defends His Statements

Peres, who held an impromptu press conference at Ben Gurion Airport, said his views were contained in a speech he made to the Knesset last September after returning from the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He said the Knesset, including the Likud faction, voted confidence in his speech "and so this was a resolution of the parliament."

Peres also referred to his agreement with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt when they met in Alexandria last year to set up a joint preparatory group for an international conference. "I consider this the official position of Israel and no person can change it unless there will be a majority to do so," Peres said.

He said there were also points of agreement with Jordan on how the conference could be structured. The chief provision was that it would

have no power to impose a solution and would not be a substitute for direct negotiations. Nor would any nation that has no diplomatic relations with Israel be allowed to participate, Peres said. In an obvious reference to the Soviet Union, he said the participants not only must have official ties with Israel but they must not maintain policies which discriminate against the Jewish people. Peres said that in Brussels he had urged the Foreign Ministers of the European Economic Community to pressure Moscow to relax its policies toward Soviet Jews and toward Israel.

#### VANUNU'S APPEAL TO LIFT JAIL RESTRICTION TO BE HEARD NEXT WEEK By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- A Jerusalem district court postponed until next week its decision on an appeal by Mordechai Vanunu to lift punitive measures taken against him by his jailers.

The former technician at the Dimona nuclear facility, on trial for selling information about Israel's alleged nuclear capabilities to a British newspaper, is in the 28th day of a hunger strike to protest his treatment.

The court said it would rule next week on Vanunu's request that he be allowed to meet privately with his American woman friend, Judy Zimet. She visited him Sunday but he refused to see her under the conditions imposed by prison authorities. The latter insisted they communicate through a plate glass window by exchanging notes which would be read first by a censor.

Vanunu has also asked for reading material and to see a priest. He converted to the Christian faith in Australia. The court said it would take those requests into consideration.

Punishment was imposed on Vanunu after he flashed a message to the media, while being driven to court, alleging that Israeli agents had kidnapped him in Rome last September 30.

#### MEMORIAL TO JEWISH PIONEERS

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The Raleigh Street Synagogue in Central, Port Elizabeth, will be turned into a memorial to Jewish pioneers in the city if a proposal to have it proclaimed a national monument is approved. The synagogue, the oldest surviving one in Port Elizabeth, fell into disuse in the late 1960's.

The proposal to have it proclaimed a national monument was recently supported by the City Council. It was rescued by the Synagogue and Youth Foundation from the vandalism and destruction that have overtaken many of the city's historic buildings.

A spokesman for the Foundation said that they planned to develop the building as a memorial to the Jewish pioneers "who contributed so much, not only to the development of their own community but also to the economic, civic and cultural progress of the city and its hinterlands." He said the history of the Jewish community in the Eastern Cape dates back to 1820 when 18 Jews arrived with the British settlers.

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ATHENS (JTA) -- Sixteen prominent Greeks who performed outstanding work in cultivating trade relations between Greece and Israel were honored by Moshe Gilboa, Israel's diplomatic representative in Greece who holds the rank of Ambassador.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### THEY CAME TO MARCH FOR BROTHERHOOD

By Richard Bono

Atlanta Jewish Times Staff Writer

ATLANTA, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The massive march on rural Forsyth County, Georgia, on January 24 was more than a demonstration against the hostile racism that occurred there one week earlier. Rather, according to consensus, it was a collective show of solidarity against the racial intolerance that has occurred recently in Howard Beach, NY, at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., and in recent racial incidents in Philadelphia and Boston.

"This thing developed a life of its own," said Sherry Frank, Southeastern director of the American Jewish Committee. Frank commented that the Ku Klux Klan's hostile appearance January 17 in Forsyth County, situated 38 miles north of Atlanta, shocked the sensibilities of the nation and was the straw that broke the camel's back.

The largest civil rights march in more than two decades, estimated at 15,000 to 20,000, bore witness to the change that has occurred with the passing of time. Nearly half the marchers on January 24 in Forsyth County were white and this time the law was on the side of the demonstrators, not against them as it was in the 1960's.

### Demonstration Resembled An Army Camp

In fact, the scene of the demonstration resembled an army camp: Some 1,700 Georgia National Guardsmen in riot regalia were joined by law enforcement officials from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Georgia State Patrol and a myriad of law enforcement officials from jurisdictions in and around metropolitan Atlanta.

In all, a force of nearly 3,000 kept an angry group of about 1,000 counter-demonstrators at bay, staying off a potential confrontation with the marchers.

Prior to leaving Atlanta for the ride to Cumming, the county seat of Forsyth, 175 busloads of participants, including this reporter, waited anxiously, not knowing what lay ahead.

### Jews Were Well Represented

Frank said that Jews, from Atlanta and elsewhere, were well represented in proportion to their percentage of the country's population. And if it had not been for the Shabbat, she said, more Jews would have participated.

"The words of the counter-demonstrators last week (January 17) were an affront to Jews as well as to Blacks," she said.

On January 17, about 90 people, men, women, children, both Black and white, went to Forsyth County to march for brotherhood in the all-white county. Blacks have not been welcome there for 75 years. But, to the surprise of everyone, the brotherhood marchers were met by 400 screaming Ku Klux Klansmen and their allies. Obscene racial epithets were hurled at the group as was a barrage of bottles and rocks.

The organizer of the march, civil rights veteran Rev. Hosea Williams, said afterward it was the most violent, hate-filled group he had ever encountered. Representatives of three Jewish groups joined with Atlanta's Black leaders to plan the second march for brotherhood in Forsyth

County. They were the Atlanta chapters of the American Jewish Committee, the Black-Jewish Coalition and the American Jewish Congress.

A permit was secured. Law enforcement, housing and transportation were arranged. But, no one anticipated the outpouring of support that came from throughout the nation.

Frank said Jews lent much in the way of support for the second brotherhood march. A local hotel, owned by a Jewish Atlantan, made 100 rooms available to the dignitaries who came in to march. And, Atlanta's largest Reform Temple opened its doors for other demonstrators who had no place to sleep. Those arrangements were made by The Temple's rabbi, Alvin Sugarman.

"We share a history of oppression with Blacks," Sugarman told The Atlanta Jewish Times. "It's in different forms and to different degrees, but we know what it means to be in an underclass, to be oppressed solely by virtue of birth—we as Jews, they as Blacks."

### Vehemence Toward Jews And Blacks

For most of those who came to demonstrate against racial intolerance, the march provided their first glimpse at the vehemence some Americans feel toward Jews and Blacks. Many of the Klan sympathizers wore swastikas and many were young teenagers, striking a sense of fear in some observers that the seeds of intense racial hatred are once again being sown.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said there are probably 10 Klan sympathizers for each of the 200 Klan members who they estimate reside in Georgia.

"We've known for years that Forsyth County is a white enclave and that the people there are determined to keep it that way," said Charles Wittenstein, the ADL's southern civil rights director. "In both Howard Beach and Forsyth County, you have white youths expressing a territorial impulse, which is to defend their turf against outsiders, particularly of a different race."

Wittenstein also noted that ADL's estimates on the numbers of Klan members are difficult to attain. Often, he said, Klan leaders themselves don't know how many members they've got.

What will become of Forsyth County now that the historic march through that small southern county is done and gone?

"Blacks will move back into Forsyth," said Sugarman. "But, it won't be tomorrow and it may not be next year. Eventually the 'good leadership,' and I'm putting that in quotes, will take charge. But, it's not going to be easy to integrate Forsyth County."

### 3 YESHIVA STUDENTS DETAINED BY POLICE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Three yeshiva students in the West Bank were detained by police this week for allegedly firing rifles illegally in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus.

They are Ben Zion Stern, Haim Ben-Zion and Roman Aldoubi, all students at the Od Yosef Hai Yeshiva at Joseph's tomb in Nablus.

They were driving to the yeshiva last Thursday when rocks were hurled at their car. The three left the car and chased the rock-throwers into the Balata camp where they allegedly fired shots into the air.