

TUTU PRAISES CONTRIBUTION OF SOME SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS TO ANTI-APARTHEID STRUGGLE BUT CONDEMNS ISRAELI LINKS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 10 (JTA) -- Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Cape Town, in a speech to a packed assembly of British Jews, Monday night praised the contribution of some South African Jews to the struggle against apartheid but roundly condemned Israeli links with the South African government.

"Israel's integrity and existence must be guaranteed. But I cannot understand how a people with your history would have a state that would collaborate in military matters with South Africa and carry out policies that are a mirror image of some of the things from which your people suffered," he said.

"I am very firmly opposed to apartheid and will oppose anything that helps it, from whatever sources," he said. The Nobel Peace Prize winner was speaking at the Yakar Jewish Educational Foundation in Northwest London at the beginning of a three-day visit to Britain. The audience included former South African political prisoner Denis Goldberg.

In a 90-minute address, punctuated with frequent quotations from the Bible and warm references to the Jewish people, Tutu drew repeated comparisons between the suffering of his fellow Blacks at the hands of the apartheid regime and of Jews under the Nazis.

"Your people know what one's talking about, having suffered because you belonged to a particular racial group. You were forced to wear arm bands. We don't carry arm bands... they just have to look at us," Tutu said.

Similarity Between Jewish, Black Suffering

Claiming that apartheid was as evil as Nazism or Communism ever were, he said some of the most terrible things Jews had experienced were happening to his own people. "You don't need gas chambers: when you put children where there's no food, gas chambers would make a neater death," he stated.

"The South African government had destroyed stable communities, three-and-a-half million people had been dumped like rubbish into arid Bantustans. God's children were made to starve by deliberate government policy. Through forcing Black workmen to live 11 months a year away from their families, family life was being deliberately destroyed by a government which had dedicated a special day to the sanctity of family life."

Longs To See 'Shalom' In The Mideast

After briefly questioning Israel's Middle East policies, he spoke approvingly of the massive popular demonstrations in Tel Aviv against the Phalangist massacres in the Palestine refugee camps of Sabra and Shatilla in Beirut.

He also said Israel's integrity and security as a State must be guaranteed and, when questioned about anti-Jewish terrorism, said he had no difficulty in condemning evil from wherever it

comes. "I'd long desperately to see Shalom in that part of the world . . . but I'd hope you would not be responsible and help to make other people refugees," Tutu said.

Earlier, the Archbishop lambasted suggestions that he was anti-Semitic because of his criticism of Israeli policies. "These charges are without foundation and part of an orchestrated campaign of vilification against me by the proponents of apartheid," he declared.

THE COURT ORDERS JUSTICE MINISTER TO RECONSIDER HIS REJECTION OF A REQUEST BY FRANCE TO EXTRADITE NAKASH FOR THE MURDER OF AN ARAB

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 10 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court ordered Justice Minister Avraham Sharir Tuesday to reconsider his decision of last December 4 to reject a request by France for the extradition of William Nakash, convicted in absentia by a French court for the murder of an Algerian Arab in 1983 in Besancon in eastern France.

The ruling, by a five-justice panel with one dissent, was interpreted by legal experts as a clear instruction to the Justice Minister to produce overwhelming reasons to deny extradition. They said the "due time" suggested by the court for Sharir to comply could be from 60-100 days.

The court's decision fell far short of ordering the extradition of Nakash, 26, a Jew of North African origin who escaped from France before his trial and found haven in Israel. It was hailed therefore as a victory by the nationalist and religious elements who support Nakash.

But the Laborite, liberal and leftist groups which demand that Israel, as a nation of law, must extradite the fugitive, saw the high court's order as a rebuke to Sharir for having acted hastily, on insufficient grounds and in disregard of due process. It was a clear victory for law and justice, they said.

The Case Against Extradition

The case against extradition made by Nakash's supporters claims his life would be in jeopardy if he was confined to a French prison. The Orthodox rabbis who back Nakash say his imprisonment in France would make an "aguna" (abandoned woman) of his wife, Rina, whom he married after reaching Israel. Under religious law she could not divorce him if she wished to.

Nationalists, who oppose the extradition of any Jew on principle, claim moreover that Nakash did not commit a criminal act but rather a "defensive act against anti-Semitism" when he killed the Arab, Abdelali Hakkar. But the French court that convicted him found no evidence of anti-Semitism as a motivation for the crime. It was characterized as the outcome of a quarrel between two individuals on the fringes of the underworld in Besancon.

That description was given credence by the fact that one of Nakash's accomplices was a Arab, Hassen Hamoudi, a boyhood friend of Nakash.

Attorney General Yosef Harish who once referred to Nakash as "worthless trash," refused to appear before the Supreme Court to argue on behalf of the Justice Minister.

The court acted on appeals against Sharir's decision by the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM), Mapam and six Hebrew University law professors. A counter-appeal was lodged by Likud and the Tehiya Party.

The sole dissent from Tuesday's ruling was made on grounds that the appellants had no direct interest and no legal standing in the case.

Sharir said he and his legal advisors in Israel and abroad would make a careful study of the issues involved before rendering a decision. Nakash meanwhile is confined to jail awaiting the outcome.

KNESSET DEFEATS THREE NON-CONFIDENCE MOTIONS OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE POLLARD AFFAIR

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 10 (JTA) -- The Knesset Tuesday easily defeated three non-confidence motions over the government's handling of the Jonathan Pollard affair. Only one coalition member, Mordechai Virshubsky of the Shinui Party, crossed lines to vote with the opposition.

The three most senior members of the Cabinet, Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin demonstratively absented themselves from the Knesset session. They seemed to be underscoring their determination to prevent renewed furor over Pollard to mushroom into a full-fledged judicial inquiry.

In their absence, Likud Transportation Minister Haim Corfu spoke for the government. In a prepared statement he reiterated the government's position that Pollard's espionage mission was a rogue operation of which the government had been unaware, that lessons were learned from it and drastic measures taken to prevent its recurrence.

Pollard, a former civilian intelligence analyst employed by the U.S. Navy, was sentenced to life imprisonment in Washington last week for spying for Israel. His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard received a five-year sentence as an accessory. The severity of Pollard's sentence seemed to underscore American displeasure with Israel, although the U.S. officially accepted the "rogue operation" explanation.

This triggered demands by several Ministers, Knesset members and the media for a full-scale inquiry. The non-confidence motions were introduced by the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM), Mapam and the Progressive List for Peace. CRM MK Yossi Sarid introduced a motion to establish a judicial commission of inquiry.

But informed political observers saw little chance that this would come about despite support from many political figures, including coalition members.

Knesset Unit Probe To Begin Thursday

Instead, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee's special subcommittee on intelligence will begin a probe of its own on Thursday, Committee chairman Abba Eban announced Monday. Eban said the first to testify will be Defense Minister Rabin. The hearings will be held in camera. Shamir announced Sunday that

the Inner Cabinet (five Labor and five Likud Ministers) would convene in closed session Wednesday to consider the issue in depth. But there was no suggestion of any investigation although at least one member of the Inner Cabinet, Ezer Weizman, forcefully favors one.

Shamir, meanwhile, sought to distance Israel from Pollard. Speaking to reporters during a visit to Migdal Ha'emek Tuesday, he said that the Pollard family's predicament "may be a humanitarian problem or a moral problem but it is not a problem with which the State of Israel has to concern itself."

He added that "The State of Israel has no connection with Pollard or his family. The State of Israel did not hire him and did not assign him espionage missions."

INDIA'S JEWS SEEK VISAS FOR THEIR ISRAELI RELATIVES

NEW YORK, March 10 (JTA) -- India's Jews have asked Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to intercede on behalf of their Israeli relatives facing difficulties in seeking to visit India, the World Jewish Congress reported here.

In a letter to Gandhi, Prof. Nissim Ezekiel, president of the Council of Indian Jewry, outlined the problems that Jews of Indian origin living in Israel have in obtaining a visa to come to India.

In his letter he pointed out that until 1983 "our relations desirous of visiting India and Bombay were having no problem whatsoever," noting that upon arrival at any Indian airport visas for a 30-day stay were routinely issued by the Indian authorities.

But a change in the procedure since then required that visas be obtained in advance from an Indian embassy abroad. Because there is no Indian embassy in Israel, Ezekiel noted, "our relations and ourselves find it extremely difficult to meet in India."

An alternative procedure, by which a visa application can be made to the Consulate Officer in Bombay, has not remedied the problem, he added. Ezekiel pointed out that these applications, going back as far as July 1986, have not been responded to.

Administrative Solutions Proposed

"Under these circumstances, may we request you to be so kind so as to solve our difficulties in receiving a visa for our relations in Israel who desire to visit India," Ezekiel's letter asks. He stressed the hardships caused to those Jews attempting to come to India "to meet their relations in times of their joy and/or sorrow, i.e., in times of marriage and/or in times of serious ailments of their relations, and/or death."

Ezekiel proposed a number of administrative solutions, including special endorsement of passports with the words "of Indian origin" and reinstitution of the previous practice of visas being issued upon arrival at Indian airports.

The Council of Indian Jewry represents the country's 7,000 Jews and is a national member of the World Jewish Congress. The Council had forwarded its letter dated January 20 to WJC president Edgar Bronfman in New York and asked for his intervention in this matter.

In a letter sent Tuesday, WJC secretary general Israel Singer asked India's Ambassador to Washington, H. E. Pratap Kishan Kaul, to assist in having his government rectify the situation.

DEMONSTRATIONS HELD IN SOLIDARITY WITH JEWISH WOMEN IN THE SOVIET UNION ON A HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST THE CONTINUED DENIAL OF EXIT VISAS
By Susan Birnbaum and Margie Olster
(New York) and Judith Colp (Washington)

March 10 (JTA) -- At demonstrations in major cities all over the U.S. and by telephone calls to the USSR, Americans expressed solidarity this week with some 60 Jewish women in the Soviet Union on a hunger strike to protest the continued denial of exit visas to Jews, some of whom applied for them as long as 15 years ago.

The fasting began Saturday night, to coincide with International Women's Day in the Soviet Union, a Socialist holiday. On Sunday night, the ongoing struggle of refuseniks was described in detail to members of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry by Natan Sharansky, who spent nine years in the Soviet Gulag before he was freed and allowed to go to Israel in February 1986.

On Monday morning, a large crowd, mainly Jewish women, demonstrated outside the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. They all wore yellow ribbons, each inscribed with the name of a woman hunger striker in Moscow, Leningrad or other Soviet cities. The yellow ribbon has become a symbol for the release of hostages.

NA'AMAT USA, The Women's Labor Zionist Organization of America, placed a telephone call from its New York office Monday to Nellie Shpeizman, a hunger striker, in her apartment in Leningrad. Lydia Cutler, a NA'AMAT member who speaks Russian, told Shpeizman: "I want you to know that we are with you all the way. We love you and understand how strong-willed and brave you are, how difficult your life is."

In Washington, Rep. Constance Morella (R. Md.) spoke by telephone from her Capitol Hill office to Lev Shapiro in Leningrad, whose wife Leah was among those fasting. She said she was concerned about his family. "All of us here care very much about individual freedom and the ability to leave a country for another one," Morella told Shapiro who has been seeking to leave the Soviet Union since 1977.

Sharansky Presents Freedom Award

Sharansky, who changed his name shortly after he was reunited with his wife Avital in Israel last year, attended the Annual Freedom Dinner of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry at the Sands in Atlantic Beach, L.I., Sunday night to personally present its annual Anatoli Shcharansky Freedom Award for 1987 to New York State Sen. Norman Levy, who was cited for his fight for human rights in the Soviet Union. Fourteen previous award winners, all civic, political and community leaders, were also honored.

Sharansky was accompanied by his mother Ida Milgrom and his brother Leonid, who were allowed to leave the Soviet Union several months after his departure. Milgrom spoke in Russian, translated by Leonid.

Also present was Lev Blitshtein, released only three weeks ago after a 12-year struggle for an exit visa.

At a press conference preceding the dinner, Sharansky cautioned against placing too much trust in Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's publicly proclaimed policy of "glasnost" (openness). He said an example of the hollowness of the new "liberalization" was the death in Israel last week of

Soviet emigre Michael Shirman from leukemia. Had his sister, Inessa Fleurova been allowed to leave Moscow for Israel a year earlier, when she first applied, he might have been saved by the bone marrow transplant for which she was the only suitable donor.

Two Tragic Cases Cited

Sharansky also referred to the death from cancer in Washington last month of another long-term refusenik, Inna Meiman, who might have been kept alive had she been allowed to go to the West earlier for treatment.

The Shirman and Meiman cases were examples of Soviet foot-dragging and meanness, Sharansky charged. They are "trying to raise the price they can get from public opinion," he said.

Nevertheless, he held out hope for other refuseniks whose struggle seems doomed if recent Soviet statements are to be believed. Eight were told last month that they were "never to leave." But, Sharansky said, "As you know from the past, when the KGB says 'never,' sometimes it becomes a little bit shorter."

"They do it to frighten people -- to draw attention to facts and increase the price. We see how contradictory are their own statements." He spoke of 15-year refusenik Vladimir Raiz who was told "don't come back till the year 2000" to apply for an exit visa.

It is a game of mental torture, Sharansky said, noting that Raiz was part of a "big wave of 300 new refusals" since the Soviets' new "liberalized" emigration regulations took effect on January 1.

Soviet policy and statements are two-faced, one for the outside world, another internal, he said "Gorbachev's real concern is not human rights, it's his economy," Sharansky said.

The Fate Of The Hunger-Striking Women

Ida Milgrom appeared at the rally outside the Soviet Mission Monday to read the names of the hunger-striking Jewish women in the USSR which were written on the yellow ribbons worn by the protestors. Many of them were friends, acquaintances and other people she had promised not to forget when she left Moscow.

"I know these women well, I was close to them. Their fate is connected with our activity here," Milgrom said. Other speakers were Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman and New York City Council member Ruth Messinger.

The demonstration was sponsored by the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews, Women's American ORT, B'nai B'rith Women and NA'AMAT USA. It was mounted at the request of 60 Soviet women to publicize their plight and their hunger strike.

The women sent a message to their supporters here noting that "For 10 years or more . . . we have been ousted from the social and communal life of Soviet society . . . almost all of us women and our husbands, as well, are deprived of the right to work in our professional fields . . . After many years of work in under-qualified jobs, our professional qualifications have deteriorated."

The women noted that in addition to loss of their jobs they were subject to anti-Zionist, anti-Israel propaganda and kept under surveillance by security authorities. Their appeal for help was signed by women from Moscow, Leningrad, Bendery, Kiev and Riga.

The telephone calls to the Soviet Union reached individual refuseniks but were heartening to the entire emigration movement. Shpeizman

told Cutler of NA'AMAT that there were many people in her apartment listening to their conversation. Her case is especially desperate.

"I want you to know that we are fighting not only for our right to leave Russia, but also for the actual life of my husband, who has bone cancer. He doesn't have much time to waste. Please let people know about it," she urged.

Rep. Morella's telephone call to Lev Shapiro was prompted by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Morella, a member of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, promised she would try to do something about letters not being delivered to Shapiro and said she would write to him shortly.

Shapiro and his wife have two children. He lost his job as a computer engineer after applying for an exit permit and is now doing menial work.

"But he said that wasn't important," Morella told reporters. "He was ebullient and very upbeat. He kept repeating his gratitude and the need for us to be together and that you can't give up hope."

ZORINSKY AND ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 10 (JTA) -- Sen. Edward Zorinsky (D. Neb.), who died after suffering a heart attack last Friday night, was a supporter of Israel, but was not considered among the leading advocates of the Jewish State in the Senate.

One of eight Jews in the current Senate, Zorinsky frequently did not vote with Israel's supporters, particularly when it came to arms for Saudi Arabia.

The most dramatic occasion was in the 1981 vote on the Reagan Administration's sale of AWACs and other equipment to the Saudis.

Zorinsky had voted against the Carter Administration's sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia and had originally opposed the Reagan Administration sale of AWACs in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of which he was a member.

But after an 11th-hour meeting at the White House with President Reagan as the resolution to disapprove the sale was going to the Senate floor, he switched his vote to support the sale.

Since then, he approved all sales to the Saudis and voted last year against overriding Reagan's veto of the Congressional resolution to reject the sale of missiles to the Saudis.

Pro-Israel Actions

However, Zorinsky did co-sponsor resolutions in 1983 and 1985 against selling arms to Jordan until King Hussein agrees to negotiations with Israel.

He also joined in as a co-sponsor of a 1984 bill calling for the United States to move its Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. But he did not sign a 1983 letter urging Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to return the Egyptian Ambassador to Israel.

Zorinsky, a conservative, frequently voted against the foreign aid bills, despite the appropriations for Israel. This went against a trend in Congress, where support for Israel is seen as the main factor for winning approval of the overall foreign aid program.

Zorinsky was born in Omaha on November 11, 1928, the son of a Russian Jewish immigrant. After doing postgraduate work at Harvard, he

returned to Omaha to run his family's wholesale tobacco and candy business.

He was elected Mayor of Omaha in 1973. A lifelong Republican, Zorinsky switched parties when he was not selected as the Republican candidate for the Senate in 1976. He won the Democratic Party primary and went on to become the first Jew to win a statewide election in Nebraska. He was re-elected in 1982 for a term that would have expired in 1988.

Zorinsky died after collapsing after performing in a song-and-dance routine at the Omaha Press Club. Funeral services were held Sunday in Omaha.

U.S. JEWS URGED TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN SOCIAL ISSUES

WASHINGTON, March 10 (JTA) -- A prominent political and social commentator warned the Jewish community that it must not allow the "deligitimization of criticism" that has evolved under President Reagan to deter it from helping to correct domestic social ills.

Leon Wieseltier, literary editor of The New Republic and a frequent writer on political issues, told leaders of the American Jewish Congress meeting here that six years of Reagan's tenure has made criticism of any aspect of American society suspect.

Reagan's main achievement since taking office has been to paper over a wide range of contradictory policies with a "belief in the primacy of enthusiasm," Wieseltier told the AJCongress 1987 National Domestic Policy Conference at the Shoreham Hotel. He said the President's emphasis on enthusiasm as a solution to all social ills has led to the "deligitimization of criticism" and the equation of criticism with disloyalty to American society.

Three Areas Of Importance

Wieseltier, whose topic was "1988 and Beyond: Shaping America After Reagan," said the task of the American Jewish community should be to help deal with concrete problems. He outlined three areas he said will be of particular importance.

Civil rights, he said, are subject of "moral and historical delicacy." Incidents such as that in Howard Beach have illustrated the fact that while great progress has been made in civil rights, and the nation has evolved into a non-racist society, there continue to be "vast pockets of racism," making it imperative that efforts to advance civil rights not be allowed to falter.

The constitutional principle of church-state separation must also be "drastically and passionately reaffirmed," Wieseltier said. "That is not to say that religion should be banned from the private realm, but it is of absolute importance that religion be kept out of the public realm. Even though this is a country largely populated by Christians, it is not a Christian country."

Wieseltier also urged the Jewish community to help in the "rehabilitation of the welfare state." While acknowledging the danger of abuses and corruption in government programs, he contended that such a risk does not outweigh the importance of assisting those who need it. "The real danger" he said, "is that the moral duty of government to help people who cannot help themselves will be delegitimized."