

SHULTZ GIVES 'PERSONAL COMMITMENT' TO RAISE ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWRY WHEN HE VISITS MOSCOW NEXT MONTH

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz gave his "personal commitment" Tuesday to leaders of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that the question of human rights, including the right of Jews to emigrate and freely practice their religion, will be at the top of his agenda when he visits Moscow next month.

"We have told the Soviets, time and again, that significant sustained progress on emigration is critical to improving our relations in other areas. The Soviets may be beginning to understand that our commitment to this issue is not only a cornerstone of the approach of this President and this Administration, but that it also commands the broadest bipartisan support in the Congress," Shultz told an ADL delegation which presented him with a volume containing the names of 11,000 Soviet Jewish refuseniks.

The telephone book-sized compendium, titled "A Uniquely Jewish List," was compiled and is being distributed by the ADL to government, civic, religious and educational officials.

"We will continue to do our utmost to bring about a day when there will no longer be a need for such tragic lists of people in need of our help," Shultz told the delegation led by ADL national chairman Burton Levinson and associate national director Abraham Foxman.

The Secretary of State noted that in addition to making it clear to the Soviets that "family reunification is vitally important, there is also a right to freedom of movement which applies whether or not someone has relatives in another country."

Under No Illusion

He observed that recently there has been an upturn in Soviet emigration figures. "During the first half of this month, over 200 Soviet Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union," he said. "I would note, however, that this comes against a dismal backdrop of six years of very low levels of emigration. We are under no illusion that this modest rise represents a revolution in Soviet emigration policy."

Shultz added: "We are glad that some Jewish Prisoners of Conscience have been released before the end of their terms. But we will not be satisfied until all of them are out of prison and until all Soviet Jews and other religious believers can practice and teach their faith freely, without fear of imprisonment or other penalties."

The State Department also stressed Tuesday that while the number of Jews leaving the Soviet Union has been increasing, the Soviet government still needs to live up to its commitment on emigration under the Helsinki Accords.

Conflicting Figures Presented

The figures so far for 1987 "represent progress, but there is still a long way to go," Department spokesman Charles Redman said. He noted that 98 Jews left the USSR in January, 146 in February, and 214 during the first half of

March. Redman said the average monthly total in 1986 was 75 while the highest monthly total last year was 126.

(In New York, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry said the number of Jews who had actually left this month through March 21 was 370. Soviet officials and Western diplomats in Moscow said that the number of those who had received permission so far this month to leave was more than 400. Last week, a Soviet official said in Washington that 10,000 to 12,000 Jews were likely to get exit visas this year.)

REACHING OUT FOR PEACE TALKS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 25 (JTA) -- If Middle East peace talks reach the stage of territorial concessions, the government will have to make decisions or go to the electorate for a new mandate, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres declared in the Knesset Wednesday.

He said the national unity government was offering negotiations to Jordan and others without pre-conditions. "We propose to offer something like Camp David and if we reach the stage of territorial negotiations, the government will either take a decision or break up and we shall then go to the country," Peres said in reply to questions.

He engaged in an exchange with Geula Cohen of the opposition Tehiya Party who objected to a government document that refers to "Israel-administered territories" and "Judea-Samaria (West Bank)." According to the ultra-nationalist Cohen, the territories are "liberated," not "administered."

The document, "A Briefing Paper -- Israel's Peace Policy, Principles and Movement," was issued by Yossi Beilin, the Foreign Ministry's political director general.

Peres noted that West Bank was a term used throughout the English-speaking world and in the Camp David accords. "When we explain our position to non-Jews we speak in English, not Hebrew," Peres stated.

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER RISE OF ANTI-SEMITIC LITERATURE IN JAPAN

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) -- Officials of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith have expressed concern to Japanese Ambassador Nobuo Matsunaga about the rise of anti-Semitic literature in Japan.

They told Matsunaga at a meeting here Monday that the ADL wanted "to work with the Japanese by making available materials to reduce prejudice and stereotyping," according to Jess Hordes, ADL's associate Washington director. Hordes was accompanied to the meeting at the Japanese Embassy by Burton Levinson, ADL national chairman, and Abraham Foxman, ADL associate national director. Matsunaga was "Open and appreciative of the proposal and said he would convey it to the government," Hordes said.

The meeting was prompted by press reports in this country of a popular Japanese author, Masami Uno, who claims that his country's recent

economic woes are due to a conspiracy by "international Jewish capital" and that Jewish-dominated interests have begun a "targeted bashing of Japan."

According to a recent article in The New York Times, Uno has charged that "America is a Jewish nation" and that Jews form a "behind-the-scenes nation" controlling major U.S. corporations, including IBM, General Motors, Exxon, Standard Oil, Ford, Chrysler and AT&T.

Other books and articles that have recently appeared in bookstores include titles like "The Jewish Plan for Conquest of the World," "How to Read the Hidden Meaning of Jewish Protocol," and "Mysterious Judea."

Articles assert that Jews were behind the Lockheed Aircraft bribery case that led to the criminal conviction of a former Japanese Prime Minister, Kakuei Tanaka, and the Watergate scandal. A book, "The Secret of Jewish Power to Control the World," was written in 1984 and is still in circulation. Its author, Eisaburo Saito, is a member of Parliament's upper house.

Charges And Diatribes

Uno, in his book, "If You Understand Judea, You Can Understand the World," claims that Jews caused the Great Depression of the 1930's and are plotting a second one for the 1990's. In his second book, "If You Understand Judea, You Can Understand Japan," Uno asserts that the number of Jews killed in World War II was exaggerated. The two books have sold a total of 650,000 copies. Uno describes himself as a Christian fundamentalist and head of an Osaka-based organization called the Middle East Problems Research Center, according to the Times.

Matsunaga told the ADL that Japan guarantees freedom of speech and that anti-Semitic views are not representative of the people or the government. The Japanese Embassy refused to comment about the meeting.

In a letter to The New York Times, Itari Umezu, director of the Japan Information Center, said that "anti-Semitism has no roots in Japanese history." During World War II, when Japan was an ally of Nazi Germany, some Japanese aided Jews in escaping from Europe. There also have been disclosures of a prewar Japanese project, the "Fugu Plan," to invite German Jews to settle in Manchuria.

But reports of current anti-Semitism in Japan prompted a letter by Rep. Charles Schumer (D. NY) and Sen. Arlen Specter (R. Pa.) in which they told Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone that "the raw anti-Semitism in your country cannot go unchallenged."

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE DEVELOPS DRUG WHICH HELPS IN THE TREATMENT OF SOME AIDS VICTIMS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 25 (JTA) -- A drug developed by the Weizmann Institute of Science which reportedly had dramatic results in the treatment of some AIDS victims, has been approved by the Health Ministry for limited use in Israel, it was announced Wednesday.

The drug, AL721, was synthesized from egg yolks six years ago by Weizmann Institute Profs. Meir Shinitzky and David Samuel for the treatment of drug addicts, the aged and children with cystic fibrosis. Though not approved for public use by the U.S. health authorities, it is being

manufactured in experimental quantities by Praxis Pharmaceuticals Ltd. in Beverly Hills, Calif., under license from the Weizmann Institute.

Its effect on AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) was discovered accidentally in 1985 by an American cancer specialist, Dr. Robert Gallo, while treating a patient suffering from AIDS. Since then, Dr. Yehuda Skornik, an Israeli-born American physician, has treated a number of American AIDS victims with the drug at Rokah Hospital in Tel Aviv.

Remarkable But Still Inconclusive Results

On a television appearance Tuesday, Skornik described what he said were remarkable though still inconclusive results. He said one patient, a well-known musical conductor, arrived from the U.S. too weak to leave his wheelchair. He was suffering from fever, extreme weight loss and loss of appetite and given only a few weeks to live.

But after treatment with AL721 the patient gained weight, his temperature went down and he is able to walk for miles, Skornik said. He cautioned, however, that this does not prove the drug to be a cure for AIDS but it shows an ability to reverse physical decline and bring about major improvement.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry approved an application by Dr. Zvi Bentwich of the Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot to treat 10 AIDS patients with the drug. But the Ministry urged physicians and researchers to "go slow" and not encourage false hopes among patients in Israel and abroad.

The Weizmann Institute stressed that its scientists developed and tested AL721 long before the worldwide outbreak of AIDS and its purpose was to treat other diseases and conditions.

RELATIONS BETWEEN POLAND AND ISRAEL SAID TO BE IMPROVING IN ALL AREAS

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA) -- Relations between Poland and Israel are improving in all areas, according to Kalman Sultanik who was re-elected president of the American Federation of Polish Jews this week.

Addressing the Federation's annual conference here Sunday, marking 1,000 years of Jewish life in Poland, Sultanik spoke of encouraging signs that Israel and Poland are drawing closer after 20 years without diplomatic ties. He stressed that the content of their relations, for example, cultural exchanges, are more important than their formality.

Nevertheless, reporting in his recent meeting with Joseph Cyrek, chairman of the Polish Parliamentary Commission on Foreign Affairs, Sultanik said steps are being taken to "restore diplomatic relations between the two countries."

Cyrek told him that Poland is also very much interested in improving its relations with the Jewish community in the United States, Sultanik said. He said another encouraging development was the assurance given him from Warsaw that the Polish government and the Catholic Church have agreed to remove a Carmelite convent from the site of the Auschwitz death camp.

CORRECTION

The name of the president of the Workmen's Circle was inadvertently misspelled in the March 25 Daily News Bulletin. The correct spelling is Barnett Zumoff.

RANCOR BETWEEN DEFENSE COUNSEL AND JUDGES MARKS THE DEMJANJUK TRIAL

By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA) -- The trial of suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk was marked by rancor between the defense counsel and the three-judge bench Wednesday as a West German jurist took the witness stand to give testimony about a key document in the case.

Demjanjuk's American attorney, Mark O'Connor, and his Israeli aide, Yoram Sheftel, objected strenuously that they were not given time to study the written testimony on which the witness, Helga Gravit, will be cross-examined. Gravit, a Hamburg district attorney since 1966, is active in researching and prosecuting former Nazis and their collaborators.

Defense objections were overruled but the court agreed, over protests by the prosecution, to cancel the afternoon session to allow O'Connor and Sheftel to scrutinize the material. Gravit will be questioned about the identification card reportedly bearing Demjanjuk's photograph and physical details, issued at the Trawniki SS camp where guards were trained for their duties at the Treblinka and Sobibor death camps.

The card was obtained from the Soviet Union and the defense contends it is a forgery. Gravit, who has gathered documents in a number of countries, including the USSR, will testify as an expert.

High Court To Hear Defense Appeal

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has agreed to hear a defense appeal Sunday against the three-judge panel's refusal to disqualify itself. O'Connor had demanded on Monday that the judges step down because of alleged bias against the defendant and his lawyers. The motion was denied and the court refused to suspend the hearing while the appeal was pending.

Judge Dov Levin, president of the court, insisted the bench has acted "with more than usual forbearance" in hearing the case. But there is evident antipathy between the judges and defense counsel.

Reprimanded For Cross-Examination Manner

O'Connor was sharply reprimanded Tuesday for the manner in which he cross-examined Martin Koller, a Holocaust survivor who was employed by the U.S. occupation forces in Europe after World War II investigating Nazi war crimes.

Koller, 67, was questioned about his testimony in the 1978 denaturalization trial in Florida of alleged war criminal Feodor Fedorenko, who, like Demjanjuk, was identified as a guard at the Treblinka death camp. He described as "cold and almost hostile" the Florida court's attitude toward Treblinka survivors who testified about Fedorenko's activities.

Asked by O'Connor if he felt the same way about his cross-examination here, Koller replied, "Heaven forbid." Judge Levin interjected, "That should put Mr. O'Connor in a better mood."

Demjanjuk, who was held at the maximum security prison in Ramle until his trial began five weeks ago, is now confined to a cell in the Binyanei Haoma concert hall which is serving as a courtroom to accommodate the large numbers of spectators and the media.

PROSELYTISM EFFORTS CONDEMNED

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) -- The Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington has issued a statement condemning efforts at religious conversion which are deceptive or deny the legitimacy of another religion. Specifically condemned were deceptive practices aimed at Jews.

The statement by the Conference, which is made up of 29 Islamic, Jewish, Mormon, Protestant and Roman Catholic "faith communities" in Washington and the surrounding Maryland and Virginia suburbs, stresses support of "the right of all religions to share their message" with people of other religions.

"But it is inappropriate for one faith group to openly demean or disparage the philosophies or practices of another faith group as part of its proselytizing," the statement said. "Proselytism which does not respect human freedom is carefully to be avoided. Proselytism must be done with a sense of humility and a respect for others."

While interfaith groups throughout the country have issued statements condemning a specific occurrence, this is believed to have been the first general statement issued by such a group, according to Dr. Sidney Schwarz, executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, and the Rev. Clark Lobenstein, executive director of the Interfaith Conference.

Felt Compelled To Speak Out

The Conference statement noted that it felt "compelled to speak out when a religious group promotes or sanctions activities that are harmful to the spirit of interreligious respect and tolerance. We condemn proselytizing efforts which delegitimize the faith traditions of the person whose conversion is being sought. Such tactics go beyond the bounds of appropriate and ethically based religious outreach."

The statement added that deceptive methods "are practiced on the most vulnerable of populations -- residents of hospitals and old age homes, confused youth, college students away from home. These proselytizing techniques are tantamount to coerced conversions and should be condemned."

As examples, the statement listed practices used by such groups as Hebrew Christians, Messianic Jews and Jews for Jesus.

"These groups specifically target Jews for conversions to their version of Christianity, making the claim that in accepting Jesus as the savior/messiah, a Jew 'fulfills' his/her faith," the statement said. "Furthermore, by celebrating Jewish festivals, worshipping on the Jewish sabbath, appropriating Jewish symbols, rituals and prayers in their churches and, sometimes even calling their leaders, 'rabbi,' they seek to win over, often by deception, many Jews who are sincerely looking for a path back to their ancestral heritage."

The Conference statement will be distributed to some 2,000 churches and synagogues and clergymen in the Washington area, Lobenstein said, and will be sent to some 300 interfaith groups around the country.

A MOMENT IN HISTORY PASSES

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA) -- A Moment is about to pass into history, and another is to take its place. On Monday, plans were finalized to transfer publication of the magazine Moment from the direction of its founder and editor, Leonard Fein, to that of Hershel Shanks, a lawyer, writer and editor who helms two scholarly journals. Moreover, the place of publication is moving, from Boston to Washington, and a completely new staff will be placing its mark on the esteemed Jewish monthly.

The acquisition can be chalked up to the reality of finances. Despite a long struggle, Fein has not been able to keep Moment's financial resources on solid footing, losing \$200,000 per year. Moment is published by Jewish Educational Ventures, a non-profit organization that also puts out Response magazine. The organization's board--Fein, Steven M. Cohen and Carol Kur -- will resign and be replaced.

Moment's current small staff will work through April 30. Fein and an assistant will continue through May 30, when they will put their final issue of July-August to bed. Then, "On May 31, the phone will be disconnected," Fein said with a sigh of obvious sadness.

The September issue of Moment will bear the name of Shanks on its masthead as the new publisher-editor. Suzanne Singer, now managing editor of Shanks' two lucrative journals, Biblical Archaeology Review (BAR) and Bible Review, will be executive editor of the magazine and the journals. Moment's new managing editor will be Charlotte Anker, a Washington writer and editor, and Susan Laden will be executive director of operations, a position she now holds at the Biblical Archaeology Society.

When Shanks first approached Fein with his offer, Fein was not interested, but after several lengthy discussions he had changed his mind. Fein told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "after 12 years of fighting the good fight, I just couldn't do it. I've been sustained by wonderful, gracious and generous people, but it has been hard."

'I'm Giving It Up For Adoption'

The 52-year-old Fein, an oft-published writer and author who has taught political science and social policy at MIT and Brandeis and is on the board of several major Jewish organizations, said that "It's been plain to everyone for a time that after 12 years of this kind of effort, I was not prepared to devote my time to fundraising. I did what I could with the help of really fine people, but it didn't get easier."

He said he thinks Shanks' "track record suggests that between his experience and his resources he may be better off to do what I couldn't do, which is to establish Moment as a solvent operation."

The outspoken man with the sharp wit, known to all as Leibel, is ambivalent about stepping down from the magazine he founded as "a vehicle for raising the quality of Jewish discussion. This is not to say that I don't have mixed feelings. One doesn't end 12 years of obsession without second thoughts. This was my baby and I'm giving it up for adoption."

However, he said, "I have examined the credentials of the adoptive parent and found him worthy. I think that he can be a nurturing parent."

Shanks is a prolific writer himself. In addition to maintaining a full schedule as a Washington attorney, he has authored seven books on Jewish and legal issues: "The Art and Craft of Judging," "City of David," on the archaeology of Jerusalem, and "Judaism in Stone," a book on ancient synagogues, among his works. He, too, forayed into publishing 12 years ago.

A native of Sharon, Pennsylvania, with a bachelor's degree in English literature, a master's in sociology from Columbia and a doctorate of jurisprudence from Harvard, the 57-year-old Shanks also worked for the Department of Justice.

Shanks told JTA he "felt there was an unfilled niche for a unified Jewish magazine and I think Moment is the closest to it." He said he seeks an audience of "intelligent, aware Jews who are committed to seeking to learn to keep up with modern issues." But, he said, he will be "broadening its appeal. It will be neither left nor right, neither Orthodox, Conservative or Reform. I am open to expression of opinions, ideas and responsible elements. There will be a commitment to open discussion.

"As an attorney, I'm a great believer in the First Amendment," said Shanks. "I want everyone to be able to say what they want, to express responsible views." However, he noted that at "the extreme ends there is obviously a judgment." He specifically noted that he would not print articles by such people as Rabbi Meir Kahane or groups such as Jews for Jesus.

"Our arms are not only open, but we are going to seek out the best thinkers and best thoughts in the Jewish community that there are. We're going to reach out and encompass the entire range of Jewish interests in a wide-ranging and engaging way. And we won't flinch from engaging in controversial issues. I have a big enough group of supporters at this time to go forward and commit myself."

Shanks' 11 supporters -- eight men and three women -- encompass a range of scholars, lawyers and real estate developers, most from Washington, some from Palm Beach. Many of them are on the boards of major Jewish organizations. And he is, he said, "hoping to increase my hebra and to make the magazine self-sustaining." But he emphasized that his financial backers would have "absolutely no control of the magazine at all."

Plans for financial operations have not been completed yet, he said, but he stressed that those who have received subscription notices in the mail should "please, by all means, renew."

BEN GURION CELEBRATION IN GREECE

ATHENS, March 25 (JTA) -- A former President of Greece, Konstantine Tsatsos, heads the Ben Gurion Centennial Committee formed here to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion.

Tsatsos is also well known as an author and the committee he heads includes distinguished figures in Greek politics, culture and academia. Angelos Vlachos, a former Ambassador and professor of political science, will be keynote speaker at the major centennial event to be held at the City Hall on April 8.

The best known member of the committee perhaps is the Greek Minister of Culture, Melina Mercouri, an internationally famous actress.