

OUTRAGE EXPRESSED IN AUSTRIA OVER U.S. DECISION TO BAR WALDHEIM

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, April 28 (JTA) -- The U.S. Justice Department's ban on the entry of President Kurt Waldheim into the United States in private capacity drew expressions of outrage from political circles and the media here Tuesday.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, the Socialist Party leader, called the American move "a very serious and shocking matter for the government and for all of Austria." Nevertheless, he said Monday night, after U.S. Ambassador Ronald Lauder notified him of the decision, that "despite the shock and offense, the matter should be dealt with coolly."

Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Alois Mock, leader of the conservative Peoples Party which ran Waldheim as its Presidential candidate last summer, rejected the Justice Department's statement that "a prima facie case of excludability exists" against Waldheim because of his alleged participation in persecutions when he was a Wehrmacht officer in the Balkans during World War II.

The legal proceedings against Waldheim did not conform with European legal practices that an accused person must be heard and cannot be pronounced guilty unless proved to be, Mock said. Waldheim, who has admitted that he concealed the fact of his military service for 40 years, insists the charges made against him are false.

Mock recalled the Austrian Ambassador to Washington, Thomas Klestil, for consultations Monday. He told reporters he had no regrets over Waldheim's candidacy. He was elected by the democratic process and Austria will not give in to force, Mock said.

SHAMIR: U.S. WAS RIGHT IN BARRING ENTRY TO WALDHEIM

JERUSALEM, April 28 (JTA) -- Israel had no official reaction Tuesday to the U.S. Justice Department's ban on the entry of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim to the United States.

But Premier Yitzhak Shamir, who is visiting Paris, commented publicly there. He said, "The American Administration did the right thing" and he was "not surprised."

The chairman of the Israel Bar Association, Yaacov Rubin, meanwhile urged the Justice Ministry to continue its investigation of Waldheim's alleged Nazi activities during World War II.

Rubin was reacting to a statement by a Justice Ministry spokesperson Monday that the evidence collected so far on Waldheim's Nazi past was insufficient to start legal proceedings or to officially prevent him from entering the country because Waldheim himself was not questioned by Israel.

Rubin said that if there was any evidence that Waldheim had been a member of a Nazi organization or had worked for the Nazis, the Justice Ministry had a duty to expose it and draw the necessary conclusions.

NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE IS MARKED AT THE ROTUNDA OF THE U.S. CAPITOL
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 28 (JTA) -- Fred Friendly, former president of CBS News, expressed the hope Tuesday that the decision by the United States government to bar Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from the U.S. for his participation in the persecution of Jews and others during World War II will end the claim by many Austrians and Germans that they did not know of the Nazi atrocities at the time they were going on.

"I pray that the people of Austria and Germany will finally remember," he said at the seventh annual National Civic Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance at the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. "We in the United States knew and 42 years later we know even better and we ask them to remember what we can never erase."

Friendly said that as a 29-year-old master sergeant assigned as a reporter with the Third Army, he covered the liberation of Mauthausen death camp in Austria. After leaving the camp he asked Austrians near the camp about the horrors he had witnessed and they said "we didn't know." He said he received the same response from an Austrian woman when he visited Austria 25 years later.

Friendly spoke after he and the late Edward Murrow were awarded the 1987 Eisenhower Medal, named for former President Dwight Eisenhower, the leader of the World War II Allied forces, by Harvey Meyerhoff, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, for their reporting of the liberation of Nazi death camps in April 1945. Murrow's widow, Janet, accepted the medal for the CBS correspondent.

Dan Rather, anchorman and managing editor of the CBS Evening News, introduced the honorees who after the war had been a team at CBS, noting that they had been reporters "trying to do the job" of presenting to the American public what had happened at the camps.

Murrow's Historic Broadcast

The audience, in the packed Rotunda, heard Murrow's historic broadcast on the liberation of Buchenwald. Rather read a letter that Friendly wrote his parents on the liberation of Mauthausen.

Friendly, a Jew, ended his letter noting that if "if there had been no America" his family might also have been in the death camps. His family reads the letter each Yom Kippur and last Passover it was read at their seder so that his six-year-old grandchild, Noah, could also hear it.

The theme of remembering echoed throughout the more than hour-long ceremony with William Lowenberg, vice chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Council and a Holocaust survivor, calling it a "sacred obligation" to remember. "Let us challenge the world to remember the past for the sake of the future," he declared.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D. W. Va.) stressed that "we and all who follow after us

have a duty to remember the Holocaust." He added that "an event that mankind forgets, mankind can repeat."

House Speaker James Wright Jr. (D.Texas) reminded the audience of the individual responsibility. "It was not numbers that perished after all, it was people who perished in the fiery flames" and it was people who carried out atrocities, he said.

Wright said the U.S. had no direct responsibility for the Holocaust, but "there was uncomfortable evidence on which we turned our backs ...We chose not to think about it, may God forgive us."

He urged that "may we never again give comfort or breathing space to the deadly virus of racial and religious bigotry."

Sen. John Danforth (R. Mo.), an Episcopalian minister, said the Holocaust reminds us that some who committed those awful crimes were Christians, and many who stood by the wayside and let it happen were Christians." He said the lesson of the Holocaust is that "some of the worst acts of hatred and persecution in history have been done in the name of religion or with the condonation of religious people."

Meyerhoff said the Holocaust Council, which is planning a Holocaust Memorial Museum for Washington, is "pledged to tell the story of those who died, to translate the horror of their deaths, the valor of their struggle, into terms that the American people will understand."

A Moving Ceremony

The moving ceremony included the participation of the U.S. Army Band and a color guard carrying the flags of the U.S. Army divisions that liberated the death camps.

Also participating were the Rumanian Jewish Federation Choir. Rumanian Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen was in the audience as well as retired Soviet Gen. Vassily Patrenko, who led the Red Army troops that liberated Auschwitz in January 1945.

Candles memorializing the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust were lit by members of Congress -- Sens. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.), Daniel Inouye (D. Hawaii), Lowell Weicker (R. Conn.), Dennis DeConcini (D. Ariz.), Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) and Arlen Specter (R. Pa.) and Reps. Thomas Foley (D. Wash.), Henry Waxman (D. Cal.), Dan Glickman (D. Kans.), Martin Frost (D. Tex.), John Porter (R. Ill.) and Helen Bentley (R. Md.).

They were assisted by Sigmund Strochlitz and Benjamin Meed, Holocaust survivors and cochairmen of the Holocaust Council's Days of Remembrance Committee.

Meed recited the Kaddish while Cantor Isaac Goodfriend, also a Holocaust survivor, sang "El Mole Rachamim." The invocation was given by Rev. Richard Halverson, the Senate chaplain, and the benediction by Rabbi Arnold Resnikoff, a U.S. Navy chaplain.

SHAMIR CONFIRMS THAT REAGAN HAS URGED HIM TO RESPOND TO EVERY POSSIBLE OPENING FOR MIDEAST PEACE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 28 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir confirmed Monday night that he had received a message from President Reagan urging him to respond to every possible opening for peace in the Middle East.

Shamir, interviewed by the Israeli media in Paris where he is on the three-day visit, would neither confirm nor deny press reports that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met secretly with King Hussein of Jordan 10 days ago and that they reached agreement on procedures for holding an international conference for Middle East peace.

Shamir said he never commented on "such leaks. . .regarding the most highly classified state secrets." He acknowledged he had received Reagan's message in Jerusalem, before he left for France, but denied that it specifically encouraged the international conference option which Peres supports and he strongly opposes.

According to media reports here Tuesday, Reagan's message to Shamir spoke of an historic opportunity which must not be missed.

Latest Developments Fuel Speculation

The latest developments fueled speculation that the Labor-Likud dispute over an international conference is fast coming to a head, with ominous portents for the survival of the unity coalition government. Peres, interviewed in Haifa Tuesday, stated flatly that he would go to the electorate if the government failed to seize the present opportunity for peace.

He stressed in that connection that this year is crucial because 1988 is a Presidential election year in the U.S. which usually means a hiatus in Washington's diplomatic activism overseas.

Likud Minister Moshe Arens, who just returned from a mission to Washington on behalf of Shamir, was unable to say Tuesday that he had convinced Secretary of State George Shultz to oppose the international conference scenario.

On the contrary, well-placed Likud sources indicated that Arens found Shultz leaning more than ever toward Peres' view that an "international opening" conference would be followed by direct talks between Israel and Jordan and was the most promising approach to peace.

Peres, Hussein Reportedly Agree On A Plan

Peres' optimism in recent days that Hussein is likely to come to the negotiating table sparked media speculation that the Foreign Minister may have achieved something of a breakthrough with the Jordanian ruler.

Yediot Achronot reported Tuesday that Peres and Hussein agreed on a 10-point plan for convening an international conference during a nine hour secret meeting in the Arava region of the Negev. Peres' office officially denied that account.

But Labor Party sources said the 10 points were hammered out by the U.S. State Department's veteran Middle East diplomat Wat Cluverius during a recent round of shuttling between Amman and Jerusalem. Related diplomacy, according to media reports here, included the recent visit to Washington of Labor Party chairman Rafi Edri, a close confidant of Peres. Edri flew from Washington to Morocco on a mission for Peres, Jerusalem Post correspondent Yehuda Litani reported Tuesday. Peres visited Morocco last year as the guest of King Hassan to discuss Middle East peace.

According to Litani, another Israeli envoy was dispatched to another Arab country on a similar mission. Neither the envoy nor the Arab country were identified.

Shamir's office, meanwhile, issued a statement Tuesday stressing that the Prime Minister is always ready to launch direct negotiations with Jordan, with appropriate Palestinian delegates and with other Arab states.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES
U.S. JEWISH LEADERS ARE REDEFINING
THE DIASPORA-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP
By Margie Olster
(Part Two Of A Two-Part Series)**

NEW YORK, April 28 (JTA) -- The vastly different political and social environments in which Israelis and American Jews form their world outlooks and the disparate roles the Israeli government and American Jewish organizations sometimes play in global politics shape the American diaspora-Israeli relationship.

Over the decades since the establishment of the State of Israel, numerous tensions between the two communities have arisen over various issues. But the tensions have usually been resolved in dialogue, for the most part, behind the scenes, in order to present a united front between two partners. In the past few years, however, differences have gone beyond tension into confrontations both in private and in public.

A basic ingredient in the changing relationship is the increased role the American Jewish community is playing in the nation's political, social and economic life, in influencing programs and issues that transcend what have been considered traditional Jewish concerns or 'Jewish issues' over the decades. American Jewish organizations are becoming increasingly involved in multi-issue activities, thus giving them greater clout and input in humanitarian causes, political campaigns, the fight against racism, nuclear build-up, apartheid and school prayer.

This changing role on the part of American Jewish organizations and consequently their attitude toward Israeli policies was discussed and evaluated by American Jewish and Israeli leaders during the recent mission of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to Israel.

Conflicting Attitudes And Agendas

Many of the Americans pointed out that they and their constituencies found it difficult to support Israeli attitudes and stands on a number of issues. For example, Israelis were told that American Jews cannot condone Israel's military trade with South Africa when they are themselves demonstrating against the apartheid regime in Pretoria.

Nor can those who fight for democracy in Central America tolerate Israel supplying arms to oppressive regimes in that region. And those who support the American judicial system cannot justify the actions of Jonathan Pollard or accept Israeli involvement in the Irangate scandal.

At the same time, Israelis told the American Jewish leaders that the advice they offer on many issues cannot always be translated into policy. They noted that a government cannot act in the same manner as organizations in domestic and international politics.

Simcha Dinitz, a former Israeli Ambassador to the United States, told the Presidents Conference, "We cannot afford the luxury that our friends sometimes have in judging (policy) purely in idealistic terms. But we also have a square inch to defend. Sometimes you have to superimpose what you want to do over what you have to do."

Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens, also a former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., focused on Israel's trade with regimes that are viewed as oppressive by many. He noted that the problem

was basically economics. Israel needs a defense industry to survive, he said. But a defense industry needs an international market as well as an internal market.

For Israel, this is complicated by prohibitions on competing with American military industries in world markets, Arens said. Thus Israel is left with trading partners which other countries find politically inappropriate or not profitable to trade with, he said. Israel often trades with what some term "unsavory partners" when other Western countries cannot, for some reason, conduct trade themselves. This, he noted, is a form of quid pro quo, such as in the case of Israeli arms sales to Iran.

A dichotomy between Israeli and American Jewish leaders also developed over Premier Yitzhak Shamir's recent initiative to ask the U.S. government to deny refugee status for Soviet Jews who immigrate to America.

While members of the Israeli government defended Shamir's position in meetings with the Presidents Conference, the American delegates were equally unified in their opposition to it. Here, again, the different political and social environments, values and orientations between the Israelis and Americans came to the fore.

The Americans defended individual freedom of choice, the value so endemic to the American way of life. The Israelis presented Zionist arguments that Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union are not refugees because they have a homeland in Israel, that the struggle by Jews to leave countries of oppression is not merely an emigration movement, but a struggle for national liberation. They stressed that the Soviet Jews are desperately needed for the prosperity of Israel.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres claimed that mass immigration of Soviet Jews to the U.S. jeopardizes freedom for those remaining in the Soviet Union and undermines the argument that Soviet Jews are seeking to return to their homeland when they are in fact exchanging one diaspora for another.

Peres also said that the Soviets do not want to feel that they are being deceived by Jews who are asking for visas to be repatriated to their national homeland but then go to America.

A Painful Reality

Henry Siegman, American Jewish Congress executive director, sought to pinpoint the root cause for the growing divergence between Israelis and American Jews on issues of vital concern to both. The painful reality for both communities is that Israelis are held morally accountable for their policies while American Jews are free to judge it from afar.

This problem was exacerbated by the recent article of political theorist Shlomo Avineri who accused American Jews of suffering from a "galut mentality" in their reactions to the Pollard case.

Siegman said he believes this view, although exaggerated in Avineri's article, is widely held in Israel. "This view holds that Jewish life outside Israel is lacking in integrity, viability and credibility," Siegman said. "It is perceived as transient, ephemeral."

At the grass roots level, American Jews are more uncritically supportive of Israel than their leadership, Siegman said. But the cumulative effect of the Pollard, Iran and Contra scandals has led to disaffection for Israel in the American Jewish community. "The most critical question affecting our 'partnership' is the kind of society

being shaped here in Israel . . . I suggest to you that Israel is in danger of being transformed into a society that will be seen as alien by American Jews and the rest of the democratic world," Siegman told the Israelis in one Presidents Conference session.

But Shamir pointed out, "We have our special problems and our special considerations. Israel cannot always support what the U.S. can."

'Margin For Error Is Very Small'

Arens told the Presidents Conference that it was up to American Jews to secure support for Israel in the U.S. "A mortal danger to Israel is a mortal danger to all Jews," he said. "The margin for error is very small. Now maybe it is too much to expect that all the people in the United States . . . will understand that. But you know it, you understand it, and it is part of your task to have America understand it."

The American Jewish point of view, in defining the affinities and differences between itself and Israel, was expressed by Albert Chernin, executive director of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

"What we have are a group of leaders representing a group of voluntary organizations addressing leaders of a government who were elected . . . and who are responsible for decisions that have profound consequences. Organizations have the luxury, we can act on the basis of ideals. Government has to act on policies and live with the consequences of those policies."

49 GOVERNORS CONDEMN UNITED NATIONS ZIONISM EQUALS RACISM RESOLUTION
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 28 (JTA) -- Governors of 49 States have issued official proclamations condemning the 1975 United Nations General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned that Governor John Sununu of New Hampshire was the only governor who declined to issue a proclamation condemning the resolution. He reportedly refused on the grounds that he vowed during his election campaign not to issue proclamations of any kind as long as he is governor.

Bernice Tannenbaum, chairperson of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, announced the action of the 49 governors, at a gala celebration, sponsored by the WZO-American Section, marking Israel's 39th Independence Day at Town Hall here Monday night. "These unique and unprecedented proclamations by our governors from Maine to Alaska are a memorable accomplishment in Zionist and American Jewish history," Tannenbaum declared.

"This means," she added, "that the American people throughout the length and breadth of this nation, by exceptional declarations of their elected chief state executive add their voices to those of the U.S. Congress and the White House."

Governor Thomas Kean of New Jersey addressed the gathering on behalf of the 49 governors. He said that the resolution equating Zionism with racism "came about because of pure political intimidation coupled with a lack of courage on the part of some who should have resisted it. This was an unprincipled resolution purchased with petro-dollars at the height of the energy crisis." Declaring that "Zionism is a freedom movement" that established a democratic and progressive state in the Mideast, Kean said that

efforts must continue to remove the "shameful" resolution from the records. Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, said that by passing the Zionism-equals-racism resolution, the UN committed the sin of "victimizing the victims." Noting that in the aftermath of the Holocaust the term "racist" was the worst of all, the Ambassador said that the anti-Zionism resolution was chosen by the Jewish people's enemies in order to legalize their wishes to destroy Israel and the Jewish people.

"The sponsors of that resolution were students of the Nazis," Netanyahu said. The Israeli envoy added, however, that it is clear that many countries who voted for the anti-Zionism resolution on November 10, 1975, would have voted against it today.

He predicted that soon there will be a majority at the UN to repeal the resolution. "We will continue the fight to wipe out the slander. We will wipe it off the book," Netanyahu declared.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel, who was presented during the evening with the 1987 Israel Achievement Award, said that 42 years ago, on the 28th day of the Hebrew month of Nissan, he was liberated from the concentration camp of Buchenwald. "Tonight, I am celebrating both Israel's 39th independence day and my liberation from Buchenwald," Wiesel said.

He pointed out that on the day that Israel's anniversary is celebrated, the U.S. Justice Department announced its decision to bar Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from entering the U.S. as a private citizen because of his Nazi past.

Wiesel called for Waldheim's resignation as Austria's President. "A man who lies about his past and who has not confessed to his sins should not serve as the moral arbiter of his nation," Wiesel said.

500 PEOPLE ATTEND BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR IDA NUDEL AT WIZO HOUSE IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, April 28 (JTA) -- Some 500 people, including the British Ambassador, William Squire, attended a 56th birthday party for longtime Soviet Jewish refusenik Ida Nudel at WIZO House here Monday night and encouraged her that her 16-year ordeal may soon be over.

Nudel was present via a telephone call placed to her by another famous former refusenik, Natan Sharansky. She spoke to the assemblage from the Moravian town of Bendery where she has been allowed to live since her release from exile in Siberia. She spoke to her sister, Elana Fridman, who has lived in Israel since she was permitted to leave the USSR 16 years ago.

Squire assured Nudel that "We're still working on your case." He said British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who visited Moscow earlier this month, vowed to continue pressing the Soviet authorities to allow Nudel to emigrate to Israel.

He said Thatcher had tried, unsuccessfully, to meet with Nudel while in Moscow. "Mrs. Thatcher joins with all of us present here tonight in hoping that Ida Nudel will soon be allowed to emigrate," the British envoy said.

Absorption Minister Yaacov Tsur said there has been a change in the Soviet Union toward Jewish emigration. He said the first sign was that 600 Russian Jews left the USSR so far this month. He cautioned, however, that high expectations do not mean that fundamental changes have occurred in Soviet policies.