

**YUGOSLAVIAN COURT POSTPONES
THE EXECUTION OF ARTUKOVIC**

PARIS, May 6 (JTA) -- The execution in Yugoslavia of convicted war criminal Andrija Artukovic has been postponed indefinitely for reasons of poor health, according to the official Tanjug News Agency in Belgrade. It said a court in Zagreb, which last year sentenced him to death for crimes he committed in World War II, decided to postpone carrying out the sentence. It now seems likely that Artukovic will die a natural death in prison, according to legal sources in Yugoslavia.

Artukovic, 87, was extradited from the United States last year after more than 30 years, numerous legal proceedings and two formal extradition requests. He had lived in California since entering the U.S. in 1948 through the use of fraudulent documents, according to the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations.

He had been accused by the Justice Department of the wartime persecution or murder of 700,000 Serbians, 40,000 Gypsies and 28,000 Jews while he was Interior Minister of the Nazi puppet state of Croatia. The mass killings and persecution was an official policy of the Croatian "Ustasha" fascist regime, set up in 1941 in collaboration with the Germans and Italians.

In sentencing Artukovic, Zagreb District Judge Milko Gajski said "This trial, for which we have all waited for such a long time, is a victory for justice. He (Artukovic) was the master of life and death for the whole people." Artukovic, who was known as the "butcher of the Balkans," denied any knowledge of the killings that took place in the Croatian camps.

**EFFORTS MOUNTING IN CONGRESS
TO CLOSE PLO OFFICES IN THE U.S.**

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- Efforts are mounting in Congress to close the offices of the Palestine Liberation Organization based in the United States.

Rep. Jack Kemp (R. NY) has introduced legislation that would make it a felony to aid the PLO. He said the purpose of his bill, which is pending in the House Judiciary Committee, is to "establish unequivocal statutory authority" to shut down PLO offices in the United States.

Kemp said the offices are in violation of the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization Act (RICO) which makes it unlawful for an organization to engage in criminal activities and the UN Charter which prohibits the threat or use of force against any state.

But a Justice Department spokesman said there is no legal basis for shutting the PLO offices under the RICO Act because they are not in the purpose of making money. There is also no evidence that the PLO ordered the killing of any Americans, said the spokesman.

"I remain unconvinced that present law does not provide ample basis to end PLO activities in the United States. But at a minimum, my bill should clear that up," said Kemp, who has been

pressing the State Department for over a year to close the PLO offices.

"Ostensibly they have a right to be here, if they're engaged in legal activity," said a spokesperson for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), "but not if they're involved in ... facilitating liaisons between terrorists."

The PLO have two offices in the U.S. -- an information office based in downtown Washington and an Observer Mission in the United Nations headquarters in New York established as a consequence of General Assembly Resolution 3237 in 1974 which invited the PLO to participate as an observer in the session and work at the General Assembly.

"The United States has accorded the PLO every opportunity and incentive to moderate its views and its actions. Unfortunately, recent events have reaffirmed the extremism of the PLO and its adherence to terrorism," Kemp said.

"By making it a criminal offense to support PLO actions, we will be declaring our intolerance of any who would offer aid and comfort to international terrorists," he said.

**At The WJCongress In Budapest:
BRONFMAN EXPRESSES CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM
ON THE FUTURE OF SOVIET JEWRY**
By Edwin Eytan

BUDAPEST, May 6 (JTA) -- World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman expressed "cautious optimism" on the future of Soviet Jewry as he opened the enlarged WJC Executive meeting here Wednesday. He said the Soviet Union leaders with whom he met during his recent trip to Moscow have promised to examine in a favorable spirit requests for shipments of Jewish books and religious material to Russia.

A WJC spokesman later said that a first list of such books and items has already been handed over to the Soviet authorities and that additional lists of requested books will be submitted in the near future.

Bronfman also told the 92 delegates from 26 countries that he has started to feel a "better climate" which, he said, he hoped would lead to a relaxation of East-West tensions and an overall improved atmosphere which would have beneficial consequences for Soviet Jewry.

The WJC president did not specify what he would consider a significant change. He mentioned, however, as encouraging, the figure of close to 800 Jews who were allowed to leave the Soviet Union last month. "This figure could and should be increased to 900 and then to 1,200 per month," Bronfman said.

Conference Congratulates Meese

The conference opened with a unanimous vote of congratulations addressed to U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese and the U.S. government "for having put Kurt Waldheim on the 'Watch List' and barring his entry into the United States."

The resolution, which was voted by a show of hands, was seconded by the president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in West Germany, Nahman Werner, who had earlier expressed

his disagreement with an overly harsh condemnation of the former U.S. Secretary General "unless some of the evidence on which the decision was based is made public."

Panel To Probe Waldheim's Activities Urged

Werner and several of the Austrian delegates continued to lobby for setting up an international commission of investigation to study the documents pertaining to Waldheim's wartime activities.

Werner told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "If he was a war criminal, barring him from entering the United States is far from enough. If he is innocent, however, this is too harsh. An international commission should study all the pertinent facts and inform public opinion." Werner said he had no opinion on who should appoint the commission nor on how it should proceed. "This is up to the governments concerned," he said.

The conference also heard reports on Catholic-Jewish relations, the result of the negotiations with the Polish church and other Catholic dignitaries on the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz, and the future of Catholic-Jewish ties.

The rapporteur, Dr. Gerhard Riegner, stressed that Catholic-Jewish relations "will be further improved when the Vatican will recognize the State of Israel and establish full, normal diplomatic relations with it."

Bronfman called on Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi Wednesday morning and was scheduled to meet later in the day with the President. Other delegates met with a number of Ministers with whom they discussed East-West relations, the Middle East situation and the situation of Soviet Jewry. A spokesman for Bronfman later said that the WJC president had told the Hungarians that he is in favor of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Addressing a press conference later, Bronfman said that he and the WJC were opposed to the lifting of the Most Favored Nation status from Rumania. He described the Rumanian regime as "the most repressive one we know" but added that on the other hand the country's remaining 23,000 Jews enjoy a certain number of privileges and that their overwhelming majority had been allowed to emigrate to Israel.

Bronfman Says Waldheim 'Case Is Now Closed'

Bronfman also said that as far as he is concerned "the Waldheim case is now closed." He added "our task should now be to work towards a reconciliation between the Austrian people and the Jews." The WJC president said that he hoped he will meet the Austrian chancellor, Franz Vranitzky, who is due to visit the U.S. later this month. "I know that he wants to see me and I want to see him," Bronfman said.

Told that Waldheim is planning to sue him, Bronfman said "being denied entry into the United States, he can not sue me in America, but to make it easier for him I am prepared to go to Vienna so that he can sue me there."

Bronfman plans to visit the Soviet Union next month but refused to say whom he plans to meet and what issues he plans to raise during his meetings there.

RETIRED AIR FORCE GENERAL DESCRIBES IRAN-ISRAELI ARMS DEALERS CONNECTION

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- The incorrect assumption that the "improved" in the name of the I-Hawk missile meant it flew higher than the older Hawks resulted in Iran rejecting a shipment of the missiles from Israel in November 1985, according to retired Air Force Gen. Richard Secord.

Secord, testifying on the opening day of the Senate-House select committee's hearing on the Iran/Contra affair Tuesday, said that the Iranians wanted high altitude missiles to meet the threat of "high flying" reconnaissance planes and bombers.

But when the shipment of 18 missiles arrived in Teheran, the first of 80 I-Hawks promised Iran, the Iranians became "furious" when they realized the missiles had no higher altitude capacity than the medium altitude Hawks they already had, Secord said.

He said the people involved in the sale of missiles to Iran, the Israeli arms dealers, Al Schwimmer and Yaacov Nimrodi; their Iranian go-between, Manucher Ghorbanifar, and the Iranian officials involved, were a "group of civilians who didn't have any expertise in air defense."

"They had somehow thought that the 'I' meant improved beyond the original concept," Secord said. He said when he discussed the problem with Israeli military officials they immediately understood what had happened.

Involvement In Iranian Initiative

Secord said he became involved in the Iranian initiative in November 1985, when Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, then an official of the National Security Council, asked him to go to Lisbon to help overcome Portugal's reluctance to allow Israel to store and then fly the I-Hawks to Iran in non-Israeli planes. At the time, Secord, also at North's request, was conducting an airlift to the Contras supported by volunteer funds.

When Portugal refused, Secord said he was asked to find private planes to pick up the Israeli shipments which would carry 18 missiles at a time. He said this was difficult because the owners of the planes could not get insurance to fly to Teheran. He eventually was able to find a company in Frankfurt, West Germany, which agreed to fly the missiles to Iran.

Schwimmer then deposited \$1 million to cover the cost of transportation with Lake Resources, the Swiss firm set up by Secord and his partner, Albert Hakim, which handled the funds for the Contras.

The first shipment cost about \$200,000 and when Israel did not ask for the unspent \$800,000 back it was used to aid the Contras, Secord said.

The 18 Hawks were returned to Israel in February 1985, on the return flight of the plane that had carried 500 TOW anti-tank missiles to Iran from the U.S. via Israel.

Secord said Wednesday that after Iran rejected the missiles, he discussed the problem in Israel where he learned of the misunderstanding. He then met with Ghorbanifar, first in Paris and

then in London in December 1985. Robert McFarlane, then the National Security Advisor, was at the London meeting at which Ghorbanifar asked for highly sophisticated weapons in return for the freedom of the American hostages held in Lebanon.

McFarlane rejected this, and after the flight home Secord said he assumed the initiative was over. He said in January he was called to the White House by McFarlane's successor, Rear Adm. John Poindexter, and told a new initiative was being started.

While in Israel in November 1985, Secord said he learned that the Israelis had shipped 508 TOW missiles to Iran the previous August and September. He later learned from McFarlane that President Reagan had approved this.

The Israelis told Secord that the U.S. had promised to replenish the TOWs free of charge. Secord said he doubted this because from his military experience he knew the Department of Defense could not legally do this.

Secord said he later learned from North that this promise had been made. When the U.S. decided to ship TOWs to Iran in February 1986, it was decided to include the cost of the 508 shipped by Israel earlier, so that the Israeli TOW stock could be replenished as promised.

AMERICANS INVOLVED IN ARMS SHIPMENT TO IRAN SAID TO HAVE USED ISRAEL AS A 'COVER' THAT WOULD TAKE THE 'HIT' IF THE PLAN WAS DISCOVERED

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- The Americans involved in the covert arms shipments to Iran used Israel as a "cover" that would take the "hit" if the plan was discovered, according to retired Air Force Gen. Richard Secord.

Secord, testifying for the second day of the Senate-House select committee's hearing on the Iran/Contra affair Wednesday, described a February meeting he attended in the White House to discuss ways of legally transporting U.S. weapons to Iran. The meeting included lawyers from the Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Advisor Ruar Adm. John Poindexter and Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, a National Security Council aide.

Secord said it was decided that the weapons were to be sold from the United States to him in his role as a "commercial cutout" that was not part of the government. He said the "commercial cutout" was an attempt to "mirror" the way in which Israel had secretly transported an earlier arms shipment to Iran.

The weapons were then to be transported to Israel which would then ship the weapons to Iran. Secord called the arms shipment a U.S./Israeli "joint venture" in which Israel was to provide a "cover."

Effort To Conceal The Operation

Asked by John Niels, the House committee's chief counsel, if those involved in the arms sales were trying to conceal the operation from Congress, Secord said they were concerned only with concealing the operation from the Iranians.

Secord went on to reveal the intricacies of the weapons transport which included Amiram Nir, an advisor to then Premier Shimon Peres, Iranian arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar, North and Robert McFarlane, former National Security Advisor.

In an attempt to account for the huge sums of money needed for the arms sales operation, he noted that the Israelis demanded an insurance of \$2 million on each plane that was sent out.

On February 15-16, the first delivery of 500 missiles was transported from Israel to Iran, and the I-Hawks that had been previously delivered by Israel and rejected were picked up. A second delivery was made after a meeting in Frankfurt.

But Secord testified that the plan to deliver additional spare parts was delayed when the Iranians refused to release the American hostages.

McFarlane, who had then retired from his post as National Security Advisor, went to Teheran in late May and was unable to resolve the conflict.

Nir, said Secord, "was bitterly disappointed. He thought the Americans should have stayed longer. . . and should have given the Iranians more time."

AJCOMMITTEE 'TERMINATED' EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT GORDIS APRIL 24

By Andrew Muchin

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- Dr. David Gordis' nearly three-year stint as executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee was "terminated" on April 24, the human relations agency's lay president, Theodore Ellenoff of New York, confirmed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Tuesday.

"There were policy differences between Dr. Gordis' view and the lay officers' view upon the ultimate control of the agency, particularly in connection with staff and administration," Ellenoff explained. He indicated that he had tried to resolve the conflicts for several months, but declined to elaborate on them. Gordis, 46, and a Conservative rabbi, could not be reached by telephone, and his secretary at AJCommittee here said "he was not speaking to the press at this time."

Ellenoff was asked if Gordis' rumored desire for reinstatement would be addressed at the agency's 81st annual meeting here May 13-17. "I think so," he replied. He said that a search committee would be formed "shortly after the annual meeting" to seek Gordis' successor.

In the meantime, AJCommittee's half dozen senior staffers are running the agency. Ellenoff said "they're well trained," will work collegially and know what must be done. Under these circumstances, does Ellenoff feel extra pressure? "With the departure of the executive vice president there is the need to reassure a very good professional staff that the Committee's work moves in its prescribed rhythm and to reassure the lay group that the agency, which has a number of good programs in place, will do them," he replied.

ISRAELI JETS ATTACK TERRORIST TARGETS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- Israel Air Force jets carried out a pre-dawn attack on terrorist targets southeast of Sidon in south Lebanon Wednesday. Reports from the area said a building housing local El Fatah headquarters was demolished and others that served as bases for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine were severely damaged. The raid was the second since last Friday when Israeli planes bombed a terrorist base at the Mia Mia refugee camp south of Sidon.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
BONES FROM AUSCHWITZ BURIED IN N.J.**

By Gail Milgram Beitman

(Editor's note: Gail Milgram Beitman is editor of the Jewish Chronicle of Cumberland County and executive director of the Jewish Federation in that community.)

VINELAND, NJ, May 6 (JTA) -- "We saw our parents, our children -- their only funeral was the moments we saw their ashes and smoke rise over the crematoria. Today, finally, we bring them to rest in this holy Jewish ground."

With these words, Rabbi Murray Kohn, survivor of Auschwitz, raised a spade to bury the human bone fragments and ash found beside the site of the ovens at Auschwitz. The day of the burial was Yom Hashoah last month, the place was the historic Alliance Cemetery in Norma, New Jersey.

The bones had been found by participants of a Jewish community mission to Poland and Israel. "Perhaps because we had with us a survivor of Auschwitz, Magda Hafter, we were particularly attuned to where we were," explained Cy Baltus, mission participant and past president of the Jewish Federation of Cumberland County (NJ). "We thought, like so many tourists, to bring home a piece of that place for our community's Holocaust Archive. We reached into a pile of debris beside the crematorium and were shocked to find a mound filled with fragments of bone and ash."

Baltus said "It was evident from the placement of the mound that this was material that had been shoveled out of the building. Behind the building was a recessed area that the local guide referred to as a pit for incompletely burned body fragments. Had we looked longer, I'm sure we would have found more. In fact, there are shots in the film Shoah of the precise building and mound where we found the fragments."

Community Is Traumatized

The arrival of the bones in the community proved very traumatic. "In Cumberland County we have one of the largest per capita groups of survivors in the country. Many of their children and grandchildren continue to reside here," said Ron Macon, president of the Jewish Federation. "The presence of these bones became a troubling issue needing resolution for all of us."

Then Murray Hafter, Magda's husband, had the idea of a formal burial in the Jewish cemetery. "Murray went to get permission from Rabbi Kohn, who was quite shocked about the bone fragments, as was everyone. But this time we could see that this event had unearthed terrible pain for many of the survivors," explained Baltus.

During discussions at the cemetery it became quite apparent that bringing the fragments back was quite a controversial issue. There were those who felt strongly it had been wrong to bring the fragments back, and those who wished in retrospect it had not been done, due to the strong reaction. There were also some who doubted the halachic propriety of the burial.

Kohn's response was that regardless of these reactions, the remains were present in the community and had to be dealt with: "Here they are before us, we must handle the matter with dignity and love." Murray Hafter expressed the consensus of the community: "We now know these bones will

finally rest in peace in a Jewish cemetery. We did what we did in love. We feel we have the holiest of the holy among us."

A tiny hand-fashioned casket was made in accordance with tradition by Larry Benson, a member of the community. Hafter consulted with the local rabbi on details of cloth for the lining. "When it came to a covering, this became a very important symbolic matter. We covered it with a gray and white striped cloth, reminiscent of the concentration camp uniforms emblazoned with the yellow Star of David."

Kohn focused his ceremony on first consecrating the ground in front of the community's Holocaust Memorial Monument, which is in the shape of a truncated tree with its branches hewn off. This area within the Jewish Alliance Cemetery had not previously been sanctified as burial ground, but now it became a separate sanctified area.

An Emotion-Laden Talk

Kohn incorporated Ezekiel's Vision of the Dry Bones into the powerful, emotion-laden talk he gave after the traditional ceremony. He declared those present to be the appearance of the flesh on the bones in the vision and charged them to "live the lives of which those who perished were robbed . . . lives of tzedakah, love, creativity and Yiddishkeit." He then called upon each person who had lost family in the death camps to fulfill the mitzvah of burial by placing a handful of earth into the grave.

Community members were also divided over whether it would be appropriate for subsequent mission groups visiting Auschwitz to also bring back fragments to their communities for burial. Some suggested a Beth Din be gathered to deal with the matter.

Murray Hafter expressed the sentiments of many: "Perhaps it would be an exceptional act if each community gathered some of these ashes of our people and brought them home."

PERES ON SEVEN-DAY U.S. VISIT

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is scheduled to arrive in New York next week, for a seven-day U.S. visit.

After three days in New York, Peres will go to Washington to meet with top Administration officials, including Secretary of State George Shultz, and discuss his proposal for an international conference for Middle East peace.

According to a spokesman for the Israeli Consulate here, the Foreign Minister will arrive in New York on May 14. The highlight of his agenda in New York will include an address at a dinner sponsored by the David Ben Gurion Centennial Committee honoring Shultz, who will be presented with the Ben Gurion Peace Award. The event will be held at the Parker Meridien Hotel on Saturday night, May 16.

Peres also will take part in meetings organized by the United Jewish Appeal, Israel Bond Organization, American Jewish Committee, The Economic Task Force for Israel, and members of the business community on Wall Street.

Before leaving for Washington, Sunday May 17, Peres will fly to Pittsburgh to receive an honorary doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University.