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**DOUBLE SETBACK FOR PERES:
HIS MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE PLAN,
EARLY ELECTION HOPES BOTH STALLED**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres suffered a severe setback Wednesday. The Inner Cabinet failed to approve his proposals for an international conference for Middle East peace while prospects dimmed that the Knesset would vote to dissolve itself and open the way for early elections.

Peres, who was scheduled to fly to the U.S. Wednesday night for a brief visit, postponed his departure until Friday, but refused to concede defeat. The Inner Cabinet, the government's top policy-making body, comprised of five Labor and five Likud Ministers, did not vote on Peres' plan Wednesday because the Foreign Minister, anticipating a 5-5 deadlock, did not submit it.

But after meeting for less than three hours -- following an inconclusive 4 1/2 hour debate Monday -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir stated that since the Peres proposal had not come up for a formal vote, it must be seen as having been rejected and henceforth no Minister may pursue it in diplomatic contacts abroad.

Blasts Shamir's Interpretation

Peres called that interpretation "illegal," maintaining that since there was no formal vote, the situation was unchanged. "Let us ask the nation to decide" by disbanding the Labor-Likud coalition and electing a new Knesset, he declared.

Peres was supported by Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who argued that the unity government was no longer committed to its basic policy guideline -- the pursuit of peace -- and therefore must be dissolved.

The two Labor Party leaders took the same line speaking to reporters after the Cabinet session. "What the Prime Minister says, with all due respect to him, is tantamount to the cessation of the peace process. He speaks of direct negotiations with Jordan, but everyone knows this is not a practical prospect ... it is doomed to failure," Peres said.

King Hussein of Jordan has consistently refused direct negotiations with Israel outside the framework of an international conference. Peres insists he has an understanding with Hussein that an international conference "opening" will be followed immediately by bilateral negotiations with Jordan.

On Tuesday, Shamir denounced the entire idea as "criminal and stupid" and said it must be expunged from the agenda. Laborites said their coalition partnership with Likud is no longer viable and Peres has challenged Shamir to take their dispute to the electorate.

Election Roadblocks

But a survey of the pivotal small parties Wednesday indicated that Labor would be unable to muster enough votes to dissolve the Knesset as long as Likud is determined to preserve the government.

At the same time Labor Party leaders made clear that they would not secede from the unity

government and "abandon the Defense portfolio to Arik (Ariel) Sharon," the most extreme hawk among Likud Ministers.

Haim Kaufman, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction said in a radio interview following the Inner Cabinet meeting that Peres is obliged now either to support the Prime Minister's policies or lead his party out of the government.

Likud appears to have succeeded in lining up enough Knesset votes to defeat a dissolution motion. The ultra-rightwing opposition Tehiya Party, which introduced its own motion to dissolve parliament this week, is now siding with Likud because Shamir was standing "firm as a rock."

The Shas religious party is reluctant to dissolve parliament and spoil its chances of returning to the government after a five-month absence.

Its leader, former Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz, resigned in January over a halachic conversion dispute.

Aharon Abu-Hatzeira of Tami, is rumored to have been promised a seat by Likud if he opposed early elections. Similarly, MK Yigael Hurwitz of the one-man Ometz faction, who has sided with Labor, reportedly is considering rejoining Likud.

Mordechai Wirshubsky of the Shinui Party, a longtime advocate of early elections, conceded Wednesday that they are unlikely in the near future, given the present balance of forces in the Knesset.

Shultz Backs Peres' Plan

When the Inner Cabinet began its fruitless debate Monday, Peres read a letter he and Shamir had received Sunday from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. He reportedly wrote that while he had been initially skeptical about an international conference, he now thought it was the best course to follow.

But United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in New York Monday that there is not sufficient agreement between the parties to the Middle East conflict to permit convening an international peace conference.

He said he drew that conclusion following consultations during March and April in New York with representatives of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Secretary General was making the report requested by a resolution of the UN General Assembly on Dec. 2, 1986 to prepare a review of efforts toward convening an international conference.

**BARBIE CLAIMS HE WAS KIDNAPPED
AND ILLEGALLY BROUGHT TO FRANCE**

By Edwin Eytan

LYON, May 13 (JTA) -- Klaus Barbie, declaring himself "illegally kidnapped and illegally brought to France," asked the Lyon criminal court Wednesday to be returned to St. Joseph Prison and to be excused from attending the remainder of his trial for crimes against humanity.

The request by the former Gestapo chief, known as "the butcher of Lyon," was granted by

the President of the court, Andre Cerdini, despite fierce protests by attorneys for individual plaintiffs as pandemonium broke out in the packed courtroom on the second day of the trial.

Chief Prosecutor Andre Truche raised no objections. He reminded the jury, however, that "Barbie's victims at the time he used to question them, never had the option to say, as he does today, 'take me back to my cell, I don't want to answer questions!'"

But "such is our law and this is a victory of democracy over Nazism," said Truche.

Yet many observers could not help but see it as a personal triumph for Barbie, at 73 an arrogant, unrepentant Nazi who spoke with pride of his service to the Third Reich, his many decorations, his war wounds and the personal letter of commendation he received from SS Reichfuhrer Heinrich Himmler.

Says He Was Just Carrying Out Orders

As countless other Nazi war criminals before him, Barbie denied he was involved in atrocities and insisted he was just a soldier carrying out the orders of his superiors. He also denied any taint of racism.

Asked by the court President how he felt about Nazi racial theories, he stated: "All this happened over 40 years ago. I worked in the SS under the orders of my superior officers and till war broke out I had nothing to do with the minorities issue and no opportunity to express my opinion."

As to his attitudes now, Barbie replied, "I harbor no hate toward these minorities. I never did. I don't know the meaning of hatred." He mentioned that his first employers when he arrived in Bolivia were "two German Jews."

Barbie Surprises Many

Barbie's performance at the trial surprised many inasmuch as he, rather than his maverick lawyer, Jacques Verges, held the spotlight and provided the only drama of the occasion. He showed a talent for sensing the optimum moment to make his statements.

At the opening session of the trial Tuesday, Barbie sat expressionless and seemingly unconcerned for the three hours it took for the court clerk to read the charges against him.

The principal charges are the mass arrests carried out at the Lyon Jewish community center in February 1943, the arrest and deportation of 44 Jewish children from a home in Izieu village near Lyon in April 1944 and the organization of the last convoy of deportees to Auschwitz in August 1944.

When, after the charges were read, the court asked the defendant if he wished to comment, Barbie rose and cried out in an accusatory tone, "After listening to the accusation I feel as if they tried to depict me as some sort of madman, as if I had run amok in Lyon machinegunning everyone to death, chasing after every Jew."

Extols National Socialism

On Wednesday, questioned with inordinate politeness by Cerdini, Barbie took the opportunity to lecture the court and extol National Socialism, though he spoke harshly of some of the "Nazi bosses" who "wanted power, position and personal wealth."

"I felt, like many of my SS comrades that the Nazi ideal was betrayed by the Nazi bosses," said Barbie.

When he was excused from the trial, he ostentatiously held out his hands for the manacles. Surprisingly, he was allowed a brief interview by French television as he was escorted from the courtroom. He reportedly decided to boycott the trial because after consultation with his attorney he was convinced he would be found guilty and sentenced to the maximum penalty, life imprisonment. There was no confirmation of this.

ISRAELI MILITARY OFFICIALS PREDICT RENEWED ATTACKS FROM LEBANON

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA) -- Israeli newspapers quoted senior military sources Wednesday who predicted an escalation of attacks and attempted hostage-taking by terrorist groups operating in Lebanon.

According to the sources, a group known as the Salvation Front will try to seize hostages for bargaining purposes. It does not want to lag behind the Palestine Liberation Organization which carried out the two most recent attempts, the sources said. They also predicted new attempts to infiltrate Israel by sea and more Katyusha rocket attacks on Israel territory.

A report in Haaretz offered a breakdown of the principal terrorist and guerrilla groups active in Lebanon. The Palestinian organizations have 10,000 fighters at their disposal scattered throughout the country. The largest is Yasir Arafat's El Fatah, with 4,000 armed men.

Thousands Of Terrorists In Lebanon

Haaretz said some 3,000 terrorists operate in the Sidon area, including 2,500 Arafat loyalists. Another 2,500 terrorists are in the Beirut area, including 1,500 members of El Fatah.

There are 500 terrorists in Tyre, including 150 Fatah; 700 in the Tripoli area; and 1,500 in the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, all members of the Salvation Front, Haaretz reported.

According to the report, a Palestinian with military experience who enlists in El Fatah is paid 6,000 Lebanese Pounds a month (about \$300). Members of the various Palestinian militias received \$100 a month.

The mainstream Shiite Moslem military organization is Amal, which has between 5,000-6,000 fighters in south Lebanon, Haaretz reported. Several hundred more Amal fighters operate in the Beirut area, mainly in the Moslem western part of the city. They have between 25-30 Soviet-made T-54 tanks supplied by the Syrian army.

Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian or Iranian-backed extremist Shiite force, has between 2,000-3,000 fighters with military training. Hezbollah has no central command. Its attacks are initiated by local headquarters, but all are approved by the Iranian-inspired religious-political leadership which includes Abas Musani, Ibrahim Abdallah and Sheikh Fadallah, Haaretz reported.

VIENNA (JTA) -- Vandals overturned 34 gravestones and destroyed five of them in a Jewish cemetery in Eisenstadt in eastern Austria, Paul Gross, president of the Vienna Jewish community, reported Tuesday. He said the damage was discovered Sunday and that local police were informed by telephone from Vienna and are conducting an investigation. Gross could not say when the vandalism occurred but it appears to have been fairly recently.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE ROLE OF SOVIET-SUPPLIED EVIDENCE IN CASES OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) -- The validity of Soviet-supplied evidence of Nazi war crimes in the Karl Linnas and Ivan Demjanjuk cases has been contested by defense lawyers, East European emigre groups and conservative political figures like Patrick Buchanan and William Buckley despite experts' testimony that the Soviets have never provided a forged document in such proceedings.

At various stages, these interested parties vocally protested the deportations of Linnas to Estonia several weeks ago and Demjanjuk to Israel to face war crimes charges, claiming the Soviet evidence was unreliable, forged or unacceptable.

In fact, Soviet evidence has been widely used in war crimes trials for the past 40 years, including the Nuremberg trials. There has never been a case of fabrication or perjury, said Eli Rosenbaum, World Jewish Congress (WJC) general counsel and a former prosecutor for the Office of Special Investigations (OSI).

Fabrication Is Impossible

Moreover, U.S. documents intelligence experts have said it is impossible to fabricate the kinds of documents the Soviets have provided. The Red Army captured millions of documents the Nazis left behind or didn't have time to burn.

Rosenbaum added that about 95 percent of the documents the U.S. requests from the Soviets do not aid prosecutions and often exculpate known Nazi collaborators.

Early this week, a Tel Aviv University Sovietologist, Matiyahu Meisel, testified in the Demjanjuk trial that he has never come across a forged Russian document and that the military documents from the war period are "correct, real and authentic."

Beyond their role in opposing specific evidence in these two cases, the emigre groups have organized opposition campaigns to all attempts by the Justice Department to find and prosecute suspected war criminals now residing in this country, according to Rosenbaum, who monitors the groups.

They also have access to officials in the White House and State Department and have claimed to be in possession of a classified Justice Department list of suspected Nazi war criminals under investigation in the U.S.

War Criminals' Own Admissions

But the challenges to Soviet evidence have faded against the backdrop of Linnas' and Demjanjuk's own admissions which provided compelling evidence in their denaturalization trials of their links with atrocities of the Nazi regime.

When a federal prosecutor in Demjanjuk's original 1981 denaturalization trial in Cleveland asked the defendant if the Germans had given him a blood-type tattoo under his left arm, Demjanjuk answered "yes." Only SS men received the blood-type tattoos under the left arm near the armpit.

The prosecutor then asked Demjanjuk if he still had the tattoo. He replied "no." And what happened to it? the prosecutor probed. "I took it out," he replied. Demjanjuk then told the court that he had carved the tattoo out of his arm and only a scar remained. "So you maimed yourself, is

that right?" the prosecutor asked. "So it appears," the defendant answered.

In that court's decision to strip Demjanjuk of his U.S. citizenship, it cited the defendant's own admission that he had a blood-type tattoo, only issued to persons affiliated with the German SS.

Similarly, Karl Linnas admitted to his neighbors and reporters that he served as a guard at a camp in Tartu, Estonia, and that he served in the collaborationist Estonian Home Guard.

Both defendants were stripped of their U.S. citizenship and deported to face war crimes charges in other countries. In both cases, U.S. courts found the evidence presented in trials and appeals sufficient proof that Linnas and Demjanjuk committed war crimes and lied to gain entry into and ultimately become citizens of the U.S.

Corroboration Of Western Sources

In both the Linnas and Demjanjuk cases, the Soviet-supplied evidence corroborated the great majority of evidence which came from Western sources, Rosenbaum said.

The main Soviet-supplied evidence in the Linnas case consisted of testimony of Estonian cohorts who also served in the Tartu camp and prisoner transfer documents signed by the camp chief -- Karl Linnas. The U.S. courts found these documents to be undeniably authentic.

The Soviet evidence in the Demjanjuk trial, an SS identity card which places him at the Sobibor concentration camp, showed the court little more than Demjanjuk himself admitted. On his application for a visa to enter the U.S. in 1951, Demjanjuk listed his residence between 1934 and 1943 as Sobibor where 300,000 people, mostly Jews, were killed in the death camp. Sobibor was razed in a prisoner uprising in 1943.

The only evidence that Demjanjuk served as a guard at Treblinka is eye witness testimony.

Skepticism Of Soviet Evidence

Buchanan, the recently resigned White House Director of Communications, Buckley, a conservative columnist and editor, and Attorney General Edwin Meese are among the public figures skeptical of Soviet evidence in the two cases.

Buchanan, in a March 31 editorial in the New York Times wrote, "Why do a handful of us insist upon Mr. Demjanjuk's innocence? Because the only documentary evidence ever produced is Soviet-supplied -- a Nazi identification card from Trawniki, the like of which has never been seen again -- and because 'eyewitnesses' against him have contradicted themselves and each other under oath."

Buchanan also publicly questioned the need for OSI at all. In a television interview with Allan Ryan, former OSI head, Buchanan said, "You've got a great atrocity that occurred 35, 45 years ago, okay? Why continue to invest . . . put millions of dollars into investigating that? I mean, why keep a special office to investigate Nazi war crimes? . . . Why not abolish your office?"

Buchanan then added that he saw no "singularity" about the Holocaust that would merit the maintenance of OSI.

Buckley rallied to Linnas' defense in a New York Daily News column on Dec. 12, 1986. "The entire episode is judicially revolting," he wrote. "How is it possible to try someone on the basis of Soviet testimony which was written before the trial was actually conducted? Even if someone had films showing Linnas as a guard at a concentra-

tion camp in the early 40's, what is the appropriate penalty in 1986?" Both Buchanan and Buckley have reflected the same concerns expressed by East European emigre groups that have fought the extraditions of Linnas and Demjanjuk and funded their defense.

"I consider the Soviet evidence issue to be a smokescreen employed by the Baltic and Ukrainian groups and the radical right to conceal the real goal which is to bring Nazi prosecutions to an end," Rosenbaum said. Additionally, Buckley, Buchanan and many from the extreme right oppose extraditions to the Soviet Union and use of Soviet evidence out of a blind hatred for the Soviet Union, Rosenbaum said.

Views Of Emigre Groups

The Justice Department first became aware of the emigre groups in 1983, Rosenbaum said. The rise of the groups came in direct response to the establishment and activities of OSI and the entire network had no apparent purpose other than to oppose prosecution of Nazi war criminals. The groups are based in cities with large emigre populations; Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia and New York.

The two major organizations, the Coalition for Constitutional Justice and Security (CCJS) based in Mission Viejo near Los Angeles, and Americans for Due Process (ADP) in Long Island, N.Y., met recently with officials in the White House, State Department and National Security Council, according to Rosenbaum.

Representatives of the emigre groups also met recently with Meese to discuss the Linnas case. Meese came under fire from Jewish organizations for his unsuccessful attempts to secure refuge for Linnas in Panama and other countries before he deported him to Estonia several weeks ago. Rosenbaum said he monitors the emigre groups' publications with the help of Jewish Holocaust survivors who are fluent in Latvian, Lithuanian and Ukrainian.

The groups advocate the statute of limitations and amnesty for Nazi war criminals and have thousands of financial supporters for defense funds and special lawyers. They urge repeal of the 1978 law allowing deportation of war criminals.

Additionally, the CCSJ claimed in one publication that they have obtained the OSI's list of subjects of war crimes investigations which contains hundreds of names, Rosenbaum said. The publication said the document, which is classified information, was leaked to the organization by officials in the Justice Department.

"I shudder to think what this organization has done with this subject list," Rosenbaum said, adding the list could indicate who should flee the country to avoid prosecution.

"The Baltic and Ukrainian groups who wanted to stop these prosecutions don't like the fact that these prosecutions are educating the American people that the Holocaust was not perpetrated by the Germans alone but depended heavily on the assistance of willing collaborators throughout Eastern and Western Europe," Rosenbaum said.

16-MONTH-OLD SEATTLE BOY ON LIST FOR SECOND LIVER TRANSPLANT By Craig Degginger, The Jewish Transcript

SEATTLE, Wash., May 13 (JTA) -- Alexander Tufel, a 16-month-old Jewish boy from Seattle, has been placed on the active list for a liver

transplant, which would be his second. He is listed in serious but stable condition after undergoing successful liver transplant surgery last Tuesday at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, according to a medical center spokesman.

"He came through the surgery well, with no complications," the boy's father, Alben Tufel, said last week. He said doctors were waiting to see if Alexander's body would accept the new organ. "All transplant patients show some signs of rejection," he said. "The question is, how strong will the rejection be?"

The spokesman said there were "serious signs of rejection."

Alexander was born Jan. 2, 1986 without a bile duct, a condition called biliary atresia. The bile duct drains the liver. He had surgery to fashion a bile duct, but a serious infection damaged his liver, necessitating the transplant.

Alexander and his mother, Dianne, moved to Los Angeles in January to be near UCLA when a donor liver became available. Her husband stayed in Seattle to care for the couple's two teenage children and continue his work as a teacher.

More than \$3,000 has been raised in the Jewish community here through the efforts of the Tufel's synagogue, Temple Beth Am, and The Jewish Transcript newspaper to help with the family's non-medical expenses. The toddler's medical expenses, estimated to be more than \$200,000, are being paid in full by the family's insurance carrier.

TWO JDL MEMBERS RELEASED ON \$1 M BONDS By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) -- Two of three members of the Jewish Defense League (JDL)--charged in a Brooklyn Federal District Court with operating a criminal enterprise which masterminded six bomb and grenade attacks in this area--were released on \$1 million bonds Monday. A third JDL member was released on her own recognizance following the arrests Friday.

FBI agents arrested Victor Vancier, alias Chaim Ben Yosef, 30, of Queens; Jay Cohen, 23, of Queens; and Sharon Katz, 44, of Manhattan. They are charged with organizing and carrying out six incidents of fire-bombings and "terrorist" acts against Soviet diplomatic premises, visiting Soviet performers and against other Jewish Defense factions in the metropolitan areas.

Family members co-signed the million-dollar bonds for Vancier and Cohen and could forfeit their homes if the defendants do not appear for court dates. The court also ordered Cohen's travel limited to trips to and from work and Vancier must inform court officials each time he wants to leave his house.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Rose said he expects a grand jury to indict the three in the near future. The accused will not enter pleas until the indictments are handed up.

Among the "terrorist" activities the three allegedly carried out were: The 1984 fire-bombing of a car in the Soviet Mission compound in Riverdale, NY, the 1985 and 1986 pipe bombings of cars in Howard Beach owned by members of rival Jewish defense groups; a 1986 firebombing at Avery Fisher Hall on the night of a performance on the Soviet State Symphony; and the tear-gas bombing at the Metropolitan Opera House in Manhattan September 1986 during a Moiseyev Dance Company performance. Twenty people were injured in the latter attack.