

ALLEGED CAMP GUARD WITHOUT COUNTRY STRAINS U.S.-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, June 4 (JTA) -- The relations between Austria and the United States were further strained this week over the case of Martin Bartsch, a Rumanian-born alleged former guard at the Mauthausen concentration camp who, stripped of his American citizenship for war crimes, came here claiming the right to reside in Austria.

Austrian authorities, angered by the U.S. Justice Department's recent ban on the entry of President Kurt Waldheim because of his alleged complicity in Nazi atrocities, are further incensed by the failure of the Americans to inform them in advance that they would allow Bartsch to go to Austria with an American passport.

He was not officially deported. His U.S. citizenship was not revoked until the day he arrived in Austria. There is no treaty between the U.S. and Austria regarding the deportation of undesirable aliens. Austria therefore considers Bartsch still an American citizen and plans to return him to the U.S.

Bartsch, who is accused of, among other things, the murder of a French Jew in 1943, was declared persona non grata here. A warrant was issued for his arrest. He gave himself up at a police station Monday and was formally arrested to be held for deportation.

Not A Haven, Says Minister

"Austria does not want to get the image of a haven for Nazi war criminals," Interior Minister Karl Blecha declared. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that the American action was "defiant." U.S. Ambassador Ronald Lauder was summoned to the Ministry to be informed of Austria's feelings in the matter.

Bartsch, 61, lived in Austria from 1945 to 1955, but was not a citizen. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1955 and was naturalized in 1966.

The Organization of Jews Persecuted by the Nazi Regime demanded Thursday that his deportation arrest be changed to pre-trial confinement and that he be tried here for war crimes.

He could be charged by an Austrian court with murder, a crime not covered by the statute of limitations. Bartsch claims he was only 17 at the time of the alleged murder, which would make him a juvenile, too young to have been a member of the infamous SS Totenkopf (Deaths Head) brigade which staffed Mauthausen, a concentration camp between Vienna and Linz.

PERES RIPS LIKUD, SUGGESTS JORDAN TALKS EXPLORE ECONOMIC TEAMWORK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 4 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres delivered his fiercest denunciation of his Likud unity coalition partners here Thursday as he defended the concept of an international conference for Middle East peace. He also proposed that the first item on the agenda of peace talks with Jordan deal with economic

cooperation and joint undertakings to improve the infrastructure of both Israel and Jordan.

Peres addressed about 2,000 veterans and pensionnaires of the Labor Party. He accused Likud of launching a disinformation campaign and a campaign of vilification of him personally. "Likud, indeed, has ceased to exist and has become an appendage of Gush Emunim and the Tehiya and religious parties. There is no longer a Likud -- only a Rabbi (Moshe) Levinger and Daniella Weiss," he said referring to the most headline Gush Emunim leaders.

Says Likud Against Peace Talks

If Likud were to win the next elections, there would be no chance for peace talks with any Arab state, Peres declared. "Is it forbidden to even think about the chance of normalization (of relations with the Arabs)? I don't have peace in my pocket. I am not 'Peace Now,' but can't we take the chance to check the possibility?" of peace, he asked.

Peres suggested that the U.S., Britain and France sign a written undertaking that an international conference for Middle East peace will not impose a solution on the parties to the conflict.

He said Israel could begin its talks with Jordan by suggesting that the two countries examine the feasibility of a canal linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea to replenish the latter's evaporating waters, and that they build hydro-electric stations to produce power for both countries.

JEWISH GROUPS WELCOME OFFICIAL U.S. REQUEST TO OPEN UN WAR CRIMES FILES
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 4 (JTA) -- The policy change of the United States to favor opening the United Nations files on Nazi war criminals was lauded here Thursday by American Jewish leaders.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar disclosed Tuesday that he received a letter from U.S. Ambassador to the UN Vernon Walters informing him of the change in the American policy. The UN archives, located here, contain some 40,000 files on Nazi war criminals and their collaborators.

Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Organizations, praised the American decision. "Our country now becomes part of an international effort to remove a major impediment to justice," Abram stated. "There was never a reason why the UN should have decided to keep the archives secret. This confidentiality has served only to permit Nazi war criminals still at large to escape justice. The cause of justice itself has been ill served."

Burton Levinson, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, also welcomed the news. In a telegram to Secretary of State George Shultz, Levinson wrote that inherent in the U.S. move was recognition that "justice will not truly be served until information regarding the wartime activities of thousands of Nazis and Nazi collaborators sees the light of day and those still alive are called to account for their crimes."

In his letter to the Secretary General, Walters said that the U.S. view is "that the current rules governing access to the material in the War Crimes Commission archives should be amended to permit access by persons specifically accredited by their governments to the UN for this purpose. It is our view that this access should be granted to individual files specifically identified by name."

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, (D. NY), a former UN Ambassador, said Tuesday night, "While I welcome the apparent new openness suggested by the Administration's policy change, I would suggest the true test will be whether all organizations and individuals wishing to perform research will be allowed to examine the files."

The U.S. joined Holland, Australia and Yugoslavia in seeking the opening of the files to the public. All four were members of the long defunct 17-member War Crimes Commission that established the UN archives. Israel also has advocated public access to the files.

CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION MOUNTS TO MISSILE SALE TO SAUDIS

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, June 4 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration's proposed sale of 1,600 Maverick air-to-ground missiles to Saudi Arabia is facing staunch opposition in the Congress, suggesting possible overturn of a Presidential veto.

A Senate resolution opposing the sale, sponsored by Sens. Bob Packwood (R. Ore.) and Alan Cranston (D. Calif.), was signed by 52 Senators as of Thursday, just 15 co-signers short of a two-thirds majority needed to override a veto. The House resolution was signed by 108 Representatives.

Congress, which was notified of the sale May 29, has until June 26 to disapprove of the sale.

Opposition to the sale comes in the aftermath of the failure of Saudi Arabian, F-15s to force down the Iraqi jets that attacked the U.S. missile frigate Stark in the Persian Gulf. Congressmen have also cited concern over Saudi refusal to make a peace initiative towards Israel and its support of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

"I think there's a pretty widespread belief that it's the wrong thing at the wrong time," said Rep. Larry Smith (D. Fla.), who sponsored the House resolution with Rep. Mel Levine (D. Calif.). "There's a feeling of dissatisfaction with the Saudi noninvolvement and non-help in the process in the Middle East," he said.

The Reagan Administration is contending that the Maverick sale was approved by Congress in 1984, but delivery was delayed at the Saudis' request. The Administration is using the previous vote to deny Congress a 20-day advance notification of the sale before the 30-day disapproval period.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee noted that Saudi Arabia already has 2,582 Maverick missiles in stock compared to 900 earlier models in the Israel inventory.

FOLLOWING HIS TESTIMONY, ABRAMS' JOB SECURITY NEW DISCUSSION TOPIC

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 4 (JTA) -- The position of Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for

Inter-American Affairs and one of the most outspoken Jewish neo-conservatives in the Reagan Administration, appeared tenuous Thursday after his two days of testimony before the Senate-House Iran Contra Committee this week.

However, Abrams, who admitted he had misled Congress last year about the Administration's aid to the Contras, indicated at the conclusion of his testimony Wednesday that he plans to remain in his job.

Secretary of State George Shultz "seems to be pretty satisfied with the job I've done for him," he told the committee. "That makes me very happy and very proud."

This assessment was seconded later by State Department spokesman Charles Redman, who said Shultz "thinks Secretary Abrams is doing a sensational job, and he has full and total confidence in him."

But several members of the committee, including some who praised Abrams, indicated that the Administration may have difficulty in getting approval for continued funds for the Contras if Abrams is still at the State Department when the Administration makes its request in September.

The 39-year-old Abrams is the son-in-law of Norman Podhoretz, editor of Commentary, the magazine published by the American Jewish Committee, that is considered the intellectual voice of the neo-conservative movement.

A former aide to the late Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.) and Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D. NY), Abrams campaigned for President Reagan in 1980, speaking largely before Jewish organizations.

When Reagan took office in 1981, Abrams became Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations. But when Reagan's first choice for Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Ernest Lefever, could not get Senate approval, Abrams was named to that job.

In that post, he frequently appeared before Jewish organizations, particularly on the issue of Soviet Jewry. In the 1984 presidential campaign, Abrams appeared regularly before Jewish audiences on Reagan's behalf.

Abrams moved over to the Inter-American Affairs Department in 1985.

GREENSPAN MAY HEAD FEDERAL RESERVE

WASHINGTON, June 4 (JTA) -- President Reagan has named Alan Greenspan, a New York economist, as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, succeeding Paul Volcker.

The 61-year-old Greenspan must be confirmed by the Senate for the four-year term. He was chairman of President Ford's Council of Economic Advisors from 1974.

Greenspan is a member of two predominantly Jewish clubs, the Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles, and the Harmonic Club in New York.

GREEK, JORDANIAN PREMIERS SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST CONFERENCE

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, June 4 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu of Greece and visiting Prime Minister Zeid Al-Rifai of Jordan expressed support Wednesday for an international conference for Middle East peace to be held under United Nations auspices.

**TRUE JUSTICE REQUIRES MEMORY,
DECLARES WIESEL AT BARBIE TRIAL**

By Edwin Eytan

LYON, June 4 (JTA) -- Nobel Peace laureate Eli Wiesel told a packed courtroom here Tuesday that the reason for the trial of Klaus Barbie is not simply to bring to justice a Nazi war criminal who had long evaded it, but to remind a forgetful world of the Holocaust.

"This trial is important to remind us of what happened. Justice without memory is incomplete," the 58-year-old author and Auschwitz survivor declared from the witness stand.

He said he came here, the scene of Barbie's crimes, "to stop the killer from killing twice. The killer kills twice. First, he kills his victim, then he tries to erase the traces. We must prevent this second death. This is why I am here. This is why this trial is so important."

He spoke with the same quiet eloquence that raised his books to the stature of classics in his own lifetime, the definitive documentaries of the Holocaust, the word he coined to apply to the extermination of six million Jews by the Nazis.

The court listened in rapt attention. The three magistrates and nine jurors seemed spellbound. Prosecutor Pierre Truche shut his thick Barbie file and leaned forward, intent not to miss a word. Only an occasional sob from the public gallery broke the silence of the hushed courtroom.

His Story Well Known

The entire world knows Wiesel's history. Plucked from a Hungarian village in 1944 and put aboard a sealed train to the Auschwitz death camp with his family, he alone lives to tell the tale. He told it here again, 43 years almost to the day after his deportation and three days before his son's 15th birthday, his own age at the time.

Wiesel confessed that more than four decades after the tragedy he fails to understand its meaning. "I still cannot understand how these people, the sons of the most educated and civilized nation in Europe at the time, could have produced these killers," he said.

"I still fail to understand the members of the Sonderkommandos (the squads who carried out the tortures and murders) could have been doctors, lawyers, artists, music lovers who had killed by day and returned to their homes in the evening to read poetry and listen to classical music."

The Nazis were obsessed with killing Jews, Wiesel told the court. The deportation trains carrying the victims to death camps were given priority over military trains taking troops, arms and supplies to the Eastern front where the German army was then falling back under the Soviet counter-offensive.

Wiesel spoke for 20 minutes, but his words encompassed years of horrors. "There are some things about which I cannot speak, like the death of my little sister, the suffering of my father, the death of my mother, lest I start weeping," he said.

At that point, a lawyer present read part of his statement. Then Wiesel continued:

"We arrived at Auschwitz in the afternoon. I remember it all, the barbed wires stretching to infinity, the screams of the welcoming committee, the shots fired by the SS, the barking of their dogs and the huge flames reaching up to high heaven as if to devour it.

"I remember how in a little forest near Birkenau I saw the SS throw small, live children

into the fire. In the city of Kiev, I saw a group of laughing German soldiers stop a mother and her two children. They took one of her children and killed it before her eyes. Then they took the second and killed it as well. She wanted to die, but the killers preferred her alive. I can see her today as she then picked up the two small bodies, drew them close to her chest and started dancing. How can I narrate such a scene? How can I understand the evil which hurts more than pain?

"Maybe one of the worst things which happened was to see others suffer. For a son to see his father in pain, for a father to see his son tortured. All the victims are my brethren. We bear them love and admiration," Wiesel declared.

All Jews Were Victims

He added: "All the victims were not Jewish, but all the Jews were the victims. For the first time in history an entire nation, from the oldest to the youngest, from the richest to the poorest, were sentenced to death. The aim of the enemy was to uproot them, to erase them from history, to kill their very memory. Being a Jew was a capital crime for which capital punishment was provided."

He recalled that "Even the Germans realized the insanity of this situation. An SS man told a Jew: 'Even if you were to survive and tell what happened, no one would believe you.'"

"This is the problem," Wiesel said. "Who has not lived through it will never really understand it. This trial is important to remind us of what happened. Justice without memory is incomplete. The number of survivors is becoming smaller every day. It is for them, but also for the dead, for their children and for yours that this trial is important. Forgetfulness is a crime just like Auschwitz was absolute evil."

Trial Practically Finished

In a way, with Wiesel's testimony, the trial of Barbie is practically over. What may be heard from now on and the verdict itself could be anticlimactic.

Barbie, the former Gestapo chief in Lyon charged with crimes against humanity for the torture, murder and deportation of thousands of Jews and resistance fighters, will at most receive a life sentence. Capital punishment has been abolished in France. He is 73, reportedly in poor health. Under French law, which allows the defendant to be absent from his trial, Barbie has boycotted the proceedings since May 13, two days after they started.

In his brief appearances in the dock he personified the arrogant, unrepentant Nazi, claiming he was being held and tried illegally. Many feel outraged that he was not forced to be confronted by the testimonies of Wiesel and other witnesses.

Verges Revolts Court

His lawyer, Jacques Verges, jolted and revolted the court Tuesday when he resorted to an irrelevancy to challenge Wiesel. He asked the Holocaust survivor what he thought of French collaborators.

"I did not live through that period (in France)," Wiesel replied. "I knew a generous France which welcomed me after the war. The trial of that (wartime) France must take place one day. It must confront its memories, it must go through a lucid examination of its past. But not in this context, not in the context of this

trial." The purpose of Verges' question then became apparent. "Do you think that Israel should in its turn do the same for the murder of Arab children in Deir Yassin?" the lawyer asked.

Wiesel replied, "I am fully in solidarity with Israel and I find it regrettable that the lawyer of a man accused of such horrible crimes as Barbie is should accuse the Jewish people. Is it all he has to say?"

Reprimanded by presiding Judge Andre Cerdini, who warned Verges he was "no longer dealing with the trial," the lawyer managed to get in the last word amid angry shouts of protest from the gallery. "So it is the French alone who have to cast a lucid look at their history? What I want is that all nations be given the same treatment," he said.

Two other witnesses followed Wiesel on the stand: Ita Halaubrenner, whose two daughters were among the 44 Jewish children from the village of Izcic deported to Auschwitz by Barbie; and Fortune Benguigui, whose three sons were in the same convoy.

Halaubrenner, 86, said she waited 43 years for this moment. She had even gone to Bolivia with Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld in 1972 to try in vain to have Barbie deported. On the witness stand she was barely able to speak. She shook her fist at the empty prisoners' dock. "The name of my misfortune is called Klaus Barbie," she said in a trembling voice. "Justice, all I want is justice."

ON ANNIVERSARY OF SIX-DAY WAR: TERRITORIES POLICY WILL LEAD TO BINATIONAL STATE, SCHOLARS WARN By Hugh Orgel

HAIFA, June 4 (JTA) -- Three Haifa University academicians warned Thursday that if Israel continues the policies it adopted in the administered territories when they were captured in the Six-Day War just 20 years ago, the result will be a fundamental change in the nature of Israel and abnegation of the basic principles of Zionism.

Prof. Arnon Sofaer, speaking at a university-sponsored symposium a day before the 20th anniversary of the outbreak of the war, spoke ominously of the "demographic specter."

The ratio between the Jewish and Arab populations in Israel and the territories has remained constant over the past two decades because of large-scale Arab emigration from the territories and a strong Jewish immigration movement, he said.

But now, Arab emigration has almost ceased, the Arab birthrate is rising and there has been a growing phenomenon of Jewish emigration from Israel, Sofaer noted. If this continues, by the end of the century Israel will be a bi-national state, not a Zionist state, he said.

'A Nightmare'

"It's a nightmare," he said, as there are already more Arab than Jewish children in the territories. According to Sofaer, the Jewish settlement movement in the territories proved not to be what was promised. "Even if we were to accept the Gush Emunim claim of 60,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank, that was the Arabs' natural increase there in two years. In the Gaza Strip, the entire Jewish settlement was offset by one month's natural increase among local Arabs," he said.

"These figures and trends demand a reconsideration of how we expend our capacities--whether Israel has the power to extend its forces over everything and everywhere, or to concentrate our efforts in the Galilee, for example, where we have international legitimacy," he said.

Prof. Sami Smoucha observed that the past 20 years of Israeli rule over West Bank Arabs has proven that they cannot be absorbed into Israel as Israeli citizens. "The option of their gradual absorption is not valid," he said.

Dr. Gabriel Ben-Dor, rector of Haifa University, warned of the effects of the Six-Day War on Israeli society. "I feel that the state of affairs in which there are hundreds of thousands of hewers of wood and drawers of water without political rights in Israel certainly is not something which contributes to the health of Israeli society," he said.

(In New York meanwhile, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Binyamin Netanyahu, told an overflow audience of 3,000 attending the Sutton Place Synagogue's Jewish Town Hall lecture series that Israel's 1967 victory was "one of the great pivotal events in all Jewish history."

("Until the Six-Day War, the very existence of Israel was in doubt. Today, no one can question that Israel is here to stay. Until the Six-Day War, Israel's boundaries were an invitation to the Arab states to cut Israel in two. Today our eastern frontier has been pushed back to the Jordan River, the Golan Heights are in our hands and Israel has defensible borders at last," the envoy said.)

SPATE OF TERROR-RELATED INCIDENTS AS SIX-DAY WAR ANNIVERSARY NEARS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 4 (JTA) -- A Jewish boy was knifed in Hebron and a bomb exploded in Kfar Saba Thursday in a spate of terror-related incidents that observers linked to the Six-Day War anniversary (June 5).

The boy, whose family name was given as Peretz, was not badly hurt and reached Beit Hadassah, a Jewish settlement center in Hebron, by himself, carrying the knife that had been used in the attack.

The Kfar Saba bomb, too, failed to cause casualties. It was placed alongside a school bus-stop, but the assailants apparently forgot that there is no school the day after Shavuot.

In East Jerusalem, a commercial strike called by nationalist Palestinian elements was partially successful. In Ramallah and El-Bireh, most stores and offices were closed, and demonstrators took to the streets brandishing PLO flags and stoning Israeli cars.

The Israeli police and security authorities braced themselves for possibly more serious trouble Friday -- the actual anniversary day of the war. Among the measures taken was the arrest Wednesday night of six alleged activists in the Samaria region. They have been placed under administrative detention, reportedly for three months.

The six are reportedly leaders of Shabiba, a Fatah-linked youth movement. According to recent official figures, there are now more than two hundred persons held in administrative detention in the territories.