

### WALDHEIM, IN FIRST TRIP ABROAD AS HEAD OF STATE, TO MEET POPE; JEWISH LEADERS TO LODGE PROTESTS

ROME, June 17 (JTA) -- President Kurt Waldheim of Austria will meet with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on June 25, the Vatican announced Wednesday. It will be the first trip abroad for Waldheim since he was elected 11 months ago. He has been officially barred from entering the United States and is shunned by most Western governments because of evidence of his complicity in Nazi atrocities during World War II.

Vatican Radio explained that the Pontiff never refuses an audience with a foreign head of state. Waldheim, a practicing Catholic, will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Alois Mock. An Austrian spokesman said Wednesday that the controversial President has received official invitations from Jordan, Libya and Uganda.

The announcement that the Pope will grant him an audience drew a sharp protest from the World Jewish Congress, which was instrumental in exposing Waldheim's Nazi past. "This is a tragedy for the Vatican, and a sad day for Catholic-Jewish relations," a WJC statement said.

It noted that "This is the Pope who met with (PLO chief Yasir) Arafat, this is the Pope who refuses to recognize Israel. This is not the first unsavory character whom the Pope has received in audience."

#### Other Condemnations

Other Jewish organizations also reacted strongly to the announcement. Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said in New York Wednesday that "The American government passed proper judgement on the wartime conduct of Kurt Waldheim and placed him on the watch list of Nazis barred from entering the country... Now the Pope plans to receive Kurt Waldheim. We are deeply disturbed by this invitation which we find incomprehensible."

Albert Vorspan, senior vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, referred to "The massive documentation of Waldheim's participation in Nazi crimes." He said "We urge the Pope to reconsider this unfortunate invitation which would have the effect of further straining relations with the Jewish community and impairing his own moral credentials."

Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, said "We regret deeply that Pope John Paul II sees fit to meet with Kurt Waldheim. Such a meeting offers Waldheim a cloak of respectability that he does not deserve. . . . The United States has placed him on its watch list, which speaks volumes about his character. We believe such a visit sends a message to the world that this unrepentant sinner is welcome again to assume the mantle of statesmanship."

And Dr. Lionel Kopelwitz, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, wrote to the Papal Ambassador in London: "We were shocked to hear of the Pope's invitation to Waldheim, which will give great offense to Jewish communities worldwide, as well as to all decent people, espec-

ially those who suffered and fought Nazism, who cherish truth, decency and eternal values which Jews and Christians share."

### WIESEL: POPE 'DE-JUDAIZED' HOLOCAUST

NEW YORK, June 17 (JTA) -- Nobel Peace laureate Elie Wiesel expressed concern here Monday over what he considers the "de-Judaizing" of the Holocaust. He referred specifically to the recent visit by Pope John Paul II to the site of the Maidanek concentration camp in Poland.

More than 800,000 Jews were put to death at Maidanek. The Pope named 14 nationalities as victims of the Nazis but did not once mention the Jews "and not one Jewish leader spoke out," Wiesel said.

Wiesel was addressing more than 500 guests at a dinner honoring his friend and spiritual mentor, Rabbi Menashe Klein of Ungvar, a city in Czechoslovakia that was the rabbi's home before World War II and one of the major centers of Jewish scholarship in Eastern Europe.

The dinner was the occasion for dedicating a synagogue, library and school to be built at Kiryat Ungvar, near Jerusalem, in memory of Wiesel's father, Shlomo Halevi Wiesel, who perished at Auschwitz. Wiesel and Klein met at the Buchenwald concentration camp and their friendship has endured more than 40 years.

Wiesel said the attempt to de-Judaize the Holocaust is not centered in the Vatican, but is endemic throughout the world. "Some say 11 million died in the Holocaust and mix together all categories of people," he said.

### SOVIET CONSULAR TEAM REPORTED TO BE PLANNING VISIT TO ISRAEL

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 17 (JTA) -- A two-man Soviet consular delegation of fairly high level will visit Israel next month, Le Monde reported Wednesday. The paper's Moscow correspondent said the delegation, headed by Evgeni Antipov, Deputy Chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Consular Affairs Department, applied for Israeli visas Tuesday at the Dutch Embassy in Moscow, which represents Israel's interests in the Soviet Union.

The report quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov as saying that the mission's task will be "to ascertain the situation of Soviet-owned property in Israel and to provide consular services for Soviet citizens living in Israel."

The Soviet Union inherited more than a dozen properties in Jerusalem from the Czarist regime. Several hundred monks and nuns holding Soviet nationality live in Israel.

Other reports quoted Gerasimov as ruling out a reciprocal visit to Moscow by a similar Israeli delegation. He said there is no Israeli property in the Soviet Union and that no Israeli citizens live in the USSR.

Le Monde's correspondent suggested that the real aim of the mission "is to test the reaction of the Arab countries" to a visit by Soviet officials to Israel. The only other contact between Soviet and Israeli officials occurred in Helsinki in August

1986. Moscow dispatched two low-ranking consular officers to meet with Israeli diplomats. The Soviets walked out of the meeting after one day when the Israelis raised questions about Soviet Jews. They claimed the subject was "outside their competence" and not on the agenda.

#### FINAL SIX OF THIRTEEN DAHEISHA SUSPECTS RELEASED ON BAIL

JERUSALEM, June 17 (JTA) -- The last six suspects taken into custody for an armed attack on the Daheisha refugee camp near Bethlehem during the night of June 6 were released on 55,000 Shekels bail Wednesday. Seven others of the 13 arrested were freed on bail last Friday.

All are residents of Kiryat Arba, the Jewish township adjacent to Hebron, and a Gush Emunim stronghold. Dozens of Kiryat Arba residents greeted the six with songs and dances as they left the court.

The court ordered the six suspects to report daily to the Kiryat Arba police station and to stay at home at night. They were warned that if they went anywhere near Daheisha they would be returned to jail.

The suspects claim they entered Daheisha after they were stoned by Arab residents. The prosecution charges, backed by the Israel Defense Force, that the suspects raided the camp, fired rifles into homes and vandalized property in what had the earmarks of a planned, organized attack.

#### ISRAEL TELLS UN IT WILL PROTECT ITSELF FROM INCREASED TERRORISM

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 17 (JTA) -- Charging that the Palestine Liberation Organization has recently intensified its terror campaign against Israel from its bases in Lebanon, Israel told the UN that it will take the necessary steps to prevent such acts.

In a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar circulated here Wednesday, Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's UN Ambassador, listed several terrorist actions against Israel in the last two months and stated: "Israel was able to prevent these wanton attacks against its civilians by the ongoing security arrangements along its northern border. These measures are necessary because, as the recent assassination of Lebanon's Prime Minister reminds us, there is no central government in Beirut able to prevent the PLO and other terrorist groups from using Lebanon as staging ground for aggression against Israel."

Netanyahu declared that the Israeli government will continue to take "appropriate measures to protect its citizens against terrorist operations launched from Lebanon and elsewhere."

#### SURVIVORS' LAWYERS BEGIN SUMMATIONS AS BARBIE TRIAL BEGINS LAST PHASE

By Edwin Eytan

LYON, June 17 (JTA) -- The trial of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie entered its final phase Wednesday with the beginning of summations by lawyers representing surviving victims of the former Lyon Gestapo chief and the families of those who did not survive.

The first to address the jury was Serge Klarsfeld, who with this German-born wife, Beate, has devoted years to tracking down Nazi war criminals, including Barbie. Klarsfeld is repre-

senting surviving relatives of 44 Jewish children arrested by German soldiers at the children's shelter in the village of Izieu on April 6, 1944 and deported to Auschwitz, where all perished.

One of the key items introduced as evidence during the trial is a "telex" signed by Barbie to Gestapo headquarters in Berlin reporting the arrests. "There can be no doubt left of Barbie's personal involvement in this crime," Klarsfeld said.

"Those arrested were children, some only five years old. They can in no way whatsoever be described as terrorists or resistance fighters. Their only crime was being Jews," he said.

The summations will occupy the next eight sessions of the court, lasting until June 27. In all, 39 lawyers will argue why Barbie should be given the maximum sentence allowed by French law--life imprisonment.

#### Verges Maneuvers

But the question of whether Barbie will be brought to justice may hang on the outcome of a cunning legal maneuver by his attorney, Jacques Verges. Verges petitioned the court Tuesday to free Barbie whether or not he is found guilty of crimes against humanity. He cited French law, which requires that a defendant sentenced for crimes committed during the same period of time must serve them concurrently, meaning that the most severe sentence supersedes all.

Barbie was sentenced to death in absentia in 1952 for war crimes. He avoided the penalty by finding haven in Bolivia. Verges argued that since the statute of limitations on war crimes convictions expired 15 years ago and France, in any case, abolished the death penalty in 1981, Barbie has technically paid his debt to society and must go free.

State prosecutor Pierre Truche will challenge that contention later in the week, the prosecutor's office announced.

Presiding Judge Andre Cerdini will rule on Verges' plea when the trial ends.

In any case, Barbie will be held in custody pending a decision by the Justice Ministry whether to try him for the murder of French resistance leader Jean Moulin.

The 73-year-old Barbie, arrogant and unpentant, has boycotted the trial since May 13, two days after it began. French law does not require the defendant to be present in court. It is assumed, however, that he will be ordered to appear in court for the final verdict and sentencing which is expected on July 3 or 4.

#### ISRAELI MEETING SOFTENED PLO, SHIN BET OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY SAYS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 17 (JTA) -- A Shin Bet official, testifying behind closed doors in the trial of four Israeli leftists who met with Palestine Liberation Organization officials in Rumania several months ago, maintained that the meeting softened the PLO stand toward Israel.

The official of Israel's internal security service, identified only as Reuven, appeared as an expert witness for the defense. According to reports, he affirmed that while the PLO is a terrorist organization, it also operates on a political level representing the Palestinian nationalist movement. The meeting in Rumania moderated the views of the PLO people and strengthened the political arena, Reuven reportedly said.

## PRESBYTERIANS PASS COMPROMISE CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS PAPER

BILOXI, Miss., June 17 (JTA) -- A compromise document on Christian-Jewish relations that recognizes Israel only "geopolitically" was ratified here Tuesday night by delegates to the 199th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The paper, "A Theological Understanding of the Relationship Between Christians and Jews," had been in preparation for six years by a committee of the 3.1 million-member church. In a series of compromises Saturday night, its status was downgraded from "policy statement" to "study document."

The document, while acknowledging God's promise of a homeland to the Jews, rejects the notion that Israel fulfills that promise. "The State of Israel is a geopolitical entity and is not to be validated theologically," the statement said.

Another compromise was the reference to obligations of the Jews to the Palestinians as told by the "Hebrew prophets." The document explained, "Those in possession of land have a responsibility and obligation to the disadvantaged, the oppressed and the strangers in their gates."

The document also acknowledged that Jews have an existing covenant with God and should not be cursed because of refusal to accept Jesus as Messiah or be candidates for conversion.

### The Opposition

Opposition to the pre-compromise draft document came from Presbyterians who have worked in Arab countries, notably the Rev. Benjamin Weir, who was a hostage in Lebanon for 16 months and just completed a term as leader of the Presbyterian Church.

Weir told the assembly that he would find it "very difficult to live with the paper" if it included a section calling Israel the promised land for Jews. He said there was "a great possibility" the document would be "misunderstood and misinterpreted."

Other opponents of the document were a small but vocal number of Presbyterian ministers who are converts from Judaism.

In addition, the executive secretary of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, the Rev. Salim Sahiouny, who represents 50,000 Presbyterians in Arab countries, criticized the effort to reword the document, which he called fundamentally flawed. He asked for its all-out rejection, contending the document used "biblical and theological material to support the political entity of Israel."

Sahiouny rejected the idea that Christians could believe that God's covenant with the Jews still exists. He said fulfillment of the Old Testament rests in Jesus, and that by denying Jesus, "the Jews have rejected the covenant."

Sahiouny finally accepted the draft document because of its call for a special conference in an Arab country by 1989.

The Rev. Albert Istecro, president of the Cairo Theological Seminary, rejected a suggestion that Holocaust Remembrance Day be included in the Presbyterian Church calendar. He charged that the Holocaust "is a problem of the European churches. What has the American church to do with the Holocaust?"

Although the destruction of European Jewry was "a terrible evil," he said, "other Holocausts" exist today because of Israel's policies.

A document on Christian-Moslem relations was approved by the committee of the 650-member General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) separately with no opposition. This paper did not approach these relations on a theological basis, but rather called for greater understanding and an end to discrimination and stereotypes.

### Generally Welcomed

One of the two Jewish consultants to the six-year-long proceedings, Michael Wyschogrod, a professor of philosophy at Baruch College of the City University of New York who represented the American Jewish Congress, lauded the document.

He termed it "an extremely significant contribution in Jewish-Christian relations," but was disappointed that the paper was not stronger than a study document. He said it went further in recognizing the legitimacy of both Judaism and Zionism than any previous Christian position paper.

Rabbi A. James Rudin, AJC director of interreligious affairs who has had a long relationship with the Presbyterian Church, called the document "potentially historically important," but said its final impact on Christian-Jewish relations could be judged only by its application.

He said that the Presbyterians "realized that it was finally time to come to terms with Jews and Judaism in a series of systematic ways and not piecemeal. This statement is the result of this work." The Presbyterian Church, said Rudin, is "weary of the legacy of anti-Semitism. They want their theology to reflect what they really believe."

Fundamental to the problem was the approach to conversion of Jews, which has been inherent in Christian theology. Rudin said the new statement means that "Christians have not replaced Jews. They affirm as Christians that there is theological space for Judaism. The Presbyterian Church must always acknowledge that Jews are in a covenantal relationship with God."

### Good And Bad

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of international relations for the American Jewish Committee, saw both positive and negative aspects in the agreement, and disagreed with Wyschogrod on its importance. He said documents of the National Council of Churches, the Catholic Church and others were at least as progressive as this document.

He added that the Presbyterians were the first Protestant church to engage in dialogue with Jews more than 25 years ago, but said the influx of conservative and Arab Christians has changed that.

Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, was disappointed with the document's Israeli position. In a statement, Reich declared that "We deeply regret the apparent surrender to Arab pressure by leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in vitiating what might have been a historical document on Jewish-Christian relations."

The Presbyterian Church has a 150-year history of involvement in the Arab Middle East that includes schools, hospitals and orphanages. Since the Yom Kippur War of 1973, said Rudin, Presbyterian Arabs have reached increasingly sophisticated levels of lobbying and involvement in Church matters. "I hope this will open relations between the American Presbyterian Church and Israeli Jews," said Rudin.

## ETHICS OF AIDS TESTING, GENETIC ENGINEERING PROBED AT CONFERENCE

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, June 17 (JTA) -- A man complains to his physician of poor health and requests an AIDS test. The test is positive and the doctor advises the man to bring in his wife for a test, too. The man warns the physician to stay away from the wife.

Does the physician have the obligation to respect the confidentiality and privacy of his patient or protect the life of the man's wife and any unborn children?

This was one of many ethical dilemmas pondered by health professionals attending the Second International Congress on Ethics in Medicine here last week, co-sponsored by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beth Israel Medical Center of New York and The Karolinska Institute of Sweden.

Participants presented papers on and debated the plethora of ethical, legal, social and economic dilemmas which the modern age has presented to health professionals.

They included Dr. Lechaim Naggan of Ben-Gurion University, who spoke at the Third International Conference on AIDS in Washington earlier this month. He captivated the conference with a discussion on the ethics of mandatory testing for the AIDS virus.

### Acceptance Of Genetic Manipulation

In a session Thursday on the religious implications of genetic engineering, Rabbi Charles Knoll of New York and Sister Corrine Bayley of California presented Jewish and Catholic positions on genetic manipulation of plants, animals and people.

Knoll, Bayley and a discussion group of about 20 participants reached a tentative consensus that genetic manipulation would be religiously acceptable by both faiths for the purpose of curing disease.

But genetic experimentation for other purposes, especially in humans, raises moral and spiritual dilemmas that religious groups have yet to resolve.

Rabbi David Feldman of Teaneck, N.J., said under Jewish law there is a "mandate to heal which is unconditional." He said the debates over genetic manipulation for healing are reminiscent of the debates in earlier days over medicine. "It is a traditional problem," Feldman said. "Can you intervene in nature ... If God wants you sick, should man intervene?"

The answer, according to Jewish tradition, is unequivocally yes, he said. But in other faiths, such as Christian Science, the use of medicine is prohibited for precisely this reason, Feldman said.

Bayley said that in the Catholic tradition, human life and human dignity are sacred. Each case should be evaluated on its merits under these principles, she said.

Much like the technology to produce nuclear power for peaceful purposes has been used to create nuclear weapons, it would be difficult at best to control the knowledge used to genetically cure disease and prevent experiments to produce a perfect child or something more sinister, participants noted.

Knoll, who is also a physician, raised the multi-faceted problem of keeping track of the identity of the parents in genetic engineering of humans and in surrogate mothering.

The spread of the deadly AIDS virus throughout the world has generated a different set of ethical dilemmas apparently as complex and troubling as those surrounding genetic engineering.

Naggan, a professor of epidemiology, said the issue pits the civil and human rights of the high-risk groups (homosexuals, intravenous drug users and their sexual partners) against the obligation to protect the healthy public.

Preventing the spread of the disease means first identifying the infected people and then curbing their activity that passes on the disease—sexual contact, sharing needles or blood donations.

But Naggan said mandatory testing is difficult to institute. The stigma and widespread discrimination against AIDS victims and the high-risk groups is a disincentive to voluntary testing, he noted. A person in the high-risk groups faces discrimination in schools, jobs and a host of personal problems if he voluntarily takes the test and the results are positive.

On the other hand, a member of the high-risk group gains nothing by submitting voluntarily to an AIDS test because there is no known cure, even with early detection, Naggan said.

### Urges Some Mandatory Tests

Mandatory screening for all is the most democratic method, Naggan said, and it reduces the stigma of the high-risk groups, but the cost is prohibitive. Mandatory screening for the high-risk groups makes more sense economically, Naggan said, followed up by contact with the sexual partners of those who test positive.

"Privacy issues should not interfere in trying to prevent the spread of the disease to the healthy population," Naggan said.

The current methods of piecemeal testing of blood donors, military conscripts and federal prisoners are seriously deficient, Naggan said. "The price for not screening is much greater than the risk of personal discrimination," he said.

Naggan warned that if governments do not adopt the needed legislation immediately, extremist views ruled by paranoia and the advocacy of "concentration camps" for AIDS victims may prevail in politics and threaten human rights and democratic values.

### Scope Of Problem Unknown

The scope of the problem in the U.S. is impossible for health workers to gauge, he said, as there is no program of organized testing. AIDS statistics are based largely on unreliable estimates and samples of small and probably unrepresentative segments of society such as blood donors, he added. Compounding the problem, he contended, is the government's inaction on AIDS legislation, due to the public's fear, panic and irrationality surrounding AIDS.

### FRANKFURT TO RESTORE OLD MIKVEH

BONN, June 17 (JTA) -- A 500-year old mikveh (Jewish ritual bath) unearthed in urban renewal diggings in Frankfurt's Boernerplatz, will be restored as an historic monument even though it will delay construction of a public service center on the site for about a year.

The municipality had planned to dismantle the bath and move it to the local Jewish museum. But the Jewish community and its chairman, Ignaz Bubis, intervened with the mayor and city council.