

# **WALDHEIM TO GET PAPAL RED CARPET; JEWISH COALITION SET TO PROTEST**

ROME, June 23 (JTA) -- Austrian President Kurt Waldheim will be extended all honors laid down by diplomatic protocol for a visiting head of state when he arrives at the Vatican Thursday morning for an audience with Pope John Paul II.

This includes a reception for the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See at which the United States will be represented, though not at the highest level. Frank Lattanzi, First Secretary of the U.S. Embassy at the Vatican, confirmed Tuesday that he would represent the U.S. instead of Ambassador Frank Shakespeare, who will be out of the country Wednesday and Thursday.

The U.S. Department of Justice has placed Waldheim on its "watch list" of undesirable foreigners barred from admission to the U.S. because of his alleged complicity in Nazi atrocities during World War II. He has been avoided by top-ranking American officials, including Secretary of State George Shultz, since his election in July 1986.

The Pope's decision to receive him in audience has been denounced by Jewish leaders and others all over the world. His visit to the Vatican will be his first trip abroad since taking office. Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican Secretary of State, announced that the visit will last two hours including a 30-minute audience with the Pope.

Waldheim, accompanied by Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, will arrive at St. Peter's Square at 11 a.m. local time. The Vatican band will play the Austrian and Vatican anthems and the Swiss Guard, in full dress, will present arms.

Following the audience, Waldheim and Mock will confer with Casaroli for an hour and then attend the diplomatic reception.

## **Demonstrations Announced**

American Jewish activists plan to demonstrate on Waldheim's arrival. Rabbi Avi Weiss of New York said his group of four members of the "Coalition of Concern" will "demonstrate wherever Waldheim will go and wherever we will be able to follow him" inside or outside the Vatican precincts. They will wear the uniforms of concentration camp inmates.

The Arab League representative in Rome Mhanna Durra, condemned the Jewish protests as "a gross confusion between religion and politics with racist undertones." The Palestine Liberation Organization representative, Nemmer Hammad, complained that the Pope's decision to meet Waldheim "gave another occasion to Zionist racist circles to attack the Palestinian people, the PLO and its chairman, Yasir Arafat."

Pope John Paul II met with Arafat in Rome in 1982.

Meanwhile, Hans Rudolf Kurz, a professor of military history at the University of Bern, confirmed Monday that he has agreed to head a special commission that will investigate Waldheim's wartime activities. He said he would select commission members from Belgium, Britain, Greece, West Germany, Israel, Yugoslavia and the U.S.

Jewish leaders in the U.S. continued to protest the Pope's meeting with Waldheim. Burton Levinson, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, sent a cable to the Pontiff Monday urging him to use his audience with Waldheim "to speak to the world about the responsibility of all people, and especially those in high office, to confront evil in whatever form it may appear."

Levinson pointed out that "the Jewish world is deeply troubled" by his decision to receive Waldheim.

"We have studied carefully the reasons given by the Holy See for the visit, none of which suggest that any of the fundamental issues and concerns expressed by Jews -- and Christians -- will be addressed. And so we remain distressed," the cable said.

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said Monday that Vatican policy did not require the Pope to grant Waldheim an audience and that contradictory explanations were given as to why it was granted.

"We are now told by the Vatican that the audience was granted only after repeated and insistent requests by Waldheim. This contradicts the earlier assertion by Vatican spokesmen that such requests are always honored and therefore Pope John Paul II had no choice in the matter," Siegman said.

"It now turns out that the Vatican can and does exercise its own judgement about the appropriateness of such audiences," Siegman said.

He claimed Waldheim's persistence in seeking an audience was an attempt "to sanitize his Nazi past."

In Montreal, the Canadian Jewish Congress expressed dismay that the Pope will see Waldheim "when most world leaders have seen fit to place him in virtual diplomatic isolation." CJC president Dorothy Reitman said, "We find it beyond understanding that his first official visit will be to the Vatican."

## **REFORM, CONSERVATIVE LEADERS IRKED OVER SHAMIR'S APPARENT COMMITMENT TO AMEND LAW ON CONVERSIONS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- Leaders of the American and Israeli Reform and Conservative movements in Judaism expressed disappointment and anger Tuesday over Premier Yitzhak Shamir's apparent determination to push a measure through the Knesset that would give the Orthodox rabbinate in Israel sole authority to determine Jewish identity.

"The Premier did not have a sympathetic ear," Frank Kreutzner, president of the United Synagogue of America, the congregational branch of the 1.5-million member Conservative movement in the U.S., told a press conference here after he and five other leaders met with Shamir.

He said Shamir appeared to be siding with the Orthodox view and had implied it was the non-Orthodox who were expressing extremist views.

Openly courting the religious parties to support Likud efforts to block the Labor Party

from calling early Knesset elections on the issue of an international conference for Middle East peace, Shamir pledged last month to achieve passage by the Knesset of an amendment to the Religious Conversion Law of 1927. He set a 60-day deadline.

The change would give the Chief Rabbinical Council final authority to approve conversions.

Its effects would be identical with the controversial oft-proposed amendment to the Law of Return that would invalidate conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis abroad.

That amendment has been defeated by every Knesset to date.

#### Warn Of Jewish Breach

The Reform and Conservative leaders said they warned Shamir that if his measure is passed it would cause a "damaging breach in the relations with Diaspora Jewry" and have adverse effects on political support and fund-raising efforts for Israel among Diaspora Jews.

They added that the measure posed the danger of "Vaticanization" of the Jewish religion. Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), the Reform congregational movement in the U.S., told the press conference: "I believe the Premier understands the consequences if the bill is passed. He would rather that the problem go away, and that the three trends in Judaism would get together and clear away their differences."

A spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Shamir distinguished between the immediate question of the Conversion Law and the controversy over the "Who is a Jew" amendment. Although Shamir is known to personally support the Orthodox view, he told his visitors that a special ministerial committee is studying the issue and that he wants a solution acceptable to all three trends in Judaism.

In addition to Kreutzner and Schindler, the delegation consisted of Rabbi Richard Hirsch, executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism; Rabbi Pinhas Spector, executive director of Masorti, the Conservative movement in Israel; Meir Azari, executive director of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism; and Prof. Hillel Shoval, chairman of Hemdat, the Public Council for Freedom of Science, Religion and Culture in Israel.

#### Political Maneuvers Seen

Meanwhile, the religious parties and Likud are reportedly trying to exploit the absence abroad of several Labor members of the Knesset to push the amendment through parliament as soon as possible.

In New York last week, Uzi Bar-am, Secretary General of the Labor Party, warned American Jewish leaders that Likud may well succeed. Speaking at a meeting of the conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Bar-am said Likud is actively pursuing the support of two Knesset members, Yigael Hurwitz of the Ometz Party and Zaidan Atashi of Shinui, offering them safe seats on the Likud list in the next elections.

With their backing, there may be sufficient votes to pass the amendment, he said. He called the Likud maneuvers an unprecedented threat and promised that the Labor Party would continue to fight back. But it urgently needs the support of American Jews. Unless they act aggressively and

vocally, the change in the law will become a fact, dividing Jews all over the world, Bar-am said.

#### **UJA LEADERS TELL SHAMIR THAT JEWISH STATUS DECISIONS COULD EFFECT FUNDING** **By David Landau**

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir was told by a delegation of United Jewish Appeal leaders from the U.S. Tuesday that the long-festering "Who is a Jew" issue could have profound effects on American Jewish solidarity with Israel, including fund-raising.

The delegation, headed by Martin Stein of Milwaukee, national chairman of UJA, stressed that the matter should be resolved by rabbis and the leaders of the various religious denominations within Judaism, not by politicians. (See story above for background.)

Stein told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the delegation pointed out to Shamir a potential link between fund-raising and commitment on the one hand and the "Who is a Jew" issue on the other. "This goes right to the kishke," he said.

He said the issue brought into question the legitimacy of the Judaism not only of a small number of converts who may contemplate aliya, but of millions of American Jews, their leaders and rabbis.

#### **JEWISH GROUPS WELCOME COURT RULING AGAINST TEACHING OF CREATIONISM** **By Margie Olster**

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- Jewish organizations hailed the Supreme Court decision last week that prohibited the teaching of creationism in public schools, ending a 10-year dispute.

The 7-2 decision overturned a Louisiana state statute which gave equal classroom time and equal space in textbooks to the teaching of evolution and creationist theories. The court ruled that creationist teaching in public schools was unconstitutional because it was construed as teaching for religious purposes.

Arkansas had a similar statute which was struck down, and at least 12 other states have at one time defeated bills to allow creationist teaching in public schools.

"The ruling sends a clear signal to public school officials that they have an obligation to maintain the secular nature of the school system -- they can't make their own religious agenda," said Marc Stern, American Jewish Congress director of legal affairs.

AJCongress, the American Jewish Committee and Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith all filed amicus curiae (friend-of-the-court) briefs urging the Supreme Court to ban teaching of creationism in public schools.

ADL national chairman Burton Levinson called the ruling "a tremendous victory for separation of church and state." The decision reaffirms the First Amendment prohibition on religious instruction in public schools, Levinson said.

The losers in the Supreme Court decision, said Stern, are primarily segments of the Evangelical Christian movement who have founded creationist think-tanks in several states. Stern noted that the all Evangelicals do not support creationist teaching in schools.

But some Evangelicals clearly perceived the teaching of evolution in classrooms to be hostile

to their view of the literal truth of the Bible, Stern said.

The ruling on creationism is one of several in recent years to reaffirm the separation of church and state. In 1982-83, the courts also banned prayer in public schools.

## NATIONWIDE CELEBRATIONS SET IN U.S., ISRAEL FOR ISRAEL'S 40TH YEAR

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 23 (JTA) -- The 40th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel will be marked by a year-long celebration in Israel and the United States starting in September.

"The birthday celebration of Israel will be the biggest, largest birthday party ever," Asher Naim, Minister for Information at the Israel Embassy here, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Naim spoke excitedly about the plans which he is coordinating to include every Jewish federation, organization, synagogue and Jewish school, as well as the non-Jewish community.

The American Jewish community is eager to participate, according to Naim. "The response everywhere has been, 'Oh yes, let's do the best,'" he added. "I'm so happy."

Howard Squadron, former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, is head of the U.S. National Committee for the 40th Anniversary, which is under the auspices of the Presidents Conference, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and the Council of Jewish Federations.

### 'A Generation'

The 40th anniversary will be a major "milestone" in Israel's history since "40 years in Jewish tradition is a generation," Naim noted. He pointed to the wandering of the Jewish people for 40 years in the Sinai before they could go to the Land of Israel. For this reason, the celebration is particularly aimed at those 40 and under, who were born and brought up after the establishment of the Jewish state, Naim said.

The year-long celebration of the anniversary will stress that "Israel is not like any other country, it has a message, a purpose," Naim said. "Israel is today, more than the Jewish religion, the unifying factor for the Jewish people."

"No matter if we sometimes falter, if we make mistakes," Israel still seeks to achieve the principles set forth in its Declaration of Independence, Naim said.

In Israel, the anniversary will be marked by a "recommitment" to the Declaration of Independence. All Israelis will be asked to sign the Declaration, so that particularly the 40 and under generation there will feel part of the principles enunciated by their parents, Naim stressed.

### Tourists A Goal

Another major goal is to bring the largest number of American tourists ever to Israel. Naim said most American Jews have not visited Israel, and this is particularly true of those 40 and under.

Israel wants to stress three major themes during the anniversary celebration in the U.S., Naim said.

"The first and foremost is the increasing connection between 'Am Yisrael' and 'Eretz Yisrael,' between the Jewish people and the Land," he said. "The Land could only have been

redeemed when the Jews came to the Land. The Jews could be redeemed only by the State of Israel."

Secondly, "we want to show what Israel has achieved in the last 40 years," Naim said. "We believe we have achieved miracles," the ingathering of Jews from throughout the world, the revival of Hebrew, the creation of a State, a free society, democratic institutions and a high technology economy.

Finally, the celebration wants to stress the "amity between Israel and the United States based primarily on common values, Judeo-Christian moral principles, respect for the individual as the center of our society and democratic institutions," as well as shared "strategic mutual interests."

To express these themes there will be programs in every community. A major event will be a two-hour program on national television featuring Israeli and American entertainers performing at the Sultan's Pool in Jerusalem next April 23. There will also be a television documentary on Israel to be shown next spring.

### Programs Readied

An Israeli group will tour major cities presenting material that expresses Israel's culture. There will be seminars on various aspects of Israeli and American culture in many cities. A major program is planned for the Kennedy Center in Washington at which it is hoped the President and other government officials will participate.

Essay contests on why the participants want to visit Israel will be held in every state with the winners going to Israel.

Each federation, Jewish organization, synagogue, Jewish center, Jewish school will be offered a "menu" of programs to sponsor, Naim said. "We are not dictating anything," he stressed, but the Israel Embassy and consulates are ready to help.

Naim emphasized that the celebration is not limited to the Jewish community, but it is hoped that all Americans will participate. Churches and other non-Jewish groups are also expected to schedule anniversary celebration programs, including a large ecumenical conference in Jerusalem.

### BARBIE VERDICT EXPECTED JULY 3

By Edwin Eytan

LYON, June 23 (JTA) -- The verdict in the trial of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie is expected on July 3, a week from this Friday, and legal experts here believe the jury will take no more than two hours to reach a decision.

The trial of the former Gestapo chief, known as "the Butcher of Lyon," which began on May 11, is winding up. Lawyers representing 129 surviving Nazi victims and organizations of former deportees and resistance fighters will conclude their summations by week's end. Prosecutor Pierre Truche will address the court next Monday, followed by Barbie's lawyer, Jacques Verges.

### NAKASH EXTRADITION APPROVED

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- Justice Minister Avraham Sharir has reversed an earlier decision and signed an extradition order against William Nakash, a French Jew convicted in absentia by a French court for the 1983 murder of an Arab in Besancon, France. The Supreme Court had given Sharir until July 7 to show cause why a French extradition request should be rejected.

## CRB FOUNDATION CREATES FUND FOR JEWISH INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- A fund designed to fill a perceived gap in investigative reporting in the North American Jewish press has been announced here by The CRB Foundation of Montreal.

The Fund for Journalism on Jewish Affairs will enable established journalists and writers of promise to work on worthy projects of concern to the writer and of importance to the Jewish community, according to the foundation.

The CRB Foundation was established earlier this year by Charles R. Bronfman, a leading Canadian businessman and philanthropist. One of its goals is to strengthen the ties among the Jewish communities in North America, Israel and around the world.

In announcing the initial grant of up to \$100,000 for the first year of the Fund's operation, Stephen Cohen, president of the CRB Foundation, noted that "this represents a significant commitment to the upgrading of Jewish affairs coverage and, more generally, the goal of a high quality, independent and serious Jewish press."

Leon Wieseltier, literary editor of The New Republic, and Gary Rosenblatt, editor of the Baltimore Jewish Times and Detroit Jewish News, will co-chair the independent advisory board that will review proposals and award grants. In addition, the advisory board may assign investigative, feature, or breaking news stories to individuals from a list of journalists compiled by the board.

### Financial Constraints Cited

Rosenblatt said that "unfortunately, financial constraints have too often prevented the North American Jewish press from fulfilling its maximum potential." He expressed confidence that this new fund will have "a profound and positive impact, not only on Jewish journalism but on Jewish life."

Wieseltier noted that "American Jewish life is much more interesting, and much more complicated, than most American Jews know." He said the objective of the fund is "to broaden the range, intensify the critical edge and heighten the literary quality of American Jewish journalism."

Articles will be offered for publication to some 90 member publications of the American Jewish Press Association in the U.S. and Canada, and will also be published in Israel by the daily newspaper Ma'ariv.

The fund's advisory board will comprise: Eric Breindel, editorial director of the New York Post; Robert Cohn, editor of the St. Louis Jewish Light and president of the American Jewish Press Association; Leslie Gelb, deputy editorial page editor of the New York Times; and Marvin Kalb, director of the Press and Politics Center at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Also: Sam Norich, director of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; William Novak, writer; Leni Reiss, managing editor of the Greater Phoenix Jewish News; Abraham Rotstein, University of Toronto; and Susan Schnur, a writer and professor of religion at Colgate University.

Journalists and other writers will be invited to submit proposals on a topic of their choosing, from hard news stories to essays. The application should include an outline for the proposal, a budget for research expenses, and some indication from a publisher or editor of interest in publishing the finished article.

Proposals are now being accepted. For further information, contact Linda Rivkind, administrator of the fund, Box 65069, Baltimore, MD 21209; (301) 484-6002.

## AJCONGRESS URGES BALANCED APPROACH TO TAKING MENORAHS OFF PUBLIC LAND

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- American Jews who seek the removal of menorahs from display on public land must strike a careful balance between litigation and the discomfort of airing intra-Jewish conflict, an American Jewish Congress report recommends.

The report, "The Year of the Menorah" by staff attorney Marc Stern, said the issue has been intensified by the growing campaign of the Lubavitch movement to place the menorahs on government land across the country. Lubavitch claims dozens of successes.

Stern wrote that the growing legal challenges to the campaign by AJCongress and others, as well as a series of behind-the-scenes discussions and correspondence with Lubavitch, can be supplemented by the visible placement by the Jewish community of menorahs on private land.

### Jewish Minds Seem Changed

The American Jewish community overwhelmingly continues to support the principle of church-state separation, the AJCongress study notes. But it points out that in light of the Supreme Court's 1984 opinion in the case of Lynch v. Donnelly, permitting displays of municipal creches, or nativity scenes, a small but growing number of Jews are reconciling themselves to religious symbols on public land, provided the policy applies to Jewish as well as Christian symbols.

The Lynch ruling, which allowed the erection of a creche on public property if it is part of a larger holiday season display, has provided momentum for the Lubavitch group's effort to erect Chanukah menorahs on government land, a campaign that spread from a few large cities to many, if not most, cities in which the Lubavitch movement has offices, including Seattle; Phoenix; Santa Ana, Calif.; St. Louis; Providence, R.I.; Grand Rapids and Lansing, Mich.; Cleveland; Austin, Texas; Houston; Pittsburgh; Springfield, Mass.; Kansas City; Madison, Wis.; and Milwaukee.

The Lubavitch project, however, has since received the tacit, if not active, support of some other Jews who see the public display of menorahs to counterbalance the impact of Christmas displays on Jewish children.

Before the explicit sanction of the high court for religious displays on public property in Lynch, opposition to such displays was a dominant and virtually unquestioned principle throughout the Jewish community, the report says, making it "unthinkable" to erect menorahs on public property. It was principally the Lubavitch movement that refused to accept this "consensus."

But the report also noted that Jewish organizations have never challenged the placement of Christmas trees, wreaths and lights on public property because such symbols often have non-religious origins and associations.

Significantly, many local Jewish community relations organizations and leaders, while opposed to the public placement of menorahs because it weakens the case for church-state separation, nevertheless have refrained from taking legal action against menorah displays.