

JEWISH LEADERS PRAISE ARCHBISHOP'S CONCERN OVER ANTI-JEWISH BACKLASH AFTER CRITICISM OF VATICAN MEETING

NEW YORK, June 29 (JTA) -- Repercussions over worldwide Jewish protests against Pope John Paul II's meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim at the Vatican Thursday spread to the United States over the weekend.

John Cardinal O'Connor, the Archbishop of New York, said he feared an anti-Jewish backlash by Catholics angered by criticism of the Pope for receiving Waldheim, a man accused of complicity in Nazi atrocities when he was an intelligence officer in the German army in the Balkans during World War II.

At a mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral here Sunday morning and later in an appearance on the WNBC-TV "News Forum" program, O'Connor warned that Catholic recriminations against Jews could be "disastrous" for relations between the two faiths.

"I remind all Catholics of the sin of anti-Semitism. Let no Catholics believe they are honoring our Holy Father or defending our faith if they engage in verbal attacks on our Jewish brothers and sisters," the Cardinal told communicants at St. Patrick's. He had copies of his mass distributed to the media.

Proposes Joint Prayer

O'Connor, who has emerged as the principal spokesman for the Vatican in the U.S. since the conflict over the papal audience with Waldheim began two weeks ago, offered a suggestion to heal the Catholic-Jewish breach.

He proposed, in a three-page message read from his pulpit, that "Perhaps it would be appropriate for a group of Jews and Catholics to meet soon here at St. Patrick's Cathedral or in a synagogue simply to pray quietly together...for increased mutual understanding and a peaceful resolution of a regrettable difference."

He drew a positive response from Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, international affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, long active in efforts to improve Jewish-Catholic relations. One of the most vocal critics of the Pope's decision to receive Waldheim, Tanenbaum said he favored a joint prayer service "that respects both of our traditions."

However, Tanenbaum added, it "cannot be a substitute for dealing with the fundamental issues that have been raised by the morally incredible visit between Mr. Waldheim and the Pope."

Jewish Leaders Offer Praise

Several Jewish leaders complimented Cardinal O'Connor for his sensitivity toward the future of Catholic-Jewish relations. Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the international affairs section of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York and a national Jewish figure, said the dispute, "may be a setback, but not a cause for a schism" between Catholics and Jews.

Rabbi Mordechai Waxman, director of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, said "It would be a sad reflection on what have been great advances in Catholic-

Jewish relations if Jewish concern and Jewish statements about their feelings should result in a backlash of anti-Semitism. I applaud Cardinal O'Connor's desire to reject this backlash."

O'Connor said that some Catholics had been calling the Archdiocese to express anger at Jewish criticism of the Pope and to complain that he has not been sufficiently forceful in defending the Pontiff.

Defends Pope's Record

O'Connor has pointed out that the Pope repeatedly denounces Nazi war crimes and warns against the sin of anti-Semitism. O'Connor also defended the Vatican's actions during the Nazi era, saying it was responsible for saving 850,000 Jews. He said he would gladly sponsor a forum to examine that record.

In that connection, O'Connor attacked as "inflammatory" an open letter to the Pope by the American Jewish Congress -- which appeared in a full-page advertisement in the New York Times Friday -- suggesting that Waldheim's "forgetfulness" of his Nazi past "may echo, however distant...the Church's forgetfulness as well."

In another development, Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, cabled Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock last week to express distress over his reference to "the hatred emerging from protests of Jewish organizations."

Mock, who accompanied Waldheim to the Vatican, was asked by the ADL whether his comment was "an effort to blame the victims" of the Holocaust. "Hatred came from the Nazis. Hatred comes from those who refuse to denounce the Nazis and those who helped them," Foxman's cable said.

HIGH COURT DENIES KAHANE'S APPEAL OF LOSS OF KNESSET PRIVILEGES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court Monday rejected Rabbi Meir Kahane's appeal against Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel, who stripped Kahane of most of his parliamentary privileges two weeks ago for refusing to take the standard oath of allegiance to the State of Israel required of all Knesset members.

The ruling was seen as a severe blow to Kahane, leader of the Kach Party and its only Knesset member. Although still an MK, he has lost his parliamentary immunity. He also is barred by the Speaker from the plenary chamber and cannot participate in debate or vote.

Kahane told a press conference after the Supreme Court ruling that he would take the oath of allegiance and then attack the Knesset from the podium. Hillel declared, "I will not let this Knesset behave disrespectfully to the Knesset."

Kahane met with Hillel later. He told reporters afterwards that he agreed to take the oath in Arabic. Hillel demanded it be taken in Hebrew. Kahane's refusal to take the oath appears to have less to do with his religious convictions -- he substituted a psalm for the standard text two weeks ago -- than with difficulties over his U.S. citizenship.

He was asked to take the oath, usually administered when a new Knesset convenes, because he had testified at a citizenship hearing in an American court that he had never pledged allegiance to a foreign state.

Voice of Israel Radio reported Monday that Kahane cabled the U.S. Justice Department after the Supreme Court ruling that he was being forced to swear allegiance to Israel but did not want this interpreted as a waiver of his American citizenship.

B'NAI B'RITH PROTESTS AS RUMANIA LOSES MFN STATUS

WASHINGTON, June 29 (JTA) -- Rumania's Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) status was suspended for six months Friday in protest of Rumania's record on human rights and emigration. The Senate vote was seen also as a rebuke of the Reagan Administration.

Jewish groups had argued strongly against the action and registered dismay at the Senate vote because of concern over Rumania's cooperation in permitting Jewish emigration. "The Senate action is a mistake," said Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, who arrived in Bucharest Friday for talks with Rumanian officials. He charged the move "eliminates an incentive for Rumania to improve human rights and may jeopardize the flow of immigrants to the U.S., Germany and Israel."

Most-Favored-Nation status allows normal duties on a nation's exports to the U.S. Although extended to most U.S. trading partners, MFN is given to only four Communist countries other than Rumania -- China, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Poland.

ADMINISTRATION SEEKS TO ALLOW EGYPT TO BUILD U.S. TANKS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 29 (JTA) --The Reagan Administration has taken the first "preliminary steps" toward allowing Egypt to manufacture an American tank, the M1A1 Abrams, a State Department spokesman confirmed Monday.

"We have decided, in principle, to assist Egypt in some form of co-production of the M1A1 tank," spokesman Charles Redman said. He said that General Dynamics Corp., producer of the tank, has been issued a license to discuss with Egyptian officials the manufacture of the tank at the "rebuilding" facility for tanks the company is constructing in Egypt's Nile Delta region.

Redman said that the proposal has not been discussed with Congress since it is only in the preliminary stage. However, there was a report in the Washington Post from Cairo Monday that Egyptian Defense Minister Abdul-Haim Abu Ghazala has already received approval for the project from Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Abu Ghazala, who reportedly has been pressing for the project as a matter of national priority, has been quoted in the Egyptian press as saying that Egypt will produce 1,000-1,500 tanks.

Supporters of Israel are expected to be watching the proposal closely, but have not yet taken any position on it. Opposition may come from those in Congress who fear the transfer of advanced military technology abroad. The M1A1 contains the latest and most sophisticated tank

technology, although it has been criticized as extremely expensive to maintain, according to sources.

"Sensitive technology will be protected and will not be manufactured in Egypt," Redman stressed.

Another source of opposition may come from those who want to protect jobs for American workers. General Dynamics now produces the tanks in Detroit and Lima, Ohio, which are in the so-called "rust belt," an area that is hard-hit by unemployment.

PROSECUTOR ASKS LIFE SENTENCE FOR BARBIE; VERDICT EXPECTED LATE FRIDAY

By Edwin Eytan

LYON, June 29 (JTA) -- State prosecutor Pierre Truche asked the Lyon criminal court Monday to sentence Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie to life imprisonment, the maximum penalty allowed by French law, if he is convicted, as expected, on charges of crimes against humanity.

Truche addressed the court at the start of the eighth and final week of Barbie's trial. Presiding Judge Andre Cerdini opened the session by announcing his rejection of an appeal by Barbie's attorney, Jacques Verges, that Barbie must be set free regardless of the verdict because of a provision of the law that the harshest sentence must be applied to a defendant sentenced more than once.

Barbie was sentenced to death in absentia in 1952 and 1954. Both sentences are covered by the 20-year statute of limitations. France, moreover, abolished the death penalty in 1981, and Verges argued that Barbie cannot be given the lesser sentence of life imprisonment and therefore has technically paid his debt to society.

Cerdini ruled however that a valid sentence cannot be superseded by one that is now invalid.

Sources close to Verges said he would carry his appeal to the Supreme Court.

In demanding the maximum allowable penalty, Truche described the 73-year-old Barbie as a "man who showed no pity while he was this city's Gestapo chief and no remorse during his trial."

"Inhumanity is not acceptable -- it must be repressed by the international community with all the severity prescribed by law," the prosecutor said.

He reviewed the testimony of survivors of Barbie's brutality, stressing that they described "the inferno of torture and deportation" and linked Barbie personally to those crimes.

Accusal Of Cruelty

The former Gestapo chief, known as "the Butcher of Lyon," is accused of direct involvement in the arrest and deportation of 44 Jewish children to death camps where all perished, and the deportation, torture and murder of 800 others, mostly Jews and resistance fighters.

Truche depicted Barbie as a dedicated Nazi from his youth, who joined the Nazi Party in 1933, the year Hitler came to power, and adhered to its ideology of Aryan racial superiority and the elimination of non-Aryans.

The trial, which began on May 11, will end this week after Verges and his three associates will sum up for the defense. The jury will retire Friday and is expected to reach a verdict by Friday night.

MIXED JEWISH REACTION TO RULING ON RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE IN HIRING

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, June 29 (JTA) -- American Jewish organizations voiced mixed reactions to a unanimous Supreme Court decision last week that non-profit religious institutions are not required to comply with the same anti-discrimination regulations as commercial employers.

The ruling came in response to a suit filed by Frank Mayson against the Mormon Church. The church fired Mayson, a building engineer in a Mormon community center, because the church did not regard him as sufficiently observant. The ruling asserted the right of religious institutions to favor adherents of their own faith for employment.

The court ruled that because a key purpose of the community center is to transmit church values, the center could be considered a religious institution exempted from anti-discrimination provisions of the Civil Rights Act. The decision upheld the constitutionality of a 1964 provision of the Civil Rights Act, which exempted sectarian institutions from the anti-discrimination requirements.

The American Jewish Congress filed an amicus (friend-of-the-court) brief in the case supporting the Mormon Church's position. AJCongress president Theodore Mann praised the ruling.

"Today's unanimous Supreme Court ruling ... affords religious institutions the breathing room necessary for them to function," Mann said. "One need not approve of any particular instance of discrimination to recognize that churches, synagogues and other religious institutions cannot be held to the same proscription on religious discrimination in employment as commercial or other for-profit employers."

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), which filed an amicus opposing the church's position, denounced the ruling as "unfortunate." The ADL took the position that the exemption to the federal legislation is unconstitutional.

Michael Schultz, chairman of the ADL National Civil Rights Committee, said, "Barring a person who is not a devout Mormon from employment in a 'health and fitness club' owned and operated by the Mormon Church -- which charges the general public for admission and offers the facilities of a swimming pool, steamrooms, beauty shops and massage salons -- is not consonant with the ideals of a pluralistic society."

Schultz warned that religious institutions may use the decision as a "green light" for religious discrimination.

"While a church may certainly require that employees involved in its religious mission be fellow adherents, under the Court's rationale, any sectarian 'non-profit' hospital, nursing home, motel, or even fast-food franchise may absolutely bar non-adherents or non-believers from employment," Schultz said.

The American Jewish Committee did not take a stand before the ruling because, according to a Committee legal expert, the leadership was divided on the issue.

Richard Foltin, AJCommittee associate legal director, said, "We're always pleased when the court gives weight to free exercise (of religious) concerns." The decision followed a second landmark Supreme Court ruling on religious affairs

last week which held that public schools could not teach scientific creationism, the religious theory of creation. The Mayson case demonstrates that the Constitution is not hostile to religious liberty but protects freedom of religion by separating religious practice from government.

SCHOLARS EXAMINE THE LITTLE-KNOWN PORTUGUESE INQUISITION OF THE JEWS

(First Of Three Parts)

By Rochelle G. Saidel

SAO PAULO, June 29 (JTA) -- Scholars from 15 countries were among the more than 700 participants in the First International Congress on the Inquisition held at the University of Sao Paulo here May 20-23. Sponsored by the university and the Portuguese and Brazilian Societies for Eighteenth Century Studies, the academic conference marked the 450th anniversary of the establishment in Portugal of the Tribunal of the Holy Office of the Inquisition. Sao Paulo was the site for the second half of this congress, which first met in Lisbon in February, coordinated there by Prof. Maria Helena Carvalho dos Santos.

History Prof. Anita Novinsky, Sao Paulo conference coordinator, said the sessions "filled a void in which even the history books are silent. Never after this will the history of Portugal or Brazil be written without a chapter on the Inquisition."

"This powerful institution during more than three centuries interfered in all aspects of life. The Inquisition looked for heretics in the kingdoms and the colonies, and persecuted, tortured, and punished men and women of all social classes and ages who believed, thought or acted differently from the moral and religious patterns imposed by the Church. Through this congress, we tried to show that all totalitarianism can only lead to the deterioration and degradation of human society."

Phenomenon Of 'Modern State'

Prof. Francisco Marques-Villanueva of Harvard University described the Inquisition as a modern phenomenon. While the 13th century Medieval Inquisition was clerical, the Spanish and Portuguese inquisitions were connected with the coming of the modern state, he said. "Almost no one knows inquisitors were appointed directly by the crown," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "Rome had only nominal control. In simple terms, we can say the Inquisition acted as political police, often functioning as a politicized tribunal. The Medieval Inquisition was controlled by the bishops' authority, but the Inquisition under the Catholic kings was a state apparatus."

Marques-Villanueva explained that the Catholic kings were preoccupied with the questions of religious dissidents, almost exclusively with converted Jews. "I think there was a profound consciousness on the part of the kings regarding converted Jews," he said. "It was convenient for the kings to have a police instrument to control this new class, through an institution that practically reduced them to hostages."

In Spain from 1391 until 1492, Jews were converted to Catholicism by means of duress, conviction, or to avoid expulsion. In 1492, all Jews were expelled from Spain and only converts remained. By contrast, in 1497 the entire Jewish community of Portugal was forced to convert. These new Christians were a distinct class, and were still considered by Catholic contemporaries

as Jews centuries after their ancestors had converted. The pejorative "Marrano," which was applied to new Christians secretly practicing Judaism, comes from the Spanish word for swine.

When Portugal was annexed to Spain in 1580, the influx of Portuguese New Christians led to heightening of the Inquisition in Spain. The term "Portuguese" became almost synonymous with "Jew." "The Catholic kings thought the New Christians were a social group with modern bourgeois tendencies, culturally and politically disturbing the medieval society," Marques-Villanueva said.

Regarding the cruelty of the Inquisition, Marques-Villanueva said he believes it was more mental than physical. "We have to remember that most graphic representations of Inquisition tortures are false, part of the black legend of the Inquisition," he said. "Worse than the physical aspect was the moral one -- manipulation to destroy the defendant psychologically."

"The fear of the Inquisition by risk groups such as converted Jews was terrible," Marques-Villanueva added. "Generations and generations lived with the greatest insecurity, fearing the fall of family fortune and social prestige. The best manipulation of the Inquisition was that of honor and dishonor."

Force Of Manipulation

Marques-Villanueva described the auto da fe, the public focal point of the Inquisition, as "a great moving force of collective manipulation -- a theatricalization that influenced the masses." The scenarios were carefully planned, he said. "It was theatrics and spectacle that polarized the life of a whole city. Everyone was present from the king to the most humble." Those accused of heresy, witchcraft or other "crimes" either confessed or were tortured and murdered.

"The number of victims is not firm and the number is not what is impressive," Marques-Villanueva said. "What is most impressive is the capacity to manipulate. It was one of the most perfect products of the Baroque era." Eighty percent of the victims of the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions were converted Jews, he said.

Marques-Villanueva, who lived through the "intellectually stifling" years of Franco's Spain, said the "inquisitorial spirit" of the Franco regime gave him special sensitivity to the era of the Inquisition. Novinsky, too, compared the climate of the Inquisition to modern events. "Neofascists are trying to rehabilitate the Inquisition phenomenon," she said. "And the memory of the pain is the only thing which can prevent new generations from being used by Nazi fascists."

Next: The Impact Historically of the Portuguese Inquisition

SPECIAL INTERVIEW:
BEGIN RESIGNED BECAUSE HE BROKE
UNDER PRESSURE, BIOGRAPHER CLAIMS
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 29 (JTA) -- Why did Menachem Begin decide suddenly, on September 14, 1983, to quit as Israel's Prime Minister and retreat into self-imposed exile in his Jerusalem apartment? Why does he still keep silent in the aftermath of the controversial Lebanon war, which shook and divided Israeli society as no other war did?

Amos Perlmutter, author of the just published "The Life and Times of Menachem Begin," (Doubleday \$21.95) contends that contrary to Begin's public image, he is "a weak man" who "breaks down under pressure."

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the 55-year-old Israeli-born professor of political science at American University in Washington said that Begin simply caved in under the pressures of Israeli involvement in Lebanon and the disaster of the massacres in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

"In addition to these pressures Begin is manic-depressive and has been going into periods of deep depression," Perlmutter asserted.

"Begin keeps silent because he believes that he was betrayed by his party (Herut) and his political friends," Perlmutter said. "The 11 Herut members of the Knesset voted against the Camp David accords."

In addition, Begin did not receive the support he needed from his party on the issue of the war in Lebanon. And most important, Begin believed that his friends would come out against Ariel Sharon (the Israeli Defense Minister who directed the Lebanon war). But none of them did. So Begin caved in. He is not a strong man. He is a stubborn man, but a man without stamina."

Wife's Death Wasn't Cause

Contrary to reports that Begin went into seclusion because of the death of his beloved wife Aliza in the fall of 1982, Perlmutter said: "I do not think that the death of his wife influenced in any way his decision to step down. In my opinion Begin lives now as a refugee in his own land. No, I don't think he will ever attempt to return to political life," Perlmutter said.

According to Perlmutter he met with Begin often, the last time in Begin's Jerusalem flat a month before he stepped down.

"At the beginning, Begin and his personal secretary of many years, Yehiel Kadishai, helped me in gathering materials for the book. Later, however, when they realized that I was writing the story of Begin's life the way I see and understand it, they turned cold to me."

Perlmutter claimed that in his book he brings to light for the first time the true nature of Begin's relationship with Zeev Jabotinsky, the leader of Revisionist Zionism.

"Begin never gained the recognition that he so longed for from his idol, Jabotinsky, incurring his wrath at the last Betar conference in 1938 in Warsaw, when, even while supporting his mentor, he straddled the ideological fence. Begin opted for military Zionism, the kind that was openly preached by the Sternists, who called for a war against the British Empire and who sought an alliance with Nazi Germany against Britain." Perlmutter said. "Begin never had, as he claims, personal relationships with Jabotinsky and he was not his disciple."

Asked how Begin is going to be remembered in history, Perlmutter said that no doubt it will be for the peace treaty with Egypt and the political revolt that shook Israel when Begin rose to power in 1977.

"But in many ways his most remarkable achievements may have been his political survival and that of the Herut Party that he created and the legacy and ideology of Jabotinsky and Betar which he kept alive," he said.