

KAHANE TAKES REQUIRED KNESSET OATH, RESTORING ALL HIS PRIVILEGES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 1 (JTA) -- Kach Party leader Meir Kahane obediently took the required oath of allegiance to the State of Israel Wednesday and regained the full rights and privileges of a Knesset member.

He had been stripped of most of those rights by Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel last month. Kahane had departed from the standard text and recited a psalm instead. An appeal by Kahane to reverse Hillel's action was rejected by the Supreme Court Sunday.

Immediately after the oath was administered by the Knesset Clerk, Mapam MK Elazar Granot said he would notify the American judicial authorities of Kahane's pledge of allegiance, which could lead to forfeiture of his U.S. citizenship.

Kahane, fighting efforts by the State Department to strip him of his citizenship, testified at a U.S. court hearing that he never swore allegiance to a foreign country. His subsequent substitution of a psalm for the oath signified his primary allegiance to God, he told the American authorities.

CANADIAN LAWMAKERS RECESS WITHOUT PASSING GOVERNMENT'S WAR CRIMES BILL

By Michael Solomon

OTTAWA, July 1 (JTA) -- Parliament adjourned for summer recess early Wednesday morning without adopting a government-sponsored amendment to the Criminal Code that would allow the trial in Canada of Nazi war criminals regardless of where their crimes were committed.

The measure, introduced by Justice Minister Roman Hnatyshyn with the support of a large majority in the House of Commons, was blocked by a night-long filibuster by two members of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Conservative Party Alex Jimby of Calgary, Alberta, and Andrew Witen of Toronto. Mulroney backed the amendment.

The vote taken after the first of three required readings fell short of the unanimous approval needed to amend the Criminal Code. It was prevented from reaching the floor for the second reading by the filibuster, which lasted until the recess deadline.

Official sources here said the measure suffered a setback, but could be re-introduced and adopted when Parliament reconvenes in September. Dorothy Reitman, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, one of the organizations that had lobbied hard for passage, said, "We remain confident that the government will continue its efforts to see this issue resolved. The current legislative process is one more stage in a long-standing quest for justice."

She said, "The CJC recognizes the Justice Minister's extraordinary efforts on the issue."

The proposed amendment to the Criminal Code was recommended by the Deschenes Commission, headed by Quebec Superior Court Judge Jules Deschenes, after an 18-month investigation of alleged war criminals living in Canada.

The Commission's report, submitted to the Mulroney government last December, positively identified 20 suspects and named 218 others for continuing investigation. Sources here said the postponement of the amendment will not impede the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other law enforcement and legal agencies from pursuing their investigations of war criminals. The 20 already identified remain under strict surveillance and cannot leave the country, the sources said.

RUMORS FLY OVER WHO WILL HEAD JEWISH AGENCY, ITS BOARD OF GOVERNORS; INCUMBENTS NONCOMMITTAL

NEW YORK, July 1 (JTA) -- Speculation is rife over whether Jerold Hoffberger of Baltimore will seek a second term as chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors and, if not, who might succeed him.

Hoffberger, 68, is now officially acting chairman. His term has expired, and the Board of Governors, which met in Jerusalem last month, did not raise the issue.

Elections are expected to be held when the Board convenes again next October. Hoffberger seems assured of a second four-year term if he wants it. He is credited by many with upgrading the professionalism of the Jewish Agency, which oversees the distribution of a half billion dollars raised yearly by Diaspora Jewish communities for Israel.

But he told the Baltimore Jewish Times when he assumed office in July 1983 that he thought one term was enough. "The governing board has recommended that the term of office should be four years and I think that should be cast in iron," the Jewish Times quoted him as saying.

The paper reported last month, however, that some believe Hoffberger has changed his mind and would prefer to stay on at least long enough to oversee the election of a new chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives.

The present chairman, Likud-Liberal Leon Dulzin, has said he will not seek re-election at the 31st World Zionist Congress in December. There were reports from Jerusalem that Dulzin has reconsidered. But he is in poor health and his political support within the WZO has faded, due in some measure to his connections with the Bank Leumi, which was rocked by scandal earlier this year.

Possible Contenders

According to the Jewish Times and reports from Jerusalem, possible contenders for Hoffberger's office, should he step down, include Henry Taub, retiring head of the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC); Raymond Epstein of Chicago; Morton Mandel of Cleveland; Shoshana Cardin of Baltimore, president of the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF); and Mendel Kaplan, formerly of South Africa. Taub is considered by some to be the front-runner.

The successor to the 74-year-old Dulzin is also a matter of speculation. It seemed certain last month that the Labor Party candidate would be Akiva Levinsky, presently the WZO-Jewish

Agency Treasurer, though he has been challenged by Uri Gordon, head of the Youth Aliya department. The Jewish Times reported that American Jewish leaders who have taken an increasingly active role in governing the Jewish Agency in recent years would prefer an "outsider" of international reputation for the WZO-Agency chairmanship.

They are said to favor either Simcha Dinitz, a Laborite who is a former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., or Binyamin Netanyahu, currently Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations. Netanyahu is affiliated with Likud.

Reports from Jerusalem said Netanyahu wants to be assured of his nomination before he announces his candidacy.

Other reports from Jerusalem said there seems to be no interest in any of these developments in the Israeli media or public.

SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION DIPS TO 790 IN JUNE

NEW YORK, July 1 (JTA) -- Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union dipped in June, with 790 people leaving the USSR, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) reported Wednesday.

"We had hoped that the June figure would follow the pattern of monthly increases in emigration visas granted during the first five months of 1987. But it appears that emigration has once again dropped," the NCSJ said.

A report from Tel Aviv Wednesday said the "dropout" rate among Soviet Jewish emigres reached a record high of 85 percent last month. Of the 790 who arrived in Vienna, 121 went to Israel and 669 opted to go to other countries.

The Israeli daily Haaretz reported that of a total of 3,092 who left the Soviet Union since January, only 714 came to Israel.

The newspaper Davar reported that the deputy director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Consular Division will head a delegation due to arrive in Israel in about three weeks.

ISRAELI AIDS CENTER BURNED; U.S. TO TEST ISRAELI AIDS DRUG

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 1 (JTA) -- Unknown persons attempted to burn down a building being renovated as a treatment center for victims of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in the Jaffa section of Tel Aviv Tuesday night.

Police said a fence was torn down and part of the building was burned. Neighbors who object to the establishment of an AIDS treatment center in their area are believed responsible.

Meanwhile, Bar Ilan University and the National Patent Development Corp. of New York announced the establishment of a joint venture company, Scientific Testing Inc., which will begin clinical tests of an immuno-augmenting compound -- AS101 -- for treatment of AIDS, developed by Bar Ilan scientists.

The testing will be conducted at the Institute for Immunological Disorders at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, under the direction of Dr. Peter Mansell. An Investigational New Drug Application has been filed with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The testing, due to begin in 4-6 weeks, will focus on the effects of AS101 on about 30 AIDS patients.

CONGRESSIONAL WIVES RECOUNT NEW EMIGRATION BARRIERS FOR SOVIET JEWS

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, July 1 (JTA) -- The second generation of Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate are facing new obstacles, members of the Congressional Wives for Soviets Jews (CWSJ), who recently returned from a trip to the Soviet Union, said Tuesday. Young Soviet Jews applying to emigrate must now provide an affidavit signed by their parents stating that they owe no one in the family money. The emigration requirement has created conflicts for those parents who plan to remain in the Soviet Union.

Four members of the CWSJ, Dolores Beilenson of California, Joanne Kemp of New York, Wren Wirth of Colorado and Teresa Heinz of Pennsylvania, along with Irma Gertler and Aileen Cooper of B'nai B'rith Women, traveled to the Soviet Union last month to meet with newly formed women's refusenik groups.

They were joined later by other CWSJ members in Vienna for the Helsinki Review Conference, where they discussed the issue of emigration with Soviet officials.

The CWSJ members said many Jews are being denied visas because they know secrets vital to state security. This loophole has been used to deny visas to practically all men who serve in the army under mandatory conscription, even, in one instance, one who worked on a swimming pool.

The Soviet emigration procedure "is such an ambiguous process that it's close to being meaningless," commented Anne Bingaman of New Mexico.

Met With Deputy Minister

But the Soviet policy of glasnost (openness) enabled the women to meet for the first time with a high-ranking Soviet official -- Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnyk, assistant to Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Heinz said that Bessmertnyk spoke to the women for two hours and confessed that he "wouldn't deny that some (refusenik) cases have been kept unsolved for good reasons."

The Deputy Foreign Minister, who said Jews have played important roles in Soviet history, blamed the emigration delays on bureaucratic problems and said they are trying to improve the matter with new legislation.

Bessmertnyk also announced a new Soviet law that would enable the Foreign Minister to intervene in emigration cases.

But Heinz noted that Vladimir Gluckov, head of the Humanitarian Cooperation and Cultural Affairs Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, asked CWSJ members in Vienna, "Why should we let the (Soviet) Jews out if they supply cannon fodder to our Arab friends?"

The women also met with refusenik Ida Nudel, who was permitted to travel from her Moldavia apartment to Moscow to meet the group. "It was like seeing one of your heroines alive. She's a very courageous woman," said Beilenson.

The CWSJ was started in 1978 by Helen Jackson of Washington. It includes nearly half of The Congressional wives.

"The pressure on the Soviet Union has made a lot of difference," said Bingaman, who added that they still have a very long way to go to address the problem of Soviet Jews. "What happens, she said, "will depend on them, but it will also depend on us as well."

PROTESTANT GROUP AFFIRMS JUDAISM'S LEGITIMACY, ASKS FORGIVENESS

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, July 1 (JTA) -- The United Church of Christ, one of the largest American Protestant denominations, issued a strongly affirmative declaration on Judaism Tuesday. It proclaimed that Judaism and Christianity are equally legitimate and requested forgiveness for denying Judaism's validity and for the sometimes dire historical consequences of that denial.

The landmark declaration, made at a convention in Cleveland of the 1.7-million-member UCC, followed a compromise statement by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) several weeks earlier. The latter was received with ambivalence in the Jewish community because it stressed Palestinian rights and claimed "the modern state of Israel cannot be validated theologically."

Rabbi Alan Mittleman of the American Jewish Committee, who sat on the UCC committee that drafted the document, said that document is unique because it "reflects what Jews see as their Judaism...The Christians were well aware that one of the great sins of their Church has been defining our Judaism for us."

"It really is a very bold statement which has also admitted historical Christian complicity in anti-Semitism," he continued.

Text Of The Statement

The Protestant statement declared: "We in the United Church of Christ acknowledge that the Christian Church has, throughout much of its history, denied God's continuing covenantal relationship with the Jewish people expressed in the faith of Judaism. This denial has often led to outright rejection of the Jewish people and to theologically and humanly intolerable violence.

"...We pray for divine grace that will enable us, more firmly than ever before, to turn from this path of rejection and persecution to affirm that Judaism has not been superseded by Christianity; that Christianity is not to be understood as the successor religion to Judaism; God's covenant with the Jewish people has not been abrogated. God has not rejected the Jewish people; God is faithful in keeping covenant."

Mittleman indicated that the document made the following important declarations:

- * Christians cannot understand the New Testament without understanding first-century Judaism.

- * A confession of guilt for denying God's covenant with the Jews and an admission of systemic bias against Judaism that has pervaded church theology and teachings.

- * The acknowledgement of a causal connection between the church's bias against Judaism and the anti-Semitic bias of governments or classical political anti-Semitism, and a declaration that Christians cannot distance themselves from the political phenomenon.

- * A strong affirmation that Christianity does not supersede or replace Judaism.

- * A call to implement the new perspective on Jews, Judaism and Israel in Christian institutions by teaching in schools, liturgy and other functions an affirmative theological view of Judaism. Although the issue of Israel as the Jewish homeland is contentious and problematic in Christian theology, the Protestant statement did include Israel in its overall affirmation of Judaism. "This church has gone on record to affirm

the entire historical and modern life of Jews including Israel," Mittleman said. "It is a global affirmation of solidarity with the Jewish people."

BARBIE'S ATTORNEY SAYS NAZI ACTS NO WORSE THAN THOSE OF OTHER REGIMES

By Edwin Eytan

LYON, July 1 (JTA) -- Lawyers for Lyon Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie opened his defense in court here Wednesday with ad hominem attacks on Israelis, Americans and, particularly the French in North Africa, for atrocities they implied were as bad or worse than those committed by Nazis.

Barbie himself was hardly mentioned as chief defense counsel Jacques Verges and his associates hammered away on the theme that Jews were not the only people who have suffered. The session, two days before the jury is to retire to consider its verdict, was the most explosive since Barbie's trial began on May 11.

Verges did not address himself, as is customary, to the court and jury, but to lawyers for the many plaintiffs in the case. Pandemonium broke out when his assistant, Algerian lawyer Nabil Bruaita, suggested that a guilty verdict could have far-reaching implications for the interpretation of crimes against humanity with which Barbie is charged.

"Under such an interpretation, a country could ask for the extradition from France, where he is received as a VIP with red-carpet treatment, of the notorious General Sharon to be tried for crimes against humanity," Bruaita said, a reference to Israel's former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, presently Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Gallery Boos, Applauds

There were shouts of protests and whistles from the visitors' gallery, but also a ripple of applause. Presiding Judge Andre Cerdini ordered guards to remove anyone who disturbed the decorum of the court as a dozen lawyers for Holocaust survivors raised their hands for the right to respond.

Verges, who has a reputation for unpredictable courtroom tactics, masterminded the defense strategy which obviously is to cloak the horrors perpetrated by the "Butcher of Lyon" behind attacks on others.

He appeared particularly pleased with himself. As he left the court later, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "I tried to show that the Jews are the most vociferous, but certainly not the only victims of racism and large-scale massacres. I think I have succeeded in this. If the trial was held to point out the Jews as history's main victims, it will fail."

Verges also apparently felt it was a clever move to leave much of the defense argument to his associates from Third World countries. In addition to the Algerian Bruaita, he was aided by Jean-Martin Mbemba from Brazzaville, Congo who, speaking fluent French and without notes, quoted the writings of French philosophers. Mbemba recited a long list of "colonial crimes in Africa," which he claimed were the root of the Nazi ideology. Similarly, Bruaita read a long list of Israeli "crimes," quoting from Israeli and other Jewish writers, including Jacobo Timerman of Argentina, who wrote a book sharply critical of Israel's war in Lebanon, and Amnon Kapeliuk, who published a book in France on the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp massacres of 1982.

INQUISITION MEANT REPRESSION FOR PORTUGAL, BRAZIL, SCHOLARS SAY

(Second of Three Parts)

By Rochelle G. Saidel

SAO PAULO, July 1 (JTA) -- Most people have heard of the Spanish Inquisition, but the Portuguese Inquisition is relatively unknown. An important aspect of the First International Congress on the Inquisition, held here in May and in Lisbon in February, was bringing to light the impact of the Inquisition on Portugal and its colony, Brazil.

Professor Angel Alcalá of Brooklyn College (City University of New York) presented a paper on intellectual repression, comparing and contrasting the Spanish and the Portuguese Inquisitions, showing their interrelation and probable interdependence.

Except for the years 1536-1550, the kings of Spain entrusted prior censorship of books not to the Inquisition but to a Royal Council, he said. The Inquisition, however, retained the right to prohibit books approved by the Royal Council, a policy it continued until 1834. In Portugal, however, the Inquisition always was entrusted with prior censorship until 1768.

"Spain was always independent from the Roman (Catholic) Inquisition, in both juridical matters and in intellectual repression," he said. "But Portugal reissued Portuguese printings of Roman Indexes, and Portugal's King Dom Sebastiao in 1576 added censorship by a local bishop and by a palace official. In addition, Spain never contemplated ritual burning of heretical books, while Portugal mandated this in 1579, to take place at the end of the autos de fe there. Portugal gave a tremendous emphasis to 'lascivious things,' dealing with literature puritanically and hypocritically."

Portugal was also more intolerant than Spain with regard to jokes and satire about religious personalities. In addition, Portugal carried "to the extreme" the Council of Trent's prohibition against translation of the Bible into the vernacular, Alcalá said. No literary works or theater that included biblical passages or scenes could be translated into Portuguese.

Different Reasons To Persecute

"It was without saying that both Inquisitions practiced a careful policing of all channels of the dissemination of culture," Alcalá continued. "In Spain, however, writers were accused because of their work. In Portugal, writers were tried and sometimes burnt not because of their writings but because of their secret Jewish religious practices. Although it was true that no writer was exterminated because of his intellectual ideas, the general situation of cultural repression created a general 'fear of ideas' and 'fear of books'. People were even afraid to let anyone know they could read, since being able to read and write could make one a suspect for having 'foreign' ideas."

Alcalá added that in order to build a comprehensive cultural comparison, more research would be necessary. "But what we know up to now seems to confirm that the Inquisition was the most important factor of social control in both Spain and Portugal, in all aspects of their collective life -- religious, political, cultural, literary and social," he said. "The Inquisition is more important because it contributed to this historical retardation, still or until recently being felt in

some areas, than because it started by persecuting Judeo-converts."

There was much informal discussion among congress participants as to whether the conference too heavily emphasized the Jewish, or New Christian, aspect of the Inquisition. While many papers dealt with the Jewish question, others covered such subjects as persecution of witches, the relation of the economy to the Inquisition, literature, individual cases, the Inquisition in Latin America and human rights.

More Than Persecution Of Jews

Professor Henry Kamen of University of Warwick, London, whose book "Inquisition and Society in Spain" (University of Indiana, 1985) is considered definitive by many Inquisition scholars, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency the concentration of the conference on the Jewish aspect was misleading. He said the persecution of New Christians was a major component of the Inquisition in Spain until 1500 and in Portugal and Brazil until 1580. Afterward, the Jewish issue was "minimal in the totality of the Inquisition," he said. Like Alcalá, he cited censorship as more critical and pervasive.

The Congress also was relevant to the study of repression in modern times. Because Brazil lived under military dictatorship from 1964-85, participants here were especially aware that the questions of power and control are contemporary. Professor Bartolome Bennassar of the University of Toulouse, France, said:

"Through these seminars, we are trying to show the totalitarian spirit is present in all times. This congress is an alert against the damages and injustices that any system with principles similar to those of the Inquisition may bring."

The theme of the Inquisition indeed seems current, because it deals with the oppression of the human being, political instrumentalization of religion and the relationship between state power and individual freedom. In the 20th century, we have witnessed ideological, political and religious repression and persecution, of which the Nazis' "Final Solution" to the Jewish question is perhaps the most obvious example. The main difference between the three centuries of the Inquisition and oppression in our time is that today's technology is capable of making torture and genocide more efficient.

(NEXT: Modern Manifestations of the Inquisition.)

JEWISH GROUP RIPS CANADIAN PRESENCE AT WALDHEIM GATHERING

TORONTO, July 1 (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith Canada has protested to the government over the presence of the Canadian Charge d'Affaires at the Vatican, L.P. Tardif, at a diplomatic reception for Austrian President Kurt Waldheim following his audience with Pope John Paul II last Thursday.

The BBC sent a letter to External Affairs Minister Joe Clark asking that Canadian representatives avoid meeting Waldheim. But a spokesman for the Ministry said "diplomatic practice is such that when a head of state visits the Vatican, he asks to see the ambassadors" accredited there.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has stated publicly that Waldheim would not be welcome in Canada because of his alleged complicity in Nazi atrocities during World War II.