

**BRITAIN ZEROES IN ON ALLEGED NAZI LIVING IN SCOTLAND**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 21 (JTA) -- Britain may send officials to the Soviet Union to examine claims that a Lithuanian living in Scotland murdered more Jews in World War II than Klaus Barbie, recently sentenced to life imprisonment by a French court for crimes against humanity.

Officials conceded this was a possibility after receiving documents from the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center on the war record of Antanas Gecas, a 71-year-old retired mining engineer in Edinburgh.

Gecas is alleged to have ordered and participated in massacres of Jews in Lithuania where more than 200,000 were killed under the Nazis, many by members of special units of Lithuanian police in which Gecas has admitted he served. Gecas has repeatedly denied killing any Jews himself and says he was unable to prevent the activities in which his unit took part.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean of the Wiesenthal Center, told a press conference that Britain has received eyewitness accounts allegedly proving Gecas' war crimes beyond doubt.

The evidence, including three signed depositions by wartime colleagues of Gecas, were gathered by a team from Scottish Television which went to Russia earlier this year. Their findings will be screened in Scotland Wednesday.

**Thousands Of Pages Of Documents**

The interviews and signed depositions by three wartime colleagues of Gecas were among a thousand pages of documents which representatives from the Wiesenthal Center presented to the British Home Office last Friday.

The Center claims to have provided the conclusive evidence the Home Office requested last year when it was given the names of 17 former Nazis who had fled to Britain after the war. The Home Office has established at least eight of those people named might still be alive in Britain.

At its press conference, the Wiesenthal Center said Britain would be considered soft on war criminals if it failed to act on the new evidence it received on former Nazis living in this country. It called on the government to conduct an inquiry into the new evidence, particularly against Gecas, and send investigators to the USSR.

The Home Office said later it was examining the material and did not rule out a mission to the Soviet Union. It denied it was being soft on war criminals. "The passage of time has not lessened war crimes in any way," an official said. "If we can prove that crimes have been committed and we are in a position to take action against the perpetrators, we will certainly do so."

Labor MP Greville Janner, a member of the House of Commons War Crimes Group, told the press conference he did not like trial by television and preferred a trial by court of law. "I believe the evidence is now very strong in the case of Mr. Gecas and that the allegations require

investigation by the Home Secretary without delay," he said.

**VANUNU IS BACK IN THE PUBLIC EYE**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 21 (JTA) -- Elaborate efforts to keep accused spy Mordechai Vanunu out of the public eye until his trial begins late next month, were foiled Monday by alert reporters and the prisoner's recalcitrance.

Vanunu, a former technician at the Dimona nuclear facility, was transported from prison to the Supreme Court for a closed hearing on his petition to allow publication of certain classified evidence in his case. Reporters who noticed that the courthouse was surrounded by large contingents of police, border police and Justice Ministry security guards, sensed something out of the ordinary.

Their suspicions were confirmed when a police van with white-painted windows pulled up to the rear entrance of the court. Vanunu emerged, his head and face covered by an oversized motorcycle helmet to prevent him having contact with the media. He shook his head violently, dislodging his helmet which he kicked aside. "Enough with these games," he shouted before surprised police guards hustled him into the court building.

Vanunu, 31, is accused of providing a British newspaper last year with information about Israel's alleged nuclear capabilities. He was seized abroad and brought to Israel last September 30, although Israel denied at the time any knowledge of his whereabouts.

When he was brought to Jerusalem district court for arraignment on December 28, he flashed a message to the media through the window of the prison van. The message, written on the palm of his hand, indicated he had been kidnapped by Israeli agents in Rome on September 30 and brought to Israel against his will. The incident embarrassed Israeli authorities who took pains to ensure that Vanunu would have no further contact with the press.

Vanunu pleaded not guilty to charges of spying and aiding the enemy in wartime. He has since insisted that certain evidence be made public. His lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, maintained that publication would not compromise national security. Prosecutor Uzi Hasson objected. Supreme Court Justice Gavriel Bach has yet to rule on the matter.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:****LABOR PARTY SOURCES CONFIDENT****THEIR MAN WILL WIN TOP ZIONIST POST**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 21 (JTA) -- Akiva Lewinsky, nominated unanimously by the Labor Party Central Committee last week as Labor's candidate for the chairmanship of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, "is virtually certain of election" at the 31st World Zionist Congress to be held here in December, according to Labor Party sources.

They base their confidence mainly on the unpopularity of Likud among diaspora Zionists because of its support of the controversial "Who is a Jew?" legislation pressed by the religious parties in the Knesset.

They also cited the recent WZO elections in the United States in which Zionist parties dedicated to religious pluralism in Israel made significant gains at the expense of the religious parties and their rightwing supporters.

These sources acknowledged that there have been reservations about Lewinsky among some powerful circles in American Jewry. But, they told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, those circles, mainly the non-Zionist half of the Jewish Agency including the major fund-raisers, will "advise and consent" to Lewinsky's election "once they get to know him better."

#### Doubts Minimized

They said that doubts about Lewinsky, who is currently the WZO-Jewish Agency Treasurer, stemmed from "his image as an establishment figure and the desire to break away from establishment molds." The sources said Lewinsky is being urged to tour major Jewish communities in the U.S., and hold in-depth discussions with key leadership figures there. As for the rest of the diaspora, where Keren Hayesod, not the United Jewish Appeal, is responsible for fund-raising, "Lewinsky has no problems. He is known and liked," they said.

According to the Labor sources, the major Zionist parties, such as the General Zionist Confederation which includes Hadassah, the Zionist Organization of America and probably Mizrahi, will support Lewinsky at the Zionist Congress. They intimated that the Confederation and the ZOA already have pledged their support.

In the recent elections in the U.S. for Congress delegates, the Reform Zionist list (ARZA) and the newly formed Conservative list (MERCAZ) did especially well. Both had lobbied strenuously against the latest attempt by the ultra-Orthodox parties, with the support of Likud, to push through amendments to the law which would have defined a Jew according to Orthodox tenets and given the Chief Rabbinate sole authority to approve converts.

Nevertheless, Lewinsky would have a formidable opponent if Likud nominates Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's popular Ambassador to the United Nations, to oppose him. According to reliable sources, Netanyahu has not yet decided to run for the WZO-Jewish Agency chairmanship. He has intimated that he would like a Likud Knesset seat in the next elections. But it is not likely that the Likud leadership will offer him both the top Zionist post and a safe place on its Knesset list.

#### Labor Notes 'Sacrifices'

Labor sources contend that even if Netanyahu were to run for the WZO-Jewish Agency chairmanship and distance himself personally from Likud's pro-Orthodox position on "Who is a Jew?" the issue of pluralism would be a top priority at the Zionist Congress, as it was in the election of delegates.

"We in Labor can say to the overseas delegates: 'We have made great political sacrifices in order to maintain our position on 'Who is a Jew?' How could you now contemplate betraying us and betraying that position?'" a Labor source told the JTA.

The only declared candidate for the other top Zionist office -- chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors -- is Mendel Kaplan, the South African Jewish leader. According to well-placed sources, American Jewish leaders are reluctant to allow this prestigious appointment to slip away from American Jewry's control. An agreed-upon American candidate is expected to emerge before the next Board of Governors meeting in October.

The sources said that Irwin Field of Los Angeles would have the Board's wide backing. But he has declined to be drafted for personal reasons.

#### **ELECTRONIC JOURNALISTS STRIKE**

TEL AVIV, July 21 (JTA) -- Electronic journalists, demanding the same wage settlements just reached with newspaper reporters, blacked out radio and television Tuesday. Army Radio and Educational Television are not affected.

The strike, which began as a one-day work-stoppage to pressure the Israel Broadcast Authority, was extended for a second day and may continue until Thursday if no agreement is reached.

Several newspapers were struck last Friday for higher wages. New contracts were signed over the weekend by all but the independent daily Haaretz. The latter signed an agreement Tuesday after four days off the stands and will resume publication Wednesday.

#### **LOWER RATE OF INFLATION EXPECTED**

JERUSALEM, July 21 (JTA) -- Inflation is presently running at an annual rate of 18 percent but the next national budget will be based on an annual rate of 5-7 percent, Emmanuel Sharon, Director of the Finance Ministry, said Monday.

He said the lower rate would be adopted because the present rate, described as "medium," is not expected to continue. He said in the past, inflation tended to feed on itself if measures were not taken to curb it. The Treasury therefore will propose a lower budget, despite the balance of payments deficit.

The government will also reduce price subsidies, Sharon said. It has just raised the price of flour by 14 percent and of buns and specialized bread by 12 percent, reflecting the higher cost of those items. Regular bread was not affected. But given the higher price of flour, it will have to be subsidized.

#### **CANCER KILLS THOUSANDS IN ISRAEL**

TEL AVIV, July 21 (JTA) -- Cancer afflicts 8,500 Israelis each year, and 5,150 Israelis die of it annually, according to Health Minister Shoshana Arbelli-Almoslino. She said 30 percent of the cancer deaths were the result of smoking. Breast cancer accounted for 28 percent of the cancer cases among women.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A bomb exploded in a crowded bus in Jaffa Tuesday. The only casualty was the driver who was treated for shock. Police said the bomb was planted over the driver's seat some time during the night when the bus was in a parking lot.

## SEVEN DIASPORA JEWISH LEADERS URGE SHAMIR AND LIKUD TO REFRAIN FROM AMENDING THE LAW OF RETURN

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA) -- Seven diaspora Jewish leaders, including the heads of the major fund-raising organizations in the U.S. and Canada, have urged Premier Yitzhak Shamir of Israel and his Likud Party to abandon their efforts to amend the Law of Return in a manner which would define Jews according to strict Orthodox tenets.

Two amendments sponsored by the ultra-Orthodox parties with Likud backing were defeated in the Knesset a week ago. Another vote on the controversial "Who is a Jew?" amendment is scheduled for next Wednesday.

The Jewish leaders sent a cable to Shamir warning that the proposed change would "irreparably damage the support of Israel and its institutions by diaspora Jews" and cause "a terrible rift" among the Jewish people.

The signatories were Jerold Hoffberger, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel; Max Fisher, founding chairman of the Board of Governors; Henry Taub, chairman of the United Israel Appeal; Martin Levine, president of the United Israel Appeal of Canada; Martin Stein, national chairman of the UJA; Shoshana Cardin, president of the Council of Jewish Federations; and Alex Grass, chairman of the Board of the UJA.

### Statement By Jewish Leaders

The cable stated: "We are extremely concerned along with many Jews in the diaspora, about the repeated attempts to change the Law of Return in the Knesset, which we believe are the result of internal coalition problems in Israel. We urge you, as we have done in the past, to prevent a terrible rift in the Jewish people, which would result by amending the Law of Return.

"We further appeal to you and your colleagues in the Likud to consider the extremely negative effects of altering the delicate status quo on the 'Who is a Jew?' issue. This will irreparably damage the support of Israel and its institutions by diaspora Jews who will feel shut out and delegitimized. We call upon you to help preserve the unity of Klal Yisroel, as you indicated in your speech to us in the Knesset three weeks ago."

## LESS-THAN-FRIENDLY RECEPTION FOR ISRAEL AT DAVIS CUP MATCH IN INDIA

By Andrew Muchin

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA) -- Israel's national tennis team will have little support and no Israeli journalists along as it plays India's team in Davis Cup quarterfinal competition in New Delhi Friday-Sunday.

India has allowed the Israeli team only 15 visas, according to press reports and a spokesman at the Israel Tennis Center here. The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith called Monday for the issuance of more visas or postponement of the match until a neutral site is found. In fact, until last month India was unsure it would even host the match, as it has no diplomatic relations with Israel.

Israel qualified to play India in March by defeating the favored host Czech team three matches to two in the opening of the final round.

Israel had not previously qualified for the finals, featuring the world's top 16 teams.

The Israelis will be led on to India's grass courts by Amos Mansdorf, ranked 32 in the world. He is expected to play two of the four singles matches as well as the doubles match.

His doubles partner and the other singles player have not yet been selected. The choices are Shlomo Glickstein, ranked 347, a successful Davis Cup veteran whose style is not suited to grass courts; Gilad Bloom, ranked 132, who won two matches on grass at the latest Wimbledon tournament; or junior player Raviv Weidenfeld, who probably will not compete.

India's hopes rest with veteran Vijay Amritraj, an actor who now rarely competes, but who is considered an accomplished grass-court player. He'll play singles and doubles, the latter with his brother Anan. Ramesh Krishnan, ranked 39 and best known for his impeccable form, will play singles.

Because the match is taking place in India in extremely hot weather, barring a monsoon, and on a surface on which the Israelis have little experience, tennis experts give India a slight edge. The victor will play the winner of the Australia-Mexico match. Australia, featuring Wimbledon singles champion Pat Cash, is heavily favored to reach the finals.

## PORNO PIX ON HIGHWAYS CAUSE ACCIDENTS

TEL AVIV, July 21 (JTA) -- Agudat Israel MK Avraham Shapira claimed Monday that pornographic pictures were the cause of Israel's alarming highway accident rate and suggested that a day of fasting and prayer be declared to "appeal to God's mercy to stop the awful slaughter on the roads."

The pornographic pictures blamed by the Orthodox MK are posters and billboards advertising swim suits or other items of female apparel considered "lewd" by some religious Jews.

"Can someone who sees such pictures drive afterwards?" Shapira asked. Last year ultra-Orthodox zealots in Jerusalem and elsewhere set fire to bus shelters that carried advertising posters they found objectionable.

Shapira spoke during a Knesset debate on the traffic problem which also occupied much of last Sunday's Cabinet session. In 1986, 415 people died in road accidents and more than 21,000 were injured. The rate of traffic fatalities and injuries has been even higher this year.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress says it is "profoundly disappointed" by Egypt's action in inviting Austrian President Kurt Waldheim for a visit. A statement by Theodore Mann, president of AJCongress, said the decision cannot help but cloud relations between Egypt and world Jewry in the future. The statement said that AJCongress had feared that the influence of Pope John Paul II's recent reception of Waldheim would "break the moral and political quarantine" in which Waldheim's past activities as a Nazi officer accused of war crimes against Jews and other civilians had placed him. Waldheim's attempt to "sanitize" his past is now proceeding "at full pace," the statement said.

## JEWISH GROUPS TO STAGE PROTESTS DURING POPE'S SAN FRANCISCO VISIT

By Peggy Isaak Gluck

Northern California Jewish Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO, July 21 (JTA) -- Bay Area Jewish groups began making plans this week to greet Pope John Paul II's visit to San Francisco on September 17 with an array of protests--everything from teach-ins to public demonstrations.

The reaction comes in response to the June 25 meeting between the Pope and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who is accused of Nazi war crimes.

One of the Jewish contingents involved in the protests -- editors of the national progressive magazine Tikkun -- will give the Bay Area a preview of its plans this week when it pickets a fund-raising reception for the Pope being held Thursday evening at the home of Mayor Dianne Feinstein and her husband, Richard Blum.

Although several prominent members of the local Jewish community are supporting the reception, which is being held on behalf of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the publisher of the Oakland-based magazine, Michael Lerner, said: "We are outraged that a Jewish Mayor, who claims to represent, in part, the cares and concerns of the Jewish people, would be raising money for the Pope."

Tikkun also is calling for a national demonstration during the Pope's U.S. visit September 11-18, including a local demonstration to coincide with the Pope's.

### Lower-Key Response Advocated.

Meanwhile, other local Jewish groups are advocating a lower-key response to the Waldheim affair. They include:

- \* The Committee of Remembrance of the Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, which is recommending a "dignified silence" while the Pope is here, according to chairman William Lowenberg.

- \* The JCRC itself, which will consider adopting a similar position when representatives of its constituent agencies discuss the papal visit next month.

- \* The Graduate Theological Union (GTU), a consortium of seminaries in Berkeley, Calif., which will hold a public forum on Jewish-Christian relations September 16 to be attended by a number of leading Catholic, Protestant and Jewish scholars.

In the last week, local Jewish leaders have voiced their concerns about the Waldheim-Pope meeting to the Most Rev. John Quinn, Archbishop of San Francisco, and to the Papal Nuncio in Washington, D.C.

Others have made more personal statements. Henry Berman, a San Franciscan who is active in both the Jewish community and local politics, has declined to serve on the Mayor's official Papal welcoming committee because of the meeting.

Joel Brooks, local executive director of the American Jewish Congress, whose national officers pulled out of a planned September 11 meeting between the Pope and Jewish leaders in Miami, said that while Feinstein may be obligated to help sponsor the Pope's visit, "no self-respecting Jew should aid in this effort by contributing funds to this cause."

Brooks suggested that Jews who are paying \$250 to attend Thursday's reception by the Mayor should "contribute an equal or greater amount to an organization dedicated to assisting victims of the Holocaust."

Lerner of Tikkun said he is outraged that prominent Jews are helping to pay for the Pope's San Francisco visit. He called that support "the ultimate in self-abasement."

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, a group of rabbis and Jewish leaders is considering boycotting an interfaith meeting with the Pope September 16.

It is estimated that the Papal visit to nine U.S. cities will cost approximately \$20 million, with the San Francisco leg estimated at about \$3.3 million. Proceeds from the Mayor's fund-raising reception, for which 1,000 invitations were sent out, will go directly to the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

The September 17 Tikkun demonstration is scheduled to be held outside St. Mary's Cathedral here, where the Pope is scheduled to visit. The teach-in will follow, according to Lerner, at a yet-to-be-determined location.

He added that his group also would like to hold a vigil at the city's monument to the Holocaust in Lincoln Park "at the same time the Pope leads mass at Candlestick Park."

## LIBYA, PLO BOTH HAVE VENEZUELAN CONTACTS, ADL PUBLICATION REPORTS

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA) -- The Venezuelan intelligence service has found evidence of Libyan involvement with Bandera Roja, a terrorist movement in that country. At the same time, the Venezuelan government has had contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization, according to Latin American Report, published by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Bandera Roja has been in contact with Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi on funding for terrorist acts to destabilize the government in Caracas, according to the intelligence findings, Latin American Report said. The Venezuelan authorities have linked the terrorists to the recent hijackings of three Venezuelan local airliners, an attack on an army outpost and the occupation of three villages.

The high-level Venezuelan officials met recently in Caracas with PLO "foreign minister" Farouk Kaddoumi, who spoke of "strengthening bilateral relations" and opening a PLO office in Caracas, according to the report.

## THREE GET EXIT VISAS

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA) -- An unofficial Moscow Hebrew teacher and two second-generation refuseniks have been granted exit visas to Israel, according to the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

They are: Mikhail Kholmyansky, a physicist and unofficial Hebrew educator who had been refused for nine years and is the brother of former Prisoner of Conscience Alexander Kholmyansky; 23-year-old Felix Abramovich, an 18-year refusenik and son of Moscow Jewish activist Pavel Abramovich; and Dorina Paritsky of Khar'kov, 22, whose father Alexander Paritsky is a former POC. Although none of their family members have received visas, the three plan to immigrate to Israel.