

TRUDEAU DEFERS ANSWER TO CHARGE THAT HE AIDED WAR CRIMINALS

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau refused to comment on allegations by Alti Rodal, author of a semi-secret report on Canada's immigration policy, that he privately vetoed taking legal action against suspected Nazi war criminals in Canada.

Interviewed here by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Trudeau suggested that Robert Kaplan, who was solicitor general in the early 1980's, could better explain the government's decisions on the prosecution of suspected Nazi war criminals.

"I know what the story says," Trudeau said. "The facts speak for themselves. I think you should speak to Robert Kaplan. He was the minister at the time, and he knows the facts."

Since April 1987, Kaplan, a Liberal Member of Parliament, has been prodding the Progressive-Conservative government to honor its commitments and introduce legislation, which would allow prosecution in Canada for atrocities committed elsewhere.

Unable To Convince Trudeau

Kaplan held the same views while Solicitor General in the Trudeau government, but he was unable to convince Trudeau to proceed with an investigation in the case of alleged Nazi war criminals.

Kaplan was also among the first to call for release of the Rodal Report, the unpublished portions of the Deschenes Commission research into Canadian policy regarding alleged war criminals.

Last December, Justice Jules Deschenes recommended prosecution of 20 suspected war criminals in Canada and continued investigation of allegations against 218 others. However, Rodal's report was made public only last week in censored form after reporters' requests under the Freedom of Information Law.

Rodal told the JTA that sections of her 560-page study detailing Trudeau's opposition to the prosecution of Nazi war criminals were censored when her report was made public. Kaplan was unavailable for comment.

HISTADRUT LEADER ORDERS ALL FIRMS CONTROLLED BY THE UNION TO END ALL TRADE LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar has ordered all industrial enterprises controlled by the trades union federation to break all commercial ties with South Africa, once present contracts have expired.

His move followed a complaint by Civil Rights Movement Knesset member Ran Cohen that Iskoor, a company owned by the Histadrut's giant Koor Industries, last year bought \$25 million worth of steel and scrap iron from South Africa.

Cohen charged that Iskoor had set up a front company in Switzerland called Talronics to conceal its dealings with South Africa. The Jerusalem Post wrote Thursday that Kessar had ini-

tially refused to respond to Cohen's charges, but Wednesday summoned heads of Hevrat Haovdim, the Histadrut's holding company, and of Koor Industries to impress on them that they must follow the Histadrut's policy of ending all trade links with South Africa.

They reportedly told Kessar they had already given such instructions but noted that Iskoor last year signed a five-year contract with South Africa which would be too expensive to cancel.

Cohen said he would continue his investigations into the Iskoor affair, claiming that other European countries had broken even more expensive contracts with South Africa. He said he also understood that the last Iskoor contract was for three years with an extra three-year option, and not a five-year deal as Koor had reported.

WIESEL 'SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING'

VATICAN INVITATION TO MEET THE POPE
By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Elie Wiesel said Thursday that he is "seriously considering" a long-standing invitation from the Vatican to meet privately with Pope John Paul II later this month and will probably accept. Wiesel said he would decide on the meeting within a week.

Wiesel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he received the invitation weeks ago, before any discussion arose of a meeting between other Jewish leaders and the Pope at the Vatican.

The Pope has invited a delegation of five Jewish religious leaders to meet with him in Rome on Sept. 1. Wiesel's meeting, should he accept the offer, would be prior to Sept. 1.

Wiesel said he will not represent any delegation or organization in his meeting with the Pope but will be speaking to him as a private person.

Critical Of Pope-Waldheim Meeting

Wiesel has been critical of the Pope's granting of an audience on June 25 to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, accused of complicity in Nazi war crimes. But Wiesel has also censured Pope John Paul II for misinterpreting the Holocaust by denying its uniqueness as a Jewish tragedy. Instead, the Pope has acknowledged that Jews suffered more than other peoples but consistently stresses the Catholic victims of Nazism.

Wiesel said he would discuss his view of the Holocaust among other issues with the Pope but refused to elaborate on a possible agenda. He said he hopes the meeting will be private and the discussion will remain a secret.

The Vatican had arranged a meeting between the Pope and Jewish religious leaders on Sept. 11 in Miami during his visit to America. After the Pope's audience with Waldheim, however, many of the Jewish groups scheduled to participate in the meeting withdrew in protest.

Many of the same organizations are now reconsidering their participation pending the outcome of the Sept. 1 meeting with the Pope. The Jewish groups are troubled, among other things, by what they perceive as the Pope's insensitivity to the Holocaust reflected in the Waldheim audience and by the failure of the Vatican to grant diplomatic recognition to Israel.

SIGNIFICANT FINDS UNEARTHED AT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Activities by ultra-Orthodox zealots to disrupt archaeological digs in Caesarea have diverted attention from significant finds unearthed at other digging sites throughout Israel this season.

They included a unique 1,800-year-old mosaic floor uncovered two weeks ago at Tsipori, in lower Galilee, and the ruins of a Bronze Age port dating back 5,000 years at Tel Rami, south of Atlit.

The six-by-five-meter floor at Tsipori, once the most important city of Galilee, seat of the Roman governors and a major Jewish center where the Sanhedrin officiated after the destruction of the Second Temple, shows an almost lifesize portrait of a beautiful young woman and of 15 Greek gods, including Dionysus, all named in Greek.

A Rare Find

The pictures are picked out in tiny colored mosaic stones, with the young woman's cheeks in four shades from flesh color to rouge. The gods are depicted in motion, regarded as rare for ancient mosaics.

The archaeologists, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Duke University of North Carolina, believe the portrait may have been of a woman guest of the governor who was entertained in this very room which, from its size and position, may have been the Roman governor's reception hall.

Tsipori was the home of Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi, who compiled and edited the Mishnah, second only to the Pentateuch in Jewish holy writ, for the last 17 years of his life, at the beginning of the Third Century.

Oldest Known Port City Uncovered

The third season of digging at Tel Rami brought to light Israel's oldest known port city, dating back 5,000 years.

Excavated by a Haifa University team aided by researchers and students from the U.S. and Europe, this year's work turned up a wide range of stone and clay tools, jewelry and weapons "showing that in the late Bronze Age Tel Rami was an important sea traffic station," according to Dr. Michal Artzi, head of the university's maritime civilizations department.

This season's important finds here included a storehouse dating from 3000 BCE, the first of its kind found in the country, as well as a sewage system.

Archaeologists in Ashkelon uncovered a large dog cemetery and what appeared to have been a Philistine brothel, with erotic wall decorations.

The Atra Kadisha Jewish cemetery protection association which halted the Caesarea dig apparently decided that work at these three sites did not endanger Jewish graves, and the researchers were not molested there.

PROJECT HELPS TO PROVIDE CARE AND SHELTER FOR ANIMALS IN ISRAEL

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- There is a growing awareness in Israel of the "need to provide care and shelter for animals" in that country, according to Eytan Bentsur, Israel Consul General in Los Angeles, but Israelis need help

from abroad to follow through with activities and projects to improve the animals' situation.

Speaking recently with West Coast members of the Advisory Board of CHAI (Concern for Helping Animals in Israel), Bentsur pointed to Israelis' increasing sensitivity to the problem of homeless and injured dogs, cats, horses, donkeys and mules in the streets.

Israelis are now starting to recognize the need to address this problem in the spirit of the Jewish principle of preventing "tsaar ba'alei chayyim," the suffering of animals, he said.

Bentsur, who himself has two dogs, said that help is desperately needed from abroad to support spaying and neutering programs to decrease animal overpopulation, for shelters and veterinary care for homeless and injured animals; and for humane education in the school system, to ensure that the next generation deepens the commitment to animal welfare.

Background Of CHAI

Rabbi Sidney Jacobs and Betty Jacobs, CHAI Board members who are also active in animal rights/welfare work in the U.S., explained to Bentsur that CHAI was established in 1984 to help improve existing shelters, create new shelters where none exist, provide veterinary medical equipment and supplies, and sponsor human education projects.

CHAI, at POB 3341, Alexandria, VA 22302, includes on its Advisory Board, in addition to Sidney and Betty Jacobs, Nobel Prize-winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer; Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.) and Annette Lantos, both long active in causes on behalf of animals; and Israeli SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Directors Joan Comay (Jerusalem) and Hilda Friedstein (Tel Aviv).

Since its founding, Rabbi Jacobs said, CHAI has carried out several important projects in pursuit of its overall goals. Last year, CHAI sponsored a Humane Education contest in the public schools to award pupils who performed outstanding acts of kindness to animals or who wrote outstanding essays about humane attitudes towards animals.

CHAI, added Betty Jacobs, has also initiated a campaign to increase public understanding of spaying and neutering, not yet widely understood or practiced in Israel.

It has provided Israeli shelters with funds to improve their facilities, such as putting a roof on the new shelter in Raanana, an autoclave (machine to sterilize veterinary instruments and drapes) for the Jerusalem SPCA, and funds for humane drugs to replace the strychnine poison used in municipal pounds.

It is also raising money for a Humane Education Center at the Tel Aviv Jaffa SPCA's new site, where the shelter will soon be relocated.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Social education instructors from religious-governmental schools have refused to participate in joint workshops with Arabs in a two-week summer course conducted by the Ministry of Education and Culture's youth division, according to media reports.

Organizers of the course were forced to establish a separate workshop for the religious participants, while the Arabs were assigned to the workshops of the secular Jewish participants.

DEFENSE DOCUMENTS EXPERT IS SEVERELY SHAKEN AT DEMJANJUK TRIAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The credibility of the defense documents expert who claims that John Demjanjuk's alleged SS identification card is a forgery has been severely shaken.

Just two weeks ago defense counsel Yoram Sheftel confidently predicted at the Jerusalem war crimes trial that his experts' testimony would "pulverize" the prosecution's claim that the ID was authentic.

But after three days of cross-examination, American documents expert Edna Robertson of Panama City, Florida, seemed shaky and battered and trying to defend the vestiges of her expertise.

Gently leading Robertson to trip herself up, prosecuting counsel Michael Shaked chipped away at her professional standing. He referred to Robertson's 1984 opinion given at Demjanjuk's hearings in the U.S. and asked how, as a "self respecting expert," she could base her opinion on a photo of the ID card.

Witness Is Shaken

Robertson insisted that was only a "provisional and qualified" opinion. "I never give an opinion based on copies," she said firmly. Whereupon Shaked referred to an unrelated case in the U.S. where Robertson had been called for her opinion regarding signature authentication. There she had given an opinion based only on photos.

"I should have been more careful," she admitted. "You acted against the principles of your profession," Shaked pressed on. "Yes," Robertson had to concede, "In this one example."

The witness became agitated several times, her intermittent dry cough growing stronger. Judge Dov Levin, concerned for her condition, broke for recess early on one occasion, and another time gave her a few moments outside the court.

Hard Questioning About Photo On ID Card

Wednesday's questioning centered around Robertson's opinion that the photo on the ID card was not the card's original picture.

The defense claim that the ID card, allegedly Demjanjuk's identity document from the Trawniki Nazi training camp, is in fact a Russian forgery.

According to Robertson, the official swastika stamp over the photo was in fact a clever forgery comprising two halves of two different stamps, one half on the photo and the second half on the document.

She based this on an infra-red analysis of the ink in the stamps which, she said, showed a "luminescence" only in the portion of the stamp on the photo. That was the result of the use of two separate types of ink and therefore, she concluded, it was two separate stamps.

The Issue Of Luminescence

At this point Shaked suggested that maybe the luminescence occurred because of the quality of the paper under the stamp rather than because of the quality of the ink. Maybe shiny photographic paper causes luminescence, whereas absorbent regular paper does not.

"Professional literature would have to be rewritten" if that was the case, Robertson replied. Had she tested Demjanjuk's driver's license, a document of unquestioned authenticity, with a

photo and an official stamp over it, for the same effect? Shaked asked. She had not.

But apparently a prosecution witness, U.S. documents expert Dr. Tony Cantu, had. He had found the same luminescent effect on the driver's license, concluding that photographic paper and not necessarily ink, causes luminescence.

Another Embarrassing Scene

Robertson was further abashed during an embarrassing scene when Shaked asked her to display her professional knowledge in court through the use of the Israel police video spectral scanner equipment. She had used the same equipment at the police laboratory to test the ID card. Robertson seemed to fumble and show unfamiliarity with the equipment, and found it difficult to obtain the luminescent effect that she had mentioned.

Shaked asked why she had not used a far more sophisticated piece of equipment, an electron microscope in her examination, especially regarding places in the document where lines crossed. She said she does not own one and only uses such expensive equipment when specifically requested by her client.

But she did not even request it when doing her checks on the document at the police headquarters even though she admitted that she was given any equipment she requested, Shaked persisted. And then to her further embarrassment, Shaked quoted a forensic textbook which stated that use of the electron microscope "was the only way to examine" crossed lines.

Meanwhile, the Soviet government has supplied Israel with three more ID cards from the Nazi training center at Trawniki. These were submitted as evidence by the prosecution Tuesday. The cards were conveyed to Israel by oil magnate Armand Hammer -- as was the original Trawniki card which is allegedly Demjanjuk's own. That card has been the subject of extensive examination during the trial.

ZIONISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN 'COMBAT ANTI-ZIONISM WEEK'

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Bernice Tannenbaum, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, hailed "Combat Anti-Zionism Week" -- Project CASAZ -- as an important continuation of the campaign to condemn as a shameful canard the 1975 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 equating Zionism with racism.

"The WZO-American Section is pleased to join the sponsors of CASAZ, the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, in declaring November 7 through 14, 1987, to be Combat Anti-Zionism Week. We will help in every way to promote the observance of this project as an effective public education and counter-propaganda effort."

She added: "I will call upon our American Jewish communities everywhere to conduct events during this week, and to invite their non-Jewish neighbors to join them."

Noting that the WZO's worldwide campaign against this nefarious UN resolution is achieving major results, Tannenbaum praised the chairwomen of CASAZ, Judge Hadassa Ben Itto and Frances Bernstein, for their leadership. Project CASAZ events are being planned for New York, Los Angeles, Washington, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston and Orlando, and college campuses.

BAR ASSOCIATION AGENDA WITH SOVIETS TO INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS

By Winston Pickett

Northern California Jewish Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The American Bar Association (ABA) resolved in a voice vote at its national convention here Wednesday that human rights will be on the agenda during any meetings it has with a Soviet lawyers group.

Those human rights issues will include permission to monitor trials, release of political prisoners, an end to punitive psychiatric hospitalization and adherence to the Helsinki Accords.

These points have been stressed by Jewish activists pushing for ABA recognition of the plight of Soviet Jews. The activists also had urged the ABA to abrogate its two-year-old formal agreement of cooperation with the Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL). The ABA declined to do so during a 156-32 vote on Monday.

Soviet Jewry activists said later that they were skeptical that the ABA's position on human rights would have any effect on the anti-Zionist Soviet lawyers group. However, local attorney Mark Schickman, a member of the ABA's Council on Individual Rights, which sponsored the human rights resolution, called it a victory and a "necessary step" toward improving human rights within the Soviet legal system.

Schickman, a member of both the Jewish Community Relations Council in San Francisco and the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, added, however, that he will be watching the ABA carefully "to see what kind of progress will take place over the next year" in terms of willingness to raise the human rights issues.

Another San Francisco attorney and Jewish activist, Ephraim Margolin, downplayed the ABA action, and cited two other defeated attempts at the convention to abrogate or amend the formal agreement between American and Soviet lawyers.

Margolin and the other activists had been pushing abrogation on the grounds that the ASL is an arm of the KGB and not an equivalent of the ABA. He said there is clear evidence that many ABA leaders have been sensitized to the plight of Soviet Jews.

Patience Huntwork of Phoenix, founder of the Independent Task Force on ABA-Soviet Relations and co-author of Monday's failed resolution, termed its defeat "a setback." Earlier, she had charged that ABA leaders are more interested in economic opportunities than human rights, producing documents that showed high level meetings were held last month between U.S. corporation executives and members of the ASL, arranged by outgoing ABA president Eugene Thomas.

But, Huntwork added, she was encouraged that her group's message that the ABA's cooperative agreement gives undue legitimacy to the ASL has been sounded from other quarters. Those other quarters included Attorney General Edwin Meese, who said Monday that the ABA "should not be afraid to break away from the agreement if the Soviet group is using the accord for propaganda purposes."

NUDEL: NO SECRETS

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Long-time refusenik Ida Nudel has produced a lengthy and detailed account of her work as an economist in the technical evaluation section of a microbiolog-

ical institute concerned with the needs of agriculture and the food industry, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Employed there 16 years ago when she applied to emigrate, Nudel, 55, writes that if her section was concerned with issues other than food and agriculture, "I was not and am not aware of them." She adds that although some sections of the institute were "closed," her own work was based on general areas, which the authorities have classified as merely "second-degree security."

Told in 1971 by an official at the Moscow OVIR, "You had a second-degree security clearance until September 1971... we know that you do not possess any secret information, but you could have overheard something," Nudel was advised that her emigration "is undesirable until 1977."

In 1978, Nudel hung a banner from her Moscow apartment window which stated "KGB, give me my visa." When agents tore the banner down, she replaced it with others, and finally with a cloth bearing the Star of David. For this, she was arrested, imprisoned and sent into exile on charges of malicious hooliganism. She has been living in the Moldavian city of Bendery, where she has been frequently followed and harassed. On occasion, she has been able to visit friends in Moscow.

Nudel seeks to join her sister, Elana Fridman, in Israel. Lilith magazine has mounted a national women's campaign for Nudel's freedom, asking that individual petitions be sent to Raisa Gorbachev, wife of the Soviet leader, via Lilith, 250 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR SOVIET YIDDISH CULTURE, SAYS YIVO DIRECTOR

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- There are "fledgling signs that a dismal picture" of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union are getting better, says Samuel Norich, executive director of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Norich was addressing a commemorative ceremony Wednesday evening at the Workmen's Circle here for the 24 Yiddish poets murdered Aug. 12, 1952 in Moscow's Lubianka Prison.

Norich said that since the 1960's, books by the murdered writers have been published sporadically, albeit with no biographies underneath the authors' photographs. Publication of these writers' works indicates "exoneration without rehabilitation," Norich told JTA.

He spoke of publication of Yiddish papers in the USSR as a positive sign, signalling the Sovietsk Heimland, published in Moscow, and the Birobidjaner Shtern, published several times a week in the Soviet Jewish autonomous region of Birobidjan. Whereas Heimland publishes book and theater reviews; commentaries and Yiddish translations of declarations by the Communist Party, said Norich, "the Jewish content of the Birobidjaner Shtern is even more interesting," Norich said.

He also referred to a claim by the Heimland editor that a Russian-Yiddish dictionary was being published. This assertion was made in a New York Times interview in 1984. Although publication of Yiddish books now pales in comparison to what it used to be through the 1940's and ending in 1948, Norich is cautiously optimistic. "I expect that what has happened (with glasnost) in other fields of Soviet life will happen in Yiddish life, as well."