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**HESS DEATH SPARKS NEO-NAZI ACTIVITY**

BONN, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- The normally peaceful Bavarian town of Wunsiedel near the Czechoslovakian border braced for violence and terror over the weekend as the funeral for Adolf Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess, who died last week in an apparent suicide, drew throngs of European neo-Nazis under heavy police protection.

Police said Sunday more than 200 had arrived in Hess' hometown for the funeral expected to take place Wednesday and many more were in transit including neo-Nazi sympathizers from Britain and The Netherlands. Police detained 88 neo-Nazis in the area in the past two days.

A group of neo-Nazis dressed in black and some masked marched into the cemetery where Hess requested to be buried, shouting "Revenge for Hess," and signaling the "Heil Hitler" Nazi salute. Local officials later banned all open gatherings in the town related to Hess and closed off the cemetery to the unwelcome visitors.

In Frankfurt, police arrested two young neo-Nazis who placed a bomb which did not go off in the city's central railway station.

Hess' funeral has been delayed by a request for a second autopsy by his son Wolf-Rudiger Hess, who has disputed the findings of prison officials that Hess, 93, committed suicide with an electrical wire. Hess died in Spandau prison, controlled by the four wartime Allied powers, the U.S., France, Britain and the Soviet Union. He was the sole prisoner in Spandau for more than two decades.

Hess sympathizers demonstrated outside the embassies of the four Allied powers over the weekend and distributed flyers claiming Hess did not commit suicide but was actually murdered.

West Germany's Internal Security Service prepared for increased neo-Nazi violence and terror and beefed up security all around the small town.

Hess, the last remaining high-ranking official in the Nazi hierarchy, lived in Spandau since 1946 when he was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Nuremberg trials. He was captured in Scotland in 1941 when he parachuted into Britain in what some claim was an effort to negotiate a peace between Britain and Germany.

**CANADIAN WAR CRIMES BILL CLOSER TO ENACTMENT**

OTTAWA, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- The Canadian Parliament, meeting in special session, moved closer Thursday to amending the Criminal Code to allow for the prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals residing in Canada.

The House of Commons approved a second reading of the bill, and promised a third and final reading by the end of August. Government leaders had hoped Parliament would pass the bill in a hurry before it recessed for the summer June 30, but couldn't gain the unanimous approval needed to circumvent committee consideration.

The Thursday approval was welcomed by B'nai B'rith Canada. "We applaud the federal government for living up to its commitment to deal with this problem that has been a black

mark on our nation's history since World War II," said Frank Dimant, executive vice president. Added David Matas, senior counsel for the League for Human Rights of B'nai B'rith Canada, "After 42 years we are relieved to be moving closer to seeing that provisions are in place to ensure that Nazi war criminals are brought to justice.

"To me, this was the real emergency to recall Parliament. It is important that justice be done before it's too late. Once the legislation is passed, it is essential that prosecutions be launched immediately."

The special session was called to deal with amendments to the nation's immigration law. Passage of the Criminal Code amendment seems imminent.

**SHAMIR, PERES AGAIN POSTPONE CABINET VOTE ON LAVI JET**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Israel's oft-postponed decision whether to build the Lavi jet fighter will be delayed again. Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres decided Friday to scrap plans for a Lavi vote at the Sunday Cabinet meeting.

The cited reason is the lack of a majority of Ministers in support of the second-generation Israeli jet.

The defense establishment, which wants the project stopped because it says the expense would detract from defense necessities, is concerned that some wavering Ministers may eventually vote for the project.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Moshe Nissim both firmly rejected last week various package proposals from Ministers in support of the jet and Israel Aircraft Industries, its designated manufacturer.

**POPE AS YOUNG PRIEST AFTER HOLOCAUST REFUSED TO BAPTIZE JEWISH CHILD AGAINST HIS DEAD PARENTS' WISHES**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- The personal story of an American Jewish man who as a child during the Holocaust was hidden by a Polish Catholic couple demonstrates a respect for Judaism by the young priest who became Pope John Paul II.

In an account of the saving of little Shachne Hiller, recorded in "Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust" (Avon Books, NY, 1982), Hiller, renamed Stanley Berger, told author/editor Yaffa Eliach that in 1946 a newly ordained priest named Karol Wojtyla refused to baptize him a Catholic despite a request by the woman who had cared for him as her own.

Berger told Eliach that through a letter from the woman in Poland who had saved him, he learned that she, Mrs. Yachowitch, had approached "a newly ordained parish priest who had a reputation for being wise and trustworthy" to convert him "as a true Christian and devout Catholic" after she knew for certain that his parents had died in the crematoria. The priest refused after asking what was the wish of the

boys' parents in entrusting him to their Christian friends. Yachowitch acknowledged that his parents, in face of their almost certain death, requested that their son be raised as a Jew, to which Father Wojtyla replied that "it would be unfair to baptize the child while there was still hope that the relatives of the child might take him."

### Three Letters And A Will

In 1942, when the boy's parents, Helen and Moses Hiller, realized what their probable fate would be in the Cracow ghetto where they lived, Helen Hiller took her little son Shachne to trusted Catholic family friends on the Aryan side in the town of Dombrowa to be hidden. She left with her son three letters and a will.

In a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Yachowitch, the Hillers asked that the couple bring the boy up as a Jew and return him to his people in case of his parents' death. The Hillers included in that letter the names of relatives in Montreal and Washington.

In a letter to Shachne, his parents wrote how much they loved him, told him of his Jewish heritage and that they wanted him to grow up proud of this.

The third letter contained a will written by Helen Hiller's mother, Reizel Wurtzel, and was addressed to her sister-in-law in Washington, Jenny Berger. Describing the true conditions in the ghetto, the deaths of family members and the deportations, she wrote that her grandson had been "given to good people," but that if none of them should return to please take the child and "bring him up righteously." She also asked that the Yachowitches be rewarded for their efforts to save Shachne.

The Cracow ghetto was liquidated in March 1943. Many inhabitants were sent to Auschwitz. The Yachowitches inquired constantly after the Hillers and finally learned they had perished.

The Catholic family moved around frequently, at times even hiding in barns and haystacks. Shachne and the Yachowitches became increasingly attached to each other, and the boy attended mass with them regularly. In 1946, the request that the child be baptized was made to Wojtyla, who refused, saying "there was still hope that the relatives of the child might take him."

Yachowitch then mailed the letters to the relatives in the U.S. and Canada, and both responded affirmatively their desire to take Shachne. A legal battle ensued for four years because Polish law forbade Polish orphan children to leave Poland. However, in 1949 the Canadian Jewish Congress received permission from the Canadian government to bring 1,210 orphans to that country. Shachne was among them because a Polish judge had awarded the boy to representatives of the Canadian and American relatives.

In 1950, he was sent to Washington, D.C., where he was adopted and grew up as Stanley Berger, and continued to write to his foster parents in Poland. In October 1978, when Karol Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II, Mrs. Yachowitch wrote to Stanley Berger, revealing to him for the first time that she had considered converting him to Catholicism, but was denied this wish by a well-meaning priest who had now become Pope.

### MIDEAST CALM ENDING RABIN WARNS NEW OFFICERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- The Middle East is nearing the end of a six-to-10-year period of "relative calm," Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an address before graduates of the Israel Defense Force Staff and Command College Thursday. He noted that in the past few years the threat of imminent war with the Arab armies had been remote, but he added that Israel has erred in predicting the outbreak of war. He said the State must "learn the lesson and be attentive to changes which may occur."

He added that unlike some other armies, the IDF cannot assume there will be no war in the next few years.

In two weeks, Rabin is scheduled to go on a four-day official visit to West Germany, where he will hold talks with West German defense officials and visit Holocaust sites. He will be the first Israeli Defense Minister to visit Germany.

Northern Command Maj. Gen. Yossi Peled, a Holocaust survivor, will accompany Rabin.

### DISCREDITED DEMJANJUK TRIAL WITNESS ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Anita Pritchard, the Swedish-born and U.S.-trained physiognomy expert whose evidence was discredited by the prosecution in the John Demjanjuk war crimes trial here last week, attempted suicide in Tel Aviv Friday.

Defense counsel Yoram Sheftel took her to the hospital after Pritchard swallowed a large amount of aspirins and slashed one wrist in her hotel room. She was treated and released. Sources said she intended to leave Israel immediately.

Pritchard, from Houston, Texas, last week challenged the assertions by prosecution expert witnesses that the face of defendant Demjanjuk matched that on the World War II identity card that the prosecution claims belonged to "Ivan the Terrible," the sadistic Treblinka guard.

But prosecutor Michael Shaked impugned Pritchard's expertise and academic credentials, and got her to admit she had overextended herself in offering opinions on various key technical points.

### SIX GUSH EMUNIM SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK REPORTED DESERTED

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Six Gush Emunim settlements in the West Bank have been abandoned, Al Hamishmar reported Friday. Gush Emunim comprises Orthodox Jewish settlers.

The newspaper reported that a correspondent who visited the Har Bracha settlement near Nablus on Wednesday found locked buildings and a pile of two-month-old unclaimed mail. After an hour of wandering he encountered a lone woman settler from one of the four families still at the site out of 34. "It's sad to see this place empty," she said.

Uri Eilifzur, a member of the Amana Gush Emunim settlement organization, said a social crisis had caused the families to leave. He admitted that five other settlements are in a similar situation.

## VANUNU'S BROTHER TO ASK BRITAIN FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Meir Vanunu, brother of Mordechai Vanunu who is awaiting trial in Israel on charges of selling the State's nuclear secrets to a British newspaper, will ask Britain for political asylum, according to a Jerusalem Post report.

"I have no desire to set foot in Israel for many years," Meir Vanunu told the Post's London correspondent.

Meir has attempted to drum up support for his brother abroad. This week, Vanunu said he plans to visit Paris to meet with the "council for the defense" group set up there to work on behalf of his brother. He said he will also visit Italy where a magistrate has launched an investigation into reports that the Mossad illegally spirited Mordechai out of Italy.

Meir claims an attractive female Mossad agent lured his brother from London to Italy, drugged him and brought him against his will to Israel aboard an Israeli vessel.

Mordechai, a former technician at the Dimona nuclear facility, had emigrated to Australia and converted to Christianity when he sold to The Times of London a detailed account (including pictures) of an allegedly secret facility at Dimona for the production of nuclear weapons.

Amnesty International, the international human rights agency, has requested to send an observer to the Vanunu trial but the Attorney General has denied the petition. Vanunu has requested a trial in open court.

## JERUSALEM BRACING ITSELF FOR VIOLENCE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Orthodox leaders in Jerusalem warned Sunday that their communities would respond "vigorously" next weekend to the opening of four cinema clubs here last Friday night. But secular leaders, buoyed by a high turnout at the film clubs, vowed to open two more next week.

A spokesman for the Eda Haredit ultra-Orthodox community, centered in Mea Shearim, said the community had "behaved like good boys last Shabbat, but we will not behave that way next time."

Avraham Yosef Lezerson, an Agudat Yisrael councilman, termed last Friday night "a black Shabbat" for Jerusalem, and said Mayor Teddy Kollek and the film organizers would "carry a heavy responsibility" for the consequences. "The status quo has been torn apart...we will not stand idly by," Lezerson warned.

There were only sporadic incidents of rioting in Jerusalem during this past Shabbat, due to a strong reinforcement of the city's police force. Mounted and riot-equipped policemen patrolled the exits to Mea Shearim on Friday night, and allowed only token groups of Orthodox to stage carefully limited protests against the film screenings. On Saturday afternoon the police had to use water cannons to contain a renewed outbreak, but by and large the fears of wholesale violence in Jerusalem proved premature.

In Haifa, however, Orthodox demonstrations against Sabbath desecration there turned nasty, and three Israel Radio reporters were severely beaten. The town's Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, Shear-Yashuv Cohen, called on religious residents to

help police bring the miscreants to justice. The Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox communities in the capital are preparing, meanwhile, for a mass show of strength at the Western Wall Monday afternoon. Leading Aguda-affiliated rabbis, among them Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, a noted halachist, and Rabbi Shalom Eliashiv, a former leading dayan, have called on religious people from all over the country to participate in a prayer-demonstration and tens of thousands are expected to attend.

Kollek, meanwhile, plans to set up a select committee to consider ways of offering nonreligious Jerusalemites Friday night cultural activities without offending the sensibilities of the Orthodox.

The secularist front, comprising Mapam, Citizens Rights Movement, Shinui, the Reform movement and unaffiliated secularists has called on the city officials to recognize that the high turnout at the film clubs on Friday -- there were 1,000 people turned away from the Beit Agron cinema club alone for lack of tickets -- shows the need for entertainment and culture in the capital for the non-Orthodox sector.

## A Shocking Incident

In a related incident, Israeli police bussed in hundreds of reinforcements to Jerusalem Friday as tensions in the city rose dangerously following the shearing-off of a young Orthodox boy's "peyot" (side curls) last Thursday night.

Photographs of 11-year-old Nahum Hanun before and after the thug clipped the peyot in a Mea Shearim street were featured prominently in most Israeli papers Friday -- and sent a shudder of shock through the entire country. The imagery immediately conveyed to many people's minds was that of the Holocaust, and secular and religious leaders joined in condemning the act.

Nevertheless, police feared the attack would exacerbate an already tense situation. After three straight weekends of rioting over the Friday-night cinema issue here, Orthodox rabbis have called for a mass prayer meeting at the Western Wall Monday night, where more than 100,000 people were expected.

## ISRAELI GIRL AWAKENS FROM COMA FOLLOWING HER NEAR DROWNING

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- A five-year-old girl awoke apparently fine from a five-day coma in an Afula hospital Thursday following her near drowning in Lake Kinneret. Doctors said she began breathing without the help of a life-support system, recognized her parents and showed no signs of brain damage.

The family, from Rehovot, had been vacationing near the lake last Sunday. Upon realizing the girl was missing, bathers searched the area. One searcher spotted her body and pulled it from the water. She had no pulse and had turned blue.

No trained medical personnel were available, but a boy on the shore recollected a demonstration he had seen on television and applied pressure to her chest until a Magen David Adom intensive care ambulance arrived. Six minutes elapsed before she received oxygen.

For five days the girl remained in a coma at the Emek Hospital, attached to life support machines. Doctors said her recovery without brain damage from a five-day coma, after six minutes without oxygen, is "extremely rare."

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE HANDWRITING ON THE GREAT WALL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- A kosher restaurant in Beijing and a Jewish studies conference in 1988 for Chinese scholars in Shanghai--these are two prospects that have come into view following a recent visit to the People's Republic of China by leaders of the Asia-Pacific Jewish Association (APJA).

Senior Chinese scholars, however, guided by their Foreign Ministry, rejected the suggestion that a meeting of Asian Jewish colloquiums' international steering committee be held in Beijing, with scholars from Israel and the West attending. They indicated that this would be too sensitive and premature.

Other agreements tentatively reached between the APJA delegation and leaders of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences include:

- \* Sets of the Encyclopedia Judaica and other Jewish source material will be presented to six leading research and academic libraries in China.

- \* Video and audio tapes on Jewish topics will be made available for wide distribution.

- \* Chinese scholars will be invited to attend the Third Asian Jewish Colloquium in 1989, and to attend other international Jewish conferences, possibly in Israel. Jewish-studies scholars, possibly from Israel, will be invited to China.

- \* More tourist visas will be granted to Israeli citizens -- but still within limitations.

### Sensitivity In Beijing

The president of the APJA, Australian tourism tycoon Isi Leibler, and vice president Sam Lipski say they found "no evidence . . . of any short-term prospect of a change in the status quo" between Israel and China. They say there is much sensitivity in Beijing "to the climate created by exaggerated speculation" in the Israeli media and by "over-eager Israeli politicians," and that this is "counter-productive."

They told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they were especially anxious to acquaint informed American Jewish leadership and opinion of their efforts in China.

Leibler and Lipski had apparently hoped to be able to hold a session of their colloquium steering committee in Beijing, following the participation at the second colloquium in Hong Kong last March of Chinese scholar and establishment figure Prof. Sidney Shapiro (Sha Boli).

Shapiro lectured at the colloquium on the history of the Jews of Kaifeng, and he has retained a warm relationship with the APJA since then. He is to visit Australia in 1988.

But the APJA leaders were turned down. They are understood to believe that Arab diplomatic pressure on the Chinese Foreign Ministry, and the general waiting mood in Beijing in advance of the 13th Communist Party Congress in October, have led to extreme circumspection on the part of Chinese academics with whom they are in contact.

The most senior among these are Prof. Zhao Fusan, a vice president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and director of its Institute of World Religions, and Dr. Li Shenchi, also an academy vice president and director of its Institute of American Studies. Zhao, who is a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative

Committee and considered a ranking cultural-ideological figure, told the APJA that there are some 20 scholars throughout China involved in one way or another with Jewish studies.

Their greatest problem was a dearth of source material, he said. The academy had recently translated Martin Buber's "I and Thou" and Abba Eban's "My People" into Chinese.

Zhao agreed with the APJA that collections of basic Jewish resource works, especially in philosophy, poetry and archaeology, would be distributed to the Academy of Social Sciences' own documentation center, to the Chinese National Library, to Beijing University, to Fudan University in Shanghai, to the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, and to the Nanking Theological Seminary.

He conceded that the level of Jewish studies research was not high, but singled out for special mention Prof. Hsu Ding Xin, an Old Testament scholar at the Nanking Seminary and a pupil of the late Dr. J.F. Li, who graduated from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in the 1930's.

### Beginning Of A Cultural Dialogue

Zhao also welcomed the APJA's readiness to help towards arranging a conference of Chinese scholars of Jewish studies, to be held in Shanghai next year. One or two outstanding Jewish studies scholars from the West would attend this conference, along with some of the Chinese academics active in the field.

While the participation obviously would not be large, Zhao felt the conference could be an important beginning of a cultural dialogue.

It was Zhao who, to the surprise of the two Jewish leaders, raised the idea of a kosher facility in Beijing. He said it could serve as a tangible presence of Jewish ethnic culture. Leibler and Lipski accordingly began discussing the project with the Sheraton Great Wall Hotel, which is a Western businessmen's favorite hostelry in Beijing.

Regarding Israeli tourists, Leibler was told by an authoritative official that there was no problem for them to receive visas provided they consisted of no more than 30-40 percent of a tour group.

There has been a fall-off recently in the number of visas granted to Israelis seeking to tour China.

### NEW LICENSING TEST FOR DOCTORS MAY KEEP SOVIET JEWS FROM ISRAEL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- A group of Soviet Jewish physicians is reconsidering plans to immigrate to Israel due to a new Israeli law requiring all new-immigrant doctors to undergo professional tests before being licensed to practice medicine in this country.

Ephraim Feinblum, chairman of the Association of Immigrants from the Soviet Union in Israel, said he received this news over the phone from Soviet Jewish activists in Moscow. "This amendment will have disastrous consequences for aliya," he said.

The Health Ministry said some recent immigrant doctors have shown a low professional level, so the tests are necessary. Since 1971, about 3,700 doctors from Eastern Europe have settled in Israel, according to Feinblum.