

FUND-RAISERS VETO LABOR CANDIDATE FOR WZO-AGENCY POST AS AGENCY BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTS CHAIRMAN By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- A powerful group of Jewish diaspora fund-raisers has decided to oppose the leading candidate for the chairmanship of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executive.

News of the surprise move surfaced Wednesday as the Jewish Agency Board of Governors voted unanimously to elect Mendel Kaplan, a lawyer and businessman from South Africa, as its next chairman, the top position in international Jewish philanthropy.

Although Kaplan, 51, who lives in Cape Town, entered the race as a dark horse earlier this year, his victory had been expected.

The big surprise was the fund-raisers' move to oppose Akiva Lewinsky as chairman of the WZO-Agency Executive. Lewinsky is the Labor Party candidate for the post -- one of several to be filled through elections during the World Zionist Congress, which opens here Dec 6.

Labor last week hammered out a package deal with other Zionist groups virtually assuring Lewinsky's election.

Under the arrangement, Labor would offer the post of WZO treasurer to Avraham Avihai, a Canadian-born Israeli who was the choice of the Confederation of United Zionists, of which Hadasah is the largest component.

Other top portfolios were to go to the Association of Reform Zionists of America and to Mercaz, the Conservative Zionist organization. In exchange, these groups -- who with Labor reportedly control 320 of the 535 delegates to the Zionist Congress -- were to support Lewinsky.

Subject To 'Advice and Consent'

But according to power-sharing rules between the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization, the outcome of the WZO elections is subject to the "advice and consent" of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors.

The 74-member Board of Governors is evenly split between "Zionist" representatives of the WZO and prominent Jewish leaders and philanthropists -- referred to as "the fund-raisers," 22 of whom are Americans.

Labor thought the philanthropists would back Lewinsky, despite serious doubts expressed by some American fund-raisers over the exclusion of Likud from the slate of officers.

But the package deal was unacceptable to the "Committee of 12," a high-level body of Jewish Agency fund-raisers who met earlier this week and voted against Lewinsky and the other members of his proposed slate.

Package 'Turned Down'

"We were presented with a package deal and that package we turned down," Kaplan said at a news conference shortly after his election.

As chairman of the world board of trustees of Keren Hayesod, which handles fund raising outside the United States, Kaplan had been known

as a supporter of Lewinsky. But he apparently voted against him at the "Committee of 12" meeting.

Close associates of Lewinsky noted that the fund-raisers can still change their minds at the Zionist Congress. Sources in the fund-raisers' camp said, however, that their opposition to Lewinsky was firm and that Labor had been warned not to submit him as a candidate.

A kibbutz member and former managing director of Bank Hapoalim, Lewinsky is seen by many U.S. philanthropists as too much a part of the system they hope to reform. One of his leading opponents was Jerold Hoffberger of Baltimore, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors for the past four years, whom Kaplan will succeed.

Power Struggle

Observers here believe Lewinsky would have been turned down even if his candidacy had been presented separately from that of the other candidates on the slate, because of a power struggle within the Jewish Agency.

Lewinsky would replace the outgoing WZO-Jewish Agency chairman, Leon (Arye) Dulzin of the Liberal wing of Likud.

Yehiel Leket, chairman of the Labor Zionist movement, accused Dulzin Wednesday of "dirty tricks." He said Dulzin had submitted the names of Labor's candidates for review although he had no authority to do so. Dulzin denied the charge.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party, was reportedly stunned by the veto of Lewinsky. He is said to have personally contacted the heads of the fund-raising organizations this week to ensure their backing for Lewinsky.

Haaretz reported Wednesday that Labor has begun seeking alternative candidates. One name mentioned was Gad Yaacobi, the minister of economic coordination in the Labor-Likud coalition Cabinet. But Labor Party sources said it was too early to give up the battle.

Likud has not yet put up a candidate to challenge Lewinsky and he still could be elected by acclamation at the Zionist Congress -- only to be vetoed again later by the diaspora philanthropists.

Kaplan Also Controversial

The candidacy of Kaplan to chair the board of governors was also controversial in its initial stages, largely because he is a South African. The board chairmanship has been in American hands since the Board of Governors was founded in 1971 to reconstitute the Jewish Agency.

Dulzin himself said in a recent interview that "American Jewry is the largest community in the diaspora and it's important that the chairman's job go to an American."

Peres was reportedly concerned about the diplomatic implications for Israel if a South African is elected to an important, highly visible post in Jewish philanthropies.

Nevertheless, Kaplan was selected by the eight-member nominating committee -- five of them American philanthropists and the others from Australia, Canada and France.

HUMAN RIGHTS TO BE ON THE TABLE DURING SHEVARDNADZE TALKS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA) — Human rights, including the issue of Jewish emigration, is expected to be discussed when Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze meets here Friday with Secretary of State George Shultz, the State Department said Wednesday.

Department spokesman Charles Redman said that while the main topic will be a treaty to eliminate medium and short-range missiles, now being negotiated in Geneva, the United States at all of its meetings with the Soviet Union also discusses human rights, regional and bilateral issues. He said he expected that all of these would be raised Friday "in one way or another."

The surprise announcement Tuesday that Shevardnadze would be coming to Washington came in the aftermath of Shultz's visit to Moscow last week. During that mission, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said he was not ready to set a date for a summit with President Reagan, despite expectation that the date would be set during the Shultz visit.

When Shevardnadze arrives in Washington, he will present Reagan with a letter from Gorbachev. This has fueled speculation that a summit is again in the works.

Shultz Apparently Satisfied

While there was disappointment among American officials last week over the failure to set a summit date, Shultz expressed satisfaction with Soviet progress in the area of human rights — the first issue he raised with Shevardnadze.

At the conclusion of his talks in Moscow, the secretary said he was pleased that the Soviets are living up to their promise to have a commission review the cases of Jews whose applications for exit visas have been denied. Shultz has been pressing the Soviets to deal with the emigration issue on a more systematic basis.

But Richard Shifter, assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, told a United Jewish Appeal group here Monday, that while the number of emigrants has increased greatly over last year, progress on emigration is still moving slowly.

Shifter, who participated in the Moscow talks, said that while he expects most longtime refuseniks to be allowed to leave, there are still no assurances that the nearly 400,000 Jews who have indicated a desire to emigrate will be allowed to do so.

DEMONSTRATIONS STILL PLANNED IF GORBACHEV COMES TO WASHINGTON

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA) — American Jews are planning mass demonstrations in Washington if and when Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev goes there for a summit meeting with President Reagan, Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said here Wednesday.

The chances of a summit appeared more likely this week as both Washington and Moscow announced that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze would arrive in Washington on Friday, apparently in part to discuss the possibility of a Gorbachev visit.

Demonstrations planned to coincide with the summit will bring Jews from all over the country in support of President Reagan's demand from Gorbachev "for the full redemption of Soviet Jews," Abram said at a wide-ranging luncheon briefing for representatives of the Israeli and American Jewish media.

He said that despite the glasnost (openness) policy in the Soviet Union and the release of almost all of the Jewish long-time refuseniks and prisoners of conscience, Soviet Jews are still not given permission to emigrate freely.

Abram said the situation of Soviet Jews was discussed with Secretary of State George Shultz in at least four meetings Shultz had with Jewish leaders in recent weeks. He praised Shultz's commitment to the freedom of Soviet Jewry and his unflinching efforts on their behalf.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Presidents Conference, added that Shultz knows as much about Soviet Jewry as any American Jewish leader and knows the names of individual refuseniks and their cases.

Campaign To Rescind U.N. Resolution

Abram said another matter on the agenda of the Presidents Conference is the major campaign already under way to rescind the United Nations General Assembly resolution of 1975 equating Zionism with racism.

According to Abram, the resolution "is more damaging than the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. Therefore it is imperative to mobilize all forces against this infamous resolution."

Abram said that in his conversations with Shultz, the secretary of state accepted the request that the United States "put its forces" behind the campaign to rescind the anti-Zionist resolution. He predicted that when the General Assembly opens its session next fall, a majority of the countries will favor such action.

A sense-of-the-Senate resolution urging the United Nations to support efforts to have the General Assembly rescind the resolution was adopted last Friday night. It was introduced by Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.). A similar resolution has been introduced in the House by Reps. Hamilton Fish and Benjamin Gilman (both R-N.Y.).

Abram also reported that he has been informed by United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that he will announce on Oct. 31 his decision on whether to open files on Nazi war criminals at the U.N. archives in New York. The 17 former members of the defunct United Nations War Crimes Commission, which originally maintained the file, will meet again on Oct. 30 on the issue. To date they have been unable to reach unanimous agreement on opening the file.

Abram said "I have full faith in the secretary general in this matter." He added that he had pointed out to the secretary general recently that he has the authority to open the files to public inspection regardless of the attitude of the former members of the war crimes commission.

Abram said the Presidents Conference supports the State Department's order to close the Palestine Information Office in Washington, because there is a "legal basis" to do so. He said that while the conference would like to see the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer office in New York closed, there is no legal basis at present because it is operated under U.N. jurisdiction.

TIGHT SECURITY FOR TRIAL OF FOUR ACCUSED OF KILLING RADIO HOST

By Chris Leppke
Intermountain Jewish News

DENVER, Oct. 28 (JTA) — Security was unusually tight at the U.S. District Courthouse here this week as jury selection began in the civil rights trial of four avowed white supremacists accused of murdering Denver radio talk show host Alan Berg, a Jew, in 1984.

At least a dozen federal marshals guarded the defendants as the lengthy jury selection process began Monday. It was expected to last through the week, and the trial itself several weeks.

The defendants, accused of planning and carrying out the murder of the outspoken and popular radio personality, are members of the white supremacist gang known variously as the Silent Brotherhood or The Order.

David Lane, 48, a former Ku Klux Klan member in Colorado, is accused of driving the getaway car after the June 18, 1984 machine-gun slaying at Berg's apartment here. Lane had argued with Berg on his radio program several weeks before the murder.

Bruce Pierce, 33, is accused of being the triggerman. Richard Scutari, 40, allegedly acted as lookout during the crime, and Jean Craig, 54, is accused of shadowing Berg in the weeks before his killing. A suspected fifth member of the alleged hit squad, Robert Mathews, was killed in a shootout with police in Washington in December 1984.

The defendants already are serving prison terms from convictions on racketeering charges stemming from the Brotherhood's earlier activities, mostly in the Pacific Northwest. Under the federal charges they are now facing, all could draw maximum life terms in prison.

Plot To Overthrow Government

U.S. attorneys charge that Berg's murder was part of a radical rightwing plot to overthrow the U.S. government, often called by Brotherhood members the "Zionist Occupational Government," or ZOG. The defendants are charged with violating Berg's civil rights by murdering him because of his Jewish religion.

To prove its case under the 1968 federal civil rights law, the prosecution must convince the jury that the defendants acted with force, injured Berg, acted because of Berg's religion, acted willfully and took action resulting in Berg's death.

Violation of Berg's civil rights apparently is easier to prove than homicide, according to Saul Rosenthal, regional director here of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. He explained that unlike under the latter charge, circumstantial evidence is permissible in a civil rights case and evidence can be "lumped together to paint a picture" to convict the four as a group.

Prosecutors plan to introduce evidence indicating that The Order had also discussed murdering such well-known Jewish figures as Baron Elie de Rothschild and television producer Norman Lear.

The prosecution is expected to call more than 100 witnesses including a man involved in the group's counterfeiting operations, another who already has testified that Brotherhood members told him of their role in Berg's killing and a rabbi to define what is a Jew.

Attorneys for the defense quizzed jury candidates as to whether they believed someone could be highly anti-Semitic, yet be unwilling to advocate the murder of a Jew, offering a possible hint as to their trial strategy. All those questioned Monday acknowledged such a possibility. Most potential jurors indicated they were offended by anti-Semitic remarks.

Berg often used his radio shows to lambaste white supremacists and other racists, frequently arguing with them on the air over the telephone. After such a discussion with former Colorado Ku Klux Klan leader Fred Wilkins in 1979, Wilkins came to Berg's studio and confronted him. Berg said at the time that Wilkins was armed during the incident, but later declined to press charges.

The federal action on the case follows a decision last year by Denver District Attorney Norm Early not to file homicide charges against the four, based on his feeling that there was insufficient evidence to convict them.

Rosenthal, who protested the district attorney's decision not to file charges, tied the trial to a number of cross-burning incidents in the Denver area in recent days.

"The next step in this process would be the adoption of an ethnic harassment and intimidation statute in Colorado to punish cross-burners, swastika-sprayers and other intimidators of minorities," he said. "Alan's death deserves no less than this."

FASSBINDER PLAY TO PREMIER IN HOLLAND By Henrietta Boaz

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 28 (JTA) — A controversial play by the late Rainer Werner Fassbinder in which one of the major characters is known as "The Rich Jew," will have its European premier in Rotterdam Nov. 18 and will then tour other Dutch cities, but not Amsterdam.

Charges of anti-Semitism have dogged the play, which is titled "Garbage, the City and Death." Its premier at Frankfurt's Kammerspiel theater Oct. 31, 1985, was canceled after about 30 members of the local Jewish community occupied the stage and held up banners to the audience that read "Subsidized Anti-Semitism."

On Nov. 2, a private performance was given for critics in Frankfurt in an attempt to defuse accusations that the play was anti-Semitic. Theater manager Gunter Ruhle conceded afterward that it could not be presented in Frankfurt.

But last year it was staged in New York, which paved the way for performances in Europe, beginning in Holland. The premier was to have been held in Amsterdam's Frascati theater, but the directorate objected.

Martin Schouten, a columnist writing in the newspaper De Volkskrant Wednesday, criticized the theater for refusing it, charging "intolerable censorship."

The producer of the Dutch version is Johan Doesburg, a young graduate of the Theatrical Academy. The role of "The Rich Jew" will be played by Albert Blitz, an actor of Jewish origin.

HERZOG TO VISIT DENMARK

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 28 (JTA) — President Chaim Herzog of Israel will travel to Denmark Nov. 3-6 as the guest of Queen Margaret II, the first ever state visit there by an Israeli head of state.

WOJAC RESOLUTION DEMANDS COMPENSATION FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Arab countries were urged Wednesday to pay compensation to the estimated 850,000 Jews who were forced to leave their homes and other assets in Arab countries after the establishment of the State of Israel.

A resolution making this demand was adopted by some 300 delegates from North and South America, Europe and Israel as they ended the three-day, third international conference of the World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries (WOJAC) here.

WOJAC also called on the Arab governments, "especially Iraq, Syria and Yemen," to "cease the exploitation of the Arab refugee problem for political purposes." The Arab countries should "absorb and resettle their neglected brothers, just as Israel integrated the majority of Jewish refugees from Arab countries," the WOJAC resolution said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset Monday that Israel will seek compensation for Jewish property abandoned in the Arab countries at the proper time. He spoke during a Knesset debate timed to coincide with the WOJAC conference.

Speakers at the conference had emphasized that the issue of Jewish refugees from Arab countries had not received world attention, because the refugees were welcomed into Israel and are now an integral part of that society.

Compare Value Of Losses

It was also stressed that there were more Jews who were forced to leave Arab countries than Palestinian Arabs who left Israel and their property which was frozen, abandoned or expropriated far exceeds the value of the property left by Palestinian Arabs.

The WOJAC delegates also said this property should be returned in a restored and repaired state, including religious and cultural assets that were confiscated. Jewish emigres should also be allowed to visit their holy sites and shrines in the Arab countries, WOJAC said.

While some countries, particularly Morocco, maintain a relatively liberal policy to the few Jews still living there, most Arab governments repress Jews and these Jews should be allowed to emigrate if they so choose, the conference said.

DOUBLED REWARD FOR NAZI HAILED

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and B'nai B'rith Canada have commended the West German government for doubling its reward for information leading to the arrest of wanted Nazi war criminal Josef Schwammberger.

The reward, announced by the Ministry of Justice in Bonn, now stands at the equivalent of \$250,000. Schwammberger is accused of organizing the deportation of Jews in Poland to the Auschwitz death camp and of personally murdering at least 50 Jews in Przemysl, southeast of Warsaw, on Sept. 3, 1943.

Reported to have sought refuge in Argentina after World War II, Schwammberger, 76, is now believed to be living in Canada, under an alias, with members of his immediate family. His name

was on a list of the 10 most wanted Nazi fugitives issued in Jerusalem Oct. 14.

Elliot Welles, director of the ADL's Nazi War Criminals Task Force, said the West German move "serves notice on all Nazi war criminals, wherever they may be hiding, that they will be hunted down and brought to justice."

Frank Dimant, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith Canada, noted in Toronto that the increased reward is payable for information leading to Schwammberger's whereabouts or arrest. It no longer carries the condition that he be extradited to stand trial in West Germany.

Fits New Canadian Law

This is significant inasmuch as the Canada recently adopted legislation allowing war criminals found on Canadian soil to be prosecuted for crimes committed elsewhere. Dimant said B'nai B'rith Canada has worked with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's war crimes division on individual cases of alleged war criminals, in conjunction with the ADL's war criminals task force.

In addition, Dimant urged Canadian Justice Minister Ray Hnatyshyn to immediately launch the prosecution of 20 alleged war criminals living in Canada who were cited by the Deschenes Commission.

The commission, headed by Judge Jules Deschenes of the Quebec Superior Court, conducted a year-long investigation of war criminals living in Canada and submitted its report and recommendations to the government earlier this year. The law allowing the prosecution of war criminals in Canadian courts was one of the recommendations.

Welles said that individuals who have information on Schwammberger should contact Prosecutor Hoeschner in Stuttgart, West Germany, or the ADL at 823 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017; (212) 490-2525.

AS TENSIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON SUBSIDE, IDF OPENS MORE BORDER CROSSINGS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force appears to have the situation along Israel's northern border well in hand and the number of border crossings has been increased to facilitate the movement of hundreds of Lebanese villagers who commute to jobs in Israel every day.

According to a senior IDF officer, quoted by Davar Wednesday, there has been a significant decrease in recent months of the number of incidents, clashes and attacks carried out or foiled along the northern border. They have declined by 50 percent compared to the previous year, he said.

In addition, it was found that about 65 percent of the clashes between the IDF and terrorist bands now occur on the northern fringe of the Israeli-controlled security zone in southern Lebanon, rather than within the zone, Al Hamishmar reported.

Within the framework of Israel's "good fence" policy, an additional opening has been provided near Kibbutz Malchia for Lebanese villagers entering and leaving Israel. A second border crossing was established near Nabatiyeh in southern Lebanon to allow residents of the security zone access to the rest of Lebanon for family visits to Sidon and Beirut.