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PAPAL ADVISER'S COMMENTS JOLT CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS
 By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- The state of Catholic-Jewish relations was rocked this week with the disclosure that a major Vatican official said that Judaism "finds its fulfillment" in "the reality of Jesus Christ."

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, a papal adviser and head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, was quoted as saying this, and more, in the Oct. 24 Italian weekly magazine *Il Sabato*.

On Tuesday, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), meeting at its annual conference in Washington, released Ratzinger's remarks in German, as well as copies of the Italian magazine interview. A major ruckus ensued, prompting rebuttals and analyses by Jewish leaders, Catholic leaders and the press.

At issue is Ratzinger's assertion that "The Pope has offered respect, but also a theological line. This always implies our union with the faith of Abraham, but also the reality of Jesus Christ, in which the faith of Abraham finds its fulfillment."

The Jewish Interpretation

Jewish participants in Vatican relations are interpreting Ratzinger's statements as saying that Judaism can find purpose only in Christ, thus overturning all progress since Vatican Council II more than 20 years ago and especially since this summer's meetings between Jewish representatives and high Vatican officials and Pope John Paul II.

Eugene Fisher, executive secretary for Catholic-Jewish relations for NCCB, contended Tuesday that Ratzinger's remarks had been misrepresented because they were taken out of context and translated without a feeling for the "nuance" of the language.

On Wednesday, Ratzinger's Vatican office released what it said was a "clarification" of Ratzinger's remarks in response to a request from Jewish organizations. The response contained four points reported to represent Ratzinger's understanding of Catholic-Jewish dialogue. They are:

- A Christian should acknowledge his Old Testament heritage and know that according to the Christian faith the Old Testament was fulfilled in Christ.
- When Jews convert to Christianity, they should not forget their Jewish heritage.
- Christians should acknowledge and respect the Jews in "their own faith and expectations."
- Christians should aspire thorough dialogue to overcome misunderstandings and the "teaching of contempt" of Jews in order to "develop true knowledge, respect and love."

But the International Jewish Committee on Interfaith Consultations (IJCC) decided Tuesday to postpone a meeting with Catholic representatives, scheduled for December.

The major factors, according to Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, were Ratzinger's statements and widespread concern in the Jewish community that the Vatican was approaching this meeting without an

honest assessment of its own actions during the Holocaust.

In September, Vatican officials had indicated the Pope would prepare a statement expressing remorse for the Shoah and addressing the Vatican's role during that time.

Steinberg explained that "now there is widening concern by the Jewish community that such a statement would be another whitewash of the role of the church in the period immediately thereafter."

Details of Ratzinger's interview are unclear. It is not yet known whether Ratzinger gave the interview in German or Italian, although Fisher said it was in German.

Discrepancies In Texts

This is important because of minor discrepancies between the German and Italian versions of Ratzinger's remarks. Although Fisher and Johannes Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Holy See's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, highlighted these differences as significant, Jewish observers do not seem to be convinced.

For example, in the German text, Ratzinger is quoted as saying "for us" -- referring to Catholics -- preceding the quotation about "the faith of Abraham finds its fulfillment" in Christianity. These words do not appear in the Italian version. The English versions that were quoted in the American Catholic press did not include the words "for us."

Alan Mittleman, program associate in the interreligious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee, believes that with these translations "a case is attempted to be built on the fact that the original was in German, that Ratzinger is somewhat relativizing it, saying that 'We Catholics believe this is true, but we are not trying to impose this on Jews.'"

"But Ratzinger is not a pluralist," said Mittleman. "For us, the words 'for us' hardly solves our problem." Mittleman said that Ratzinger's comments "really invade our faith" and "are caught in a contradiction."

Responding to reports of the explanation, Rabbi A. James Rudin, national interreligious affairs director of the AJCommittee, told JTA Thursday "that really the explanation is insufficient. This is so important that the Cardinal's remarks and explanations deserve much more than hanging on the two words 'for us.'"

Rudin explained why the issue so concerned him. "If the Cardinal's words that are read in fact truly represent retrogressive steps in Jewish-Catholic relations, it's very serious," he said.

Rudin said that Ratzinger's statements are significant because of his high Vatican office and his reputed strong influence on the Pope.

SENEGAL'S PRESIDENT SAYS HE'LL URGE AFRICAN RAPPROCHEMENT WITH ISRAEL
 By Edwin Eytan

BRUSSELS, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- President Abdou Diouf of Senegal said here Thursday that he would propose a resolution at the next summit

conference of the Organization of African Unity that would allow each member state to decide itself whether to re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

Diouf made the announcement after meeting for more than an hour with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Peres is visiting Belgium, France and Britain in an effort to promote an international peace conference for the Middle East.

Diouf's formula is the same as the one adopted at the recent Arab summit meeting in Amman to allow each Arab state to decide whether to renew diplomatic ties with Egypt, which they broke when Egypt signed its peace treaty with Israel in March 1979.

Within a week of the Amman summit, seven Arab states renewed ties with Cairo. Abdou said that once the O.A.U. summit approves his resolution, Senegal will be ready to consider the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel.

He said that as a gesture of good will, Israelis henceforth will be able to visit his country and obtain visas like the nationals of all other friendly states. He welcomed increased trade relations with Israel and the creation of joint economic ventures.

After praising Israel's irrigation methods, the Senegalese president said he would like to see them for himself. Peres promptly invited him to visit Israel. "You will be a welcome guest," the Israeli foreign minister said.

Diouf did not accept or reject the invitation, saying "One day this will come about."

One Of Few Opposed

Senegal, with a large Moslem population, has been until now one of the few remaining African states opposed to diplomatic ties with Israel. Most black African nations broke relations during the 1973 Yom Kippur war in a gesture of solidarity with Egypt. Only Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland retained the ties.

But the ice was broken in 1982 when Zaire re-established relations with Israel, followed by Liberia in 1983, Ivory Coast and Cameroon in 1986 and Togo in 1987. Israel has interest sections in Kenya, Ghana and Gabon and, even before the thaw, maintained commercial relations with about two dozen African states.

In another development here, President Mario Suarez of Portugal promised Peres that he will raise the issue of Soviet Jewry "at all levels, including the highest," when he visits Moscow next week. He also said he would try to sound out Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on his intentions in the Middle East.

Peres, Diouf and Suarez were awarded honorary doctorates by the Free University of Brussels at ceremonies Thursday afternoon.

SHAMIR REPORTEDLY AGREED TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir agreed to a form of international peace conference under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union, but the idea was rejected by Jordan and Syria and aborted because of alleged American lethargy, according to reports in Haaretz and Hadashot Thursday.

If the reports are correct, they indicate a significant reversal by Shamir, leader of the Likud bloc, who has opposed the idea of an international

conference, strongly advocated by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party.

According to Haaretz, Shamir was prepared to attend the opening of an international conference sponsored by the two superpowers during the summit meeting in Washington Dec. 8-9 between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. But he set certain conditions.

These included the start of direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs on the day the conference opens, immediate dispersal of the conference, a commitment not to intervene in direct negotiations and a Soviet commitment to re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel, Haaretz reported.

Include Me, Shamir Says

Another condition was that Shamir himself be invited to represent Israel. Senior Likud sources said that condition was added because Shamir feared Peres would do to him what Ezer Weizman and Moshe Dayan did to Premier Menachem Begin at the Camp David negotiations in 1978 -- force a settlement behind Likud's back.

The late Dayan was foreign minister of Israel at the time and Weizman was defense minister. Both played major roles in the 17 days of talks at Camp David, hosted by President Jimmy Carter, that ended in an agreement between Begin and the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt on peace treaty terms which included the return of Sinai to Egypt.

Many in Begin's Herut party were opposed, and Shamir himself abstained on the Knesset vote on the Camp David accords.

Hadashot reported that Secretary of State George Shultz raised the latest conference idea during his recent trip to the Middle East. Hussein rejected it pending the Soviet response, and President Hafez Assad of Syria, who received the proposal from the American ambassador in Damascus, turned it down flatly.

Hussein reportedly told the Americans he would not deal with Shamir, but preferred direct negotiations with Peres, in whom he had utmost confidence. Only Shamir agreed at the time to send an official representative to Washington.

Haaretz reported that Hussein has since expressed displeasure with what he called American "idleness" after additional details of the aborted plan were revealed. Ranking members of the Labor Party also accused the Americans of failure to back up the plan or bring it up in discussions with top Soviet leaders.

Mubarak Urges Conference

Meanwhile, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt sent a message to Shamir this week strongly supporting direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs, but insisting that an international conference was the only way to achieve them, Haaretz reported Thursday.

The Egyptian leader stressed that no outside figure or international institution is capable of forcing a settlement in the region and there can be no substitute for an agreement reached by the sides directly involved in the conflict.

He complained that Israel is the only country with reservations about an international conference and that while he understands Shamir's fears, he can assure them they can be overcome.

Mubarak warned that perpetuation of the status quo is likely to cause an escalation of violence and would play into the hands of extremists on both sides.

UNITED STATES OPPOSES ISRAELI ORDER TO OUST PALESTINIAN ACTIVIST

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Israel and the United States are at odds over the impending deportation from Israel of Mubarak Awad, a Jerusalem-born Palestinian who is an American citizen.

The Interior Ministry has refused to extend his tourist visa and ordered him to leave the country by Friday, when it expires. But the U.S. Embassy has intervened on his behalf.

Awad established the Palestinian Center for the Study of Non-Violent Resistance in East Jerusalem when he returned there in 1985 after a 16-year absence.

The strong American interest in the case was underlined by the attendance by the deputy U.S. consul general in East Jerusalem, Edwin Cubbison, at a press conference held by Awad Wednesday to protest his expulsion. The American diplomat reiterated his government's concern. "We hope and believe that some way will be found to enable him (Awad) to remain here," Cubbison said.

(In Washington Wednesday, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said that Awad is a "leading advocate of change through nonviolence" and has "served as a moderating influence in a potentially volatile area.")

(Redman stressed that the United States has made its position "clear" to the Israeli government. "It would be regrettable if the Israeli government does in fact expel him," he said.)

U.S. Intervention Charged

Israeli sources told the Jerusalem Post that Cubbison's statement amounted to intervention in Israel's internal affairs. Nevertheless, officials here are aware that Awad's deportation Friday, coinciding with Premier Yitzhak Shamir's meetings in Washington with President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz, could introduce a sour note in American-Israeli relations.

Awad, 44, is perhaps the most prominent Palestinian advocating non-violent resistance to Israel's occupation of the territories it captured in the 1967 Six-Day War. He vowed that he would remain in Israel and, if forced out, would return as soon as possible.

Awad went to the United States in 1969 and obtained U.S. citizenship through marriage to an American. He was never a citizen of Israel. On his return to Israel in 1985, he said he intended to remain permanently.

His status as a resident alien was revoked last August on grounds that he had spent an extended period in the United States and acquired American citizenship.

When he visited the Interior Ministry last May, he was told his three-month tourist visa would not be extended and his right to remain in Jerusalem was no longer valid.

The center he directs advocates civil disobedience in line with the methods of the late Indian nationalist leader Mohandas Gandhi and the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the American civil rights activist.

Awad has called on Palestinians to refuse to work in Israel, pay taxes or fill out official forms, and to boycott Israeli products. He has urged Palestinians to lie down in front of bulldozers clearing land for Jewish settlements in the administered territories.

But the Foreign Ministry contends he has not limited himself to non-violent acts. In a letter to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv Wednesday, the ministry charged that written material circulated by Awad called for sabotage, such as cutting telephone and power lines and severing water pipe lines.

Awad has won enthusiastic support from Israeli peace activists. But his views have gained few adherents among Palestinians in the territories, who are predominantly influenced by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Supporters of Awad note that thousands of American Jews who retain their U.S. passports live indefinitely in Israel, many of them in the administered territories. Large numbers of American immigrants hold dual U.S.-Israeli citizenship.

LEWINSKY SAYS HE'S STILL RUNNING FOR JEWISH AGENCY-WZO EXECUTIVES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Akiva Lewinsky, the Labor Party's candidate for chairman of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency executives, said Wednesday he would not withdraw his candidacy despite his recent rejection by diaspora Jewish fund-raisers.

Speaking at a meeting of high-level Labor Party leaders convened by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Lewinsky said he saw his candidacy as an undertaking on behalf of the party, since the party nominated him unanimously.

Peres, the Labor Party leader, did not speak up for Lewinsky at the meeting. Stressing that it was important for Labor to win the chairmanship of the WZO at the forthcoming World Zionist Congress here, Peres said it was also important to avoid a confrontation with the fund-raisers.

A six-member committee headed by Peres was appointed to resolve the issue of the candidacy and is expected to report back next week.

Other Labor Party possibles for the job are former Health Minister Mordechai Gur and former Ambassador to the United States Simcha Dinitz.

JEWISH IDENTITY SHOULDN'T BE DECIDED IN ISRAEL'S KNESSET, REITERATES OUTGOING CJF PRESIDENT AT ASSEMBLY

By Mark Joffe

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Legislation defining "who is a Jew" in Israel would "wreak deep divisiveness and widespread disaffection" in the world Jewish community if it ever passed the Knesset, the outgoing president of the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) said Wednesday night.

"The political parties of Israel should not deal with this matter through the Knesset," Shoshana Cardin told some 3,000 delegates attending CJF's 56th General Assembly here.

Speaking at the assembly's opening plenary session, Cardin affirmed that it is not CJF's role to "comment on what are and what are not appropriate conversion procedures, nor do we represent any specific ideology."

But likewise, she said, Israel's major political parties should not exploit the longstanding controversy over whether people converted to Judaism by non-Orthodox rabbis should be recognized as Jews in Israel.

"This issue must not be used for political trading by the major parties either to fashion or to topple a government," Cardin said.

"Our hope," she added, "is that both major parties will reject any such attempt, for we have good reason to fear that such legislation will wreak deep divisiveness and widespread disaffection -- neither of which would bode well for Israel or for diaspora Jewry."

Cardin commented on the issue in the course of explaining CJF's extraordinary move earlier this year to urge Israel's top leaders to block passage of laws amending the definition of "who is a Jew" in Israel.

The move was criticized by some as an unwarranted intervention in Israel's domestic affairs and applauded by others concerned about an issue that Cardin said "has direct impact on diaspora Jewry."

Cardin also defended CJF's intervention in another area of Israeli public policy: "securing needed changes within the Jewish Agency," the body that receives and distributes funds raised for Israel in the diaspora.

She appeared to be referring generally to a series of reforms that North American philanthropists have been urging the Jewish Agency to undertake in recent years.

But she also may have been referring indirectly to a move made by American fund-raisers last month to block the candidacy of Akiva Lewinsky for the chairmanship of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization executives.

Lewinsky, who some feel represents the "old guard" in the Jewish Agency, is expected to be the Labor Party's candidate for the post, which is to be filled via elections at the World Zionist Congress, opening Dec. 6 in Jerusalem.

But because the agency's Board of Governors has the right to "advise and consent" on nominees elected to top agency posts, the diaspora fund-raisers were effectively able to block Lewinsky's election, though he may still run for the post.

(Lewinsky said in Jerusalem Wednesday that he would not withdraw his candidacy, despite the disapproval by the fund-raisers. See page 3.)

Helping Agency Is Avowed Goal

Cardin said that CJF's goal is to "help fashion that vital and unique international entity into the mechanism that will identify and respond to the human needs of Israel in the 21st century."

The Jewish Agency, she said, is the "designated instrument through which we collectively seek to be involved in creative nation-building in, and with, the people of Israel."

Cardin's address also focused on a number of domestic concerns, as well as such international issues as the plight of Jews in the so-called countries of distress: Ethiopia, Iran, Syria and the Soviet Union.

She spoke proudly of "Operation Moses," the effort to airlift thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel, which reached its peak in late 1984, but was then aborted when Israel's confirmation of the secret exodus made world headlines.

Cardin described the operation as "one of the greatest human and Jewish lifesaving efforts." But she also was careful to point out that the effort "will remain incomplete so long as there are Jews in the Gondar and elsewhere in Ethiopia who aspire to Jerusalem."

Three years ago, when the CJF held its General Assembly in Toronto, a session was interrupted by boisterous activists who denounced the fund-raisers for ignoring the plight of the

estimated thousands of Ethiopian Jews still trapped in their native land. Cardin's remark appeared to be aimed at reassuring skeptics that CJF is committed to working on behalf of those Jews who wish to leave Ethiopia.

Demonstrating a commitment to work on behalf of "our brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union," Cardin called on her thousands of listeners to attend the Dec. 6 "Mobilization to the Summit" in Washington, D.C., a massive demonstration on behalf of Soviet Jewry planned for the eve of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the United States.

"We must demonstrate. We must let our people know, let America know, let our generation and the generations that follow know, that we responded to the plight and the inspiration of Soviet Jews," she said. "I expect to see each of you -- all of you -- in Washington on Dec. 6."

Cardin spoke of a meeting she and other national Jewish leaders had at the White House Tuesday with President Reagan. "He assured us of his unflinching determination to stress human rights and the plight of Soviet Jews when he meets with General Secretary (Mikhail) Gorbachev," she reported.

The plight of Soviet Jewry also came up during the opening plenary in a musical performance by the folk group Peter, Paul and Mary. In addition to singing such old favorites as "Blowing in the Wind," lead singer Mary Travers spoke of a visit she made to the Soviet Union in which she met with Soviet Jewish refuseniks.

On short notice, she learned the Hebrew words to the biblical song "Dodi Li" (I Am My Beloved), which she sang with the refuseniks. The group performed the song for the CJF crowd Wednesday night in a rendition that moved many to join the chorus and others to tears.

Busy Schedule

The General Assembly continues through Sunday morning with four additional plenary sessions, a business session, 20 forums and more than 100 workshops on topics representing a wide range of domestic and international concerns.

Highlights will include addresses Thursday night by Premier Yitzhak Shamir of Israel and Sunday night by Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

The convention, which is the largest annual gathering of North American Jews, also will hear addresses via satellite by recently released refusenik Ida Nudel, who is in Israel, and by Mendel Kaplan, newly elected chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, who is in Johannesburg.

Cardin is expected to be succeeded in the post of CJF president by Mandel Berman of Detroit.

SOVIETS REPORTEDLY SANCTION FIRST HEBREW COURSE FOR JEWS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- More than 70 Soviet Jews have signed up for the first officially-sanctioned Hebrew courses in the Soviet Union, according to information reaching the Soviet Jewry Information Center in Jerusalem.

The report was hailed by government sources here familiar with Soviet Jewish affairs as an important step for Jewish culture in the Soviet Union. The classes are to be held in the town of Baku, in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan.