

COURT ORDERS THAT NON-ORTHODOX CONVERT MILLER BE LISTED AS JEWISH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court gave the Interior Ministry seven days on Monday to register non-Orthodox convert Shoshana Miller as Jewish or show cause why it failed to comply with a court order to do so issued a year ago.

The high court acted a day after the ministry agreed reluctantly to register three other non-Orthodox converts within 14 days rather than answer their appeal, which had gained the support of Attorney General Yosef Harish.

Non-Orthodox circles here hailed both developments as significant progress in their efforts to prevent the Orthodox religious establishment from amending the Law of Return, allowing Israeli citizenship to all Jews who seek it. The amendment would recognize only halachic (Jewish legal) -- in other words, Orthodox -- conversions.

But the two chief rabbis, Mordechai Eliahu and Avraham Shapira, joined other rabbinic authorities in denouncing the Supreme Court's decisions as unwarranted interference in halacha.

Miller's case established a precedent for the registration of non-Orthodox converts as Jews. Miller, an American immigrant who was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi in the United States, won a lengthy court battle in 1986 for status as a Jew.

The Interior Ministry was forced to issue her an identification card, but it stamped the word "convert" next to the designation of Jewishness. This raised a storm of protest, even among some Orthodox scholars who found the qualification repugnant and a stigma prohibited by Jewish law.

The Supreme Court ordered a new ID card for Miller. In the interim, however, she returned to the United States to take care of her sick father, and the matter of the new card became moot. Nevertheless, Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz, leader of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, resigned in protest against the court's ruling.

Miller Not Even Registered

The ministry has since been under the nominal stewardship of Premier Yitzhak Shamir. It was learned later that the ministry, relieved of its immediate obligation to issue a new ID card to Miller, also did not heed the court order to enter her in the population registry as Jewish.

That default led to Monday's ultimatum by the high court. Miller, whose father died recently, told the Jerusalem Post in a telephone interview that she may return to Israel.

Attorney General Harish, citing the Miller case, said last Friday he could see no reason why three other non-Orthodox converts, Gail Moscovitch, an American, and Claudia and Julia Varella, both of Brazil, should not be registered as Jews.

Harish had been scheduled to defend the Interior Ministry against the trio's appeals. But Yehoshua Kahana, director of the ministry's population registry, announced Sunday that he would comply in view of the attorney general's opinion.

SHAMIR CLARIFIES HIS STANCE ON NEW U.S. PEACE PROPOSALS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir has apparently satisfied his Likud colleagues that he has not wavered from his longstanding position on the administered territories, in face of the new American peace initiative in the Middle East.

Many in the Herut wing of the Likud bloc, which Shamir heads, expressed anger and dismay after Shamir seemed to express support Sunday for the American plan, which envisages some form of autonomy -- referred to as "interim arrangements" -- for the territories to take effect "within a few weeks."

Shamir was quoted as saying the plan was the best way to "protect" Israel's presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the future of Jewish settlements there.

This was seen by Commerce and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, Housing Minister David Levy and other Herut hard-liners as a deviation from the party's position that the only acceptable autonomy was that outlined in the 1978 Camp David accords -- as interpreted at the time by the Likud-led government of Premier Menachem Begin.

But Levy, who also holds the rank of deputy premier, told Voice of Israel Radio on Monday that Shamir had clarified his views and that there was no longer "fear or unclarity" with respect to Likud's stand.

He said the American proposal to introduce a "stepped-up autonomy" would be rejected by Likud, because it amounted to "paving the road to the return of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip to foreign rule."

No Deviation From Camp David

Sources close to Shamir stressed that the premier sticks to his view that negotiations could be based only on Camp David-style autonomy. They said that while he welcomed the renewed American involvement in efforts to reach a settlement, he would not deviate from the Camp David accords.

Despite his conciliatory nod toward Shamir, Levy criticized the premier for not having consulted the Likud ministers before he reacted to the new political developments.

"I don't want to hear in the media that the prime minister is preparing replies to the American proposals," the housing minister said.

Levy met earlier with the heads of Jewish settlements in the territories. He assured them that contrary to statements made by Labor ministers, settlement activity has not been suspended.

He said there was no de facto decision to stop settlement and promised that his ministry would strengthen existing settlements.

Leaders of the settlers movement held lengthy discussions in recent days with Shamir, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other key ministers on the security situation in the territories. The talks were prompted by the firebomb attack Sunday night on the car of Dov Kalmanovich, a 32-year-old accountant from Beit-El, who was driving through El-Bireh, near Ramallah.

SHULTZ GIVES FEW SPECIFICS ON NEW U.S. PEACE INITIATIVE

By George Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The Reagan administration continued its silence Tuesday about the recent U.S. Middle East peace initiative, with Secretary of State George Shultz declining to be more specific with the House Foreign Affairs Committee than to note that it focuses more on substance than procedure.

While it has been widely reported that the initiative calls for interim local autonomy measures for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, there has been no official description from spokespersons at the State Department or White House.

Speaking Tuesday at a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Shultz would only say, "We've had so much emphasis on process that substance has got too little attention."

He said the initiative arose from the "greater willingness to think afresh" by parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The new, substantive approach is a "new blend of ideas that have been around," Shultz said, speculating that it "might relax peoples' attitudes about procedures."

On the question of the U.S. position toward Israel's handling of riots in the territories, Shultz explained that the United States vetoed Monday's U.N. resolution criticizing Israel's handling of the crisis because an affirmative U.S. vote would not have been "productive."

The secretary explained that the administration is trying to resolve its differences with Israeli policy "directly" with the Israelis.

He did note the U.S. opposition to Israel's deportation of four Palestinians by saying "those people belong in jail, not deported."

He also used the occasion to praise Israel for having a "vibrant democracy," noting the massive protests within the Jewish state opposing Israel's methods of riot control. "Those voices have been speaking," the secretary said.

Shultz also announced that Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, will soon travel to the region.

UNREST CONTINUES, AS RABIN AFFIRMS POLICY ON BEATINGS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Unrest continued in the West Bank on Tuesday, but on a smaller scale than earlier in the week, probably because of severe wind and rain storms that kept most people indoors.

Nevertheless, three Israelis were injured by glass splinters in several stone-throwing attacks in the territory. Two Molotov cocktails were thrown at a bus causing slight damage, but no casualties. A truck and a bus were set on fire Monday night to prevent them from carrying Arab workers to jobs in Israel.

Several schools and colleges in the West Bank were ordered closed Tuesday because their reopening Monday after the semester break was accompanied by rioting. Curfews were imposed on the Arab town of Kalkilya and the nearby village of Haba.

East Jerusalem was quiet Tuesday, but the general strike by merchants and shopkeepers there continued into its fourth week.

Militant Jewish settlers opened a new front. A convoy of 20 cars from West Bank settlements drove through the Arab town of Anabta on Tuesday night with horns blaring.

They were protesting the roadblocks put up Monday and the stoning of Israeli vehicles on the Tulkarm-Nablus road. A resident of Anabta was fatally shot by Israel Defense Force soldiers Monday.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin affirmed Tuesday that his policy of ordering IDF troops to pursue and severely beat Arab troublemakers has proven effective and will continue. He told an audience of high school students that beatings were preferable to shootings.

But the IDF is still using live ammunition. Two Arabs were shot to death and three were wounded in clashes Monday.

Don't Blame Soldiers

Rabin stressed that as the minister in charge of security for the entire country, he and the government bore responsibility for his policies. He said individual soldiers should not be blamed by those who found the beatings distasteful.

The public debate over Rabin's policies seems to have faded in recent days. But jurists here have pointed out that beatings are legal only in self defense or to disperse violent demonstrations. In any other instances, they are illegal and soldiers have the right to disobey illegal orders, they said.

The Gaza Strip was quiet Tuesday. A general strike was in force in Gaza and in Khan Yunis, at the southern end of the territory. The El-Bureij refugee camp remained under curfew. But schools were open as usual and thousands of Arab workers went to their jobs in Israel.

The IDF announced Monday that it recently uncovered four terrorist cells that were planning attacks in the Gaza Strip and in Israel proper. A military spokesman said 10 bombs and dozens of pounds of explosives were discovered.

According to the spokesman, one of the cells, made up of residents of the Jabalya refugee camp, bombed vehicles in Kiryat Malachi and Rehovot in Israel last year and attacked an IDF patrol in Gaza.

Another cell attacked an IDF patrol in Gaza last November. The remaining two are suspected of blowing up buses in Rafah in the Gaza Strip in December and January.

JUSTICE PREVAILS IN TERRITORIES, SAYS ISRAELI MILITARY JUDGE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Israeli military authorities have prosecuted 1,200 Palestinians since the disturbances in the West Bank and Gaza Strip began more than eight weeks ago, according to Brig. Gen. Amnon Straschnow, the judge advocate of the Israel Defense Force.

In a news conference here Monday, Straschnow disclosed that of those prosecuted, 600 have been convicted, 10 acquitted and 580 who pleaded not guilty are in prison awaiting the continuation of their trials.

Straschnow, who is responsible for administering Israel's system of military justice both within Israel and in the territories, said that the IDF sees to it that "justice is done" in bringing the accused to trial and that "the basic rules of procedure and the due process of the law are carefully observed."

REFORM RABBIS ISSUE STATEMENT DEPLORING BEATINGS POLICY

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The Central Conference of American Rabbis, the rabbinical body of Reform Judaism, issued a statement Monday saying it "deplores" the Israeli policy of beating Palestinian Arabs as a method of controlling unrest in the administered territories.

The statement, passed by the CCAR executive board by a vote of 17-3, and released by Rabbi Eugene Lipman, the group's president, says, "The policy of deliberate beatings ordered by Defense Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin in the territories" is "beyond the bounds of Jewish values."

In addition, the statement calls on all parties, "including the Arab states, to convene a peace conference on the Middle East."

The CCAR statement is the second by an American Reform body to criticize the Israeli policy, which was announced two weeks ago by Rabin. The defense minister said at the time that Israel would use "might, force, beatings" to quell the rioting.

On Jan. 24, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, representing 810 Reform congregations, issued a statement calling the beatings policy "an offense to the Jewish spirit."

Since that statement appeared, Jewish organizations have been split over whether American Jewish leaders should publicly criticize Israel.

A number of rabbis who voted in favor of the CCAR statement did so with reservations, the group said. Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk, president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform seminary, went as far as to disassociate himself publicly from the statement.

Reached at his office in Cincinnati, Gottschalk said that he agrees with "three-quarters" of the statement, including its criticism of the beatings, but that "this is not the time to take this position," when Israel is receiving harsh criticism from around the world.

AJCOMMITTEE PRESIDENT URGES NEW CONSENSUS ON TERRITORIES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Theodore Ellenoff, president of the American Jewish Committee, has called on Israelis to begin a "national examination and quest for answers" in response to the Palestinian unrest and reach a new consensus on the administered territories.

In an open letter published in Tuesday's Jerusalem Post and in the Hebrew newspaper Davar, Ellenoff expressed the support of American Jewry for the Israeli people as they and their government confront "the upsurge of violence in the territories."

"The events of the past six weeks have not divided us," he wrote.

The letter was addressed to the people of Israel "because American Jewry -- at least that portion on whose behalf I am empowered to speak -- feels an intense and personal affinity for you and, at a critical time such as this, we ought to be direct and precise."

Of the rioters, he said, "We can hope that they will seek to translate their non-explosive energies into coherent political goals, realistic demands which Israel has always proclaimed its readiness to negotiate."

He asked the Israelis to consider how they

will act on the violence. He said he hoped "this candid realism will translate itself into new ideas and a new and forthcoming consensus on the future of the territories."

In an interview in New York, Ellenoff said his letter was intended to show that "The commitment here is full and solid. However, in connection with state policy, it offends (American Jews) in a serious way, and we want you to know that."

"It is always clear that the Israeli government understands the short range and, of course, the long range necessary to deal with the Gaza insurgency."

He said American Jews "know how wholeheartedly the citizens of Israel support the policy of dealing with civil disobedience and insurrection in Gaza. Nevertheless, it appears to be a short-sighted policy which lacks imagination."

ROME'S JEWS CONCERNED AFTER PROTESTORS FIGHT JEWISH YOUTH

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Leaders of the Jewish community here have requested an urgent meeting with Interior Minister Amintore Fanfani following fist fights between young Jews and pro-Palestinian leftists outside the main synagogue in the historic ghetto here Saturday evening.

Six people were injured before police broke up the melee.

The Jewish community has charged that the leftists deliberately entered the ghetto after a march and mass rally for the Palestinian cause in downtown Rome.

The rally, sponsored by the ultra-left Proletarian Democracy Party, drew more than 8,000 people from all over Italy. The party secretary, Giovanni Russo Spena, said his people entered the ghetto by mistake on their way to their buses and were set upon by Jewish youths.

The party issued a statement later saying it opposed all forms of anti-Semitism and anti-Semitism had no part in the spirit of the rally.

According to a communique issued by the Jewish community, about 30 leftist demonstrators gathered at the main synagogue at about 7:30 p.m., some 90 minutes after the rally had ended. Some wore kaffiyehs, the traditional Arab head-dress, and carried Palestinian flags. They shouted pro-Palestinian and anti-Semitic slogans.

The statement said this deliberate anti-Semitic provocation led to the fight with Jewish youth.

Rome's Jews are especially sensitive and protective of the ghetto area since a terrorist machine gun and grenade attack on the main synagogue in 1982 that left a 2-year-old Jewish child dead.

They are concerned now over an anti-Semitic backlash in Italy because of the measures Israeli troops have taken to quell disturbances in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Tullia Zevi, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, has held several meetings on this subject in recent weeks with leaders of Italy's major political parties.

Some leftist parties have been extremely vocal in support of the Palestinians. Communist Party leader Alessandro Natta visited Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat in Tunis last week. But the Communists have assured Zevi that they share her concern over renewed anti-Semitism in Italy and will help fight it.

HISTORIAN TO CHECK TELEGRAM SAID TO LINK WALDHEIM, DEPORTATION

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- An international commission of historians examining the military activities of Kurt Waldheim likely will delay preparation of its final report, scheduled for Feb. 8, because a member flew to Yugoslavia on Monday to check a new document.

The document reportedly implicates the Austrian president directly in the deportation of civilians to Nazi-run camps while he was an officer in the German army in the Balkans during World War II.

Manfred Messerschmidt, a West German member of the panel, was asked before flying to Belgrade if the document would prove Waldheim is a war criminal. He replied, "Definitely, this is the document that brought him closest to war crimes so far."

It was brought to light last week by the West German news weekly *Der Spiegel*, which plans to publish it Sunday. *Der Spiegel* bought it from Dusan Plenca, former head of the Belgrade Institute for Military History, who gave the magazine a sworn statement as to its authenticity.

The document was found in an archive in Zagreb, according to Plenca, in a hitherto unknown file of the Croatian puppet state, known as the Ustasha government, set up by the Nazis when they invaded Yugoslavia in 1941. The Ustasha army cooperated closely with the Germans.

The document is a telegram sent by an Ustasha officer in 1942 in which he refers to a request made by Lt. Kurt Waldheim to deport 4,224 persons from the municipality of Korsara in Bosnia, now a region of Yugoslavia.

In the summer of 1942, the German army undertook its first major retaliatory measures against the civilian population for the activities of partisans and resistance fighters. About 68,000 civilians were killed, including children.

According to *Der Spiegel*, an unspecified number of Jews were among the civilians allegedly ordered deported by Waldheim to concentration camps in Yugoslavia or forced labor camps in Norway. Few survived.

A spokesman for Waldheim, Gerold Christian, has called the document an obvious forgery. Plenca insists it is authentic and has threatened to sue Waldheim and Christian for impugning his credibility.

An editor of *Der Spiegel*, Hans Peter Martin, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Tuesday that "We did all the checking on can do. To us the document looks correct."

INOUE SEeks TO RESCIND \$8 MILLION SET FOR YESHIVAS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Conceding "an error in judgment," Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) announced Monday he would seek to rescind the controversial \$8 million allocation he inserted in the 1988 federal spending bill to build yeshivas in France.

The money was to be provided to Ozar Hatorah, a New York-based Orthodox Jewish organization. Discovery of the allocation provoked an outcry from across the political spectrum.

Inouye was charged with inserting the provision into the \$600 billion continuing resolution without debate. "I did not sneak this legisla-

tion into law," he said during a speech in the Senate chamber. He contended that the matter was deliberated on various occasions in public.

The senator also denied that the budget line may have been influenced by a \$1,000 campaign contribution from New York real estate developer Zev Wolfson, who is a supporter of Ozar Hatorah.

"I have been accused of actions which are 'shabby and self-serving,'" he said. "Some have even said that I sold my reputation and my honor for \$1,000."

Others have raised the separation of church and state. Inouye said later that "frankly, I do not consider questions about church and state. Persecution is persecution, whether it be against Baptists in the Soviet Union, Protestants in North Korea, or Catholics in Poland."

He said the beneficiaries of the \$8 million were to be French Sephardic Jews from North Africa who "have not been absorbed or assimilated. Though many have been in France for years, they remain refugees."

Since appropriations bills in Congress must originate in the House of Representatives, Inouye asked Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.), chairman of the House counterpart to his subcommittee, to introduce the rescission measure there.

Obey introduced the bill Monday. The House is scheduled to vote on the measure later this week. A two-thirds vote is required in both houses for rescission.

ACLU Files Suit

On Monday, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed suit in New York District Court against the State Department, charging the allocation violated the constitutional principle of the separation between church and state.

Edwin Baker, an ACLU staff attorney, said Tuesday that while the suit would be moot if Congress rescinds the allocation, the ACLU may restructure the suit to challenge the State Department program from which Inouye allocated the \$8 million.

That program -- known as American Schools and Hospitals Abroad -- has administered tens of millions of dollars since the early 1970s to U.S. organizations, such as Ozar Hatorah, that in turn build religiously affiliated hospitals and schools abroad.

Samuel Rabinove, legal director for the American Jewish Committee, welcomed Inouye's decision. Rabinove added that he was willing to recommend that AJCommittee consider joining the ACLU's lawsuit should it only challenge the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program.

ISRAEL SELLS SHARE OF FUEL COMPANY By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The government sold its 75 percent interest in the Paz fuel oil group Monday to an Australian-based investments conglomerate.

The \$95 million deal was the biggest to date in the government's program to sell its industrial assets to private investors. Finance Minister Moshe Nissim said the proceeds would be used to reduce the national debt, not to expand the budget.

He signed the deal in Jerusalem Monday with Australian millionaire Jack Lieberman, who said, "We see this as the first in a series of investments in Israel."

Lieberman heads the JGL investment group.