

SHAMIR BLOCKS INNER CABINET VOTE ON U.S. PEACE PROPOSALS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir used the prerogatives of his office Wednesday to block a vote by the Inner Cabinet on the counterproposals to the American peace plan he intends to take to Washington next week.

Demands for a vote came from both Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party, and Housing Minister David Levy of Shamir's own Herut faction of the Likud bloc. But Shamir rejected them.

Under the rules governing secret meetings of the Inner Cabinet, which consists of five Labor and five Likud senior ministers, Shamir and Peres, who is vice premier, may propose agenda items. But only the prime minister can decide whether they will be voted on.

Shamir said the discussion would continue at the regular weekly meeting of the full Cabinet on Sunday, before he departs for the United States that evening. But a vote on the entire American peace package, which Secretary of State George Shultz presented to Shamir and Peres on March 4, will have to await his return, the prime minister said.

The Inner Cabinet met for only 30 minutes Wednesday and most of its discussion was devoted to the terrorist hijacking of a bus in the Negev on Monday, in which three Israeli civilians were killed and 10 wounded.

Political issues also were raised during the meeting. Peres argued that without a vote on the peace plan, Shamir will be speaking in Washington on behalf of the Likud party, not the government.

Levy made the same point, but while Peres is prepared to accept the Shultz peace package, Likud wants the government to reject it. Levy said a decision must be reached before Shamir leaves for Washington.

"We can't fool ourselves with the idea that the (Shultz) plan doesn't exist and that we can succeed in changing its principles significantly in Washington," Levy said.

'Panic-Stricken' By Peace

Peres, speaking in the Knesset later in the day, warned that by rejecting Shultz's proposals, "we may lose this historic opportunity. Neither we nor the next generations will be able to answer why we were panic-stricken by the idea of peace, why we rejected the hand outstretched to us."

It is clear that had a vote been taken Wednesday, the outcome would have been another Labor-Likud deadlock. Shamir apparently prefers to go to Washington without his government on record either way, rather than confront the Americans as the head of a divided government.

The ideas he plans to present to Reagan administration officials are not known outside Cabinet circles. So far, Shamir has publicly stated

his opposition to both an international conference and an accelerated timetable for Arab-Israeli negotiations, components of the Shultz package that the secretary of state says are inseparable.

Shamir also rejects the idea of trading territory for peace, which is implicit in the Shultz plan. Peres and the Labor Party are ready to consider territorial compromise.

Should the deadlock continue after Shamir's return from the United States, the leadership of both major parties is expected to seriously consider early elections to obtain a fresh mandate from the voters.

IN WAKE OF SUPER TUESDAY RACES, JEWISH VOTE IS STILL UP FOR GRABS By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 9 (JTA) -- The results of Super Tuesday may mean that large numbers of Jewish voters will find it hard to decide who to support in the November presidential election.

Vice President George Bush, who swept the Republican primaries, winning about half of the 1,139 delegates he needs for the nomination at the Republican National Convention in New Orleans in July, is viewed with suspicion by many in the Jewish community, despite his many statements of support for Israel.

On the Democratic side, the Rev. Jesse Jackson emerged with about 350 delegates, just behind Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, who won 360 delegates, and ahead of Sen. Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee, who won about 320. This ensures that Jackson will have an important voice, if not the deciding one, at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta this August.

Jews who voted Tuesday did so mainly in the Democratic primaries and appeared to go overwhelmingly for Dukakis.

In Florida, which Dukakis won, exit polls found that eight out of 10 Jews voted for the Massachusetts governor.

Jews, who make up 4.7 percent of the Florida population, are concentrated in the southeast part of the state, from Miami to Palm Beach. The majority are retirees from the Northeast and they turn out in large numbers for any election.

Dukakis, who's wife, Kitty, is Jewish, also won in the two other Super Tuesday states in which Jews account for more than 4 percent of the population: his home state of Massachusetts and Maryland.

Whether Dukakis is the first choice of most Jewish Democrats could become clearer next Tuesday in the Illinois primary and especially in the April 19 New York primary.

Another sign would be if his victories Tuesday in the South bring in campaign contributions from wealthy liberal Jews in New York and Los Angeles, who have remained so far on the sidelines.

Gore is also making a concentrated effort in the Jewish community. He has a record of strong support for Israel, as do all the candidates, except for Jackson.

On the Republican side, the candidate with the most appeal to Jewish voters, Rep. Jack Kemp of New York, was virtually eliminated. Senate

Minority Leader Robert Dole of Kansas also has a record of a long rapport with the Jewish community, but unless he wins Illinois, the Republican nomination will be wrapped up by Bush.

Bush's Image Problem

Bush's problem with the Jewish community is more perception than reality. He has continuously echoed the Reagan administration's strong support for Israel and has backing in the Jewish community, including such important leaders as Max Fisher and Gordon Zacks.

But many in the Jewish community, noting the vice president's friendship with Saudi Arabia, fear that a Bush presidency could mean a return to the "even-handed" policy of the State Department Arabists.

Bush was critical of Israel during its 1982 invasion of Lebanon and after it bombed an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981. He was quoted as saying during the 1985 TWA hostage-taking incident that Israel should release "people being held against international law," a reference to Lebanese Shiite prisoners being held by Israel.

In defending his role in the secret U.S. sale of arms to Iran, Bush has seemed to place the blame on Israel.

At the same time, Bush has been a leading administration spokesman to the American Jewish community. When there were charges of dual loyalty because of Jewish opposition to the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia in 1981, it was Bush who publicly refuted the charges. It was also Bush who personally arranged the rescue of thousands of Ethiopian Jews in 1984 and 1985.

Bush's problem for the Republicans in the Jewish community may be offset by the problem that Jackson presents the Democrats.

No one expects that Jackson will be on the ticket, either as a candidate for president or vice president. But his showing Tuesday, and his possible victory in Illinois next week, means that he could decide who is.

What Does Jackson Want?

The big question everyone asks is "what does Jesse Jackson want?" -- a question which he refuses to answer for the present. If Jackson seeks influence only on domestic issues, then much of what he says poses no problem for the Jewish community and would probably find support among many Jews.

But if he wants influence on foreign policy, this could hurt the Democrats, and not only in the Jewish community. Jackson repeatedly says that he wants to bring about a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict through negotiations, although he appears to place the chief burden for talks on Israel. He is the only candidate who favors talking to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the creation of a Palestinian state.

But although Jackson has sought to reach out to the Jewish community, by toning down the rhetoric of his 1984 campaign and stressing his support for a secure Israel, many in the Jewish community distrust him.

They point to his anti-Israel statements of the past, his meeting with PLO leader Yasir Arafat, his remark labeling New York "Hymietown" and his ties during the 1984 campaign to Rev. Louis Farrakhan, the Black Muslim leader who has made several anti-Semitic remarks.

The other factor in the race is the Rev. Pat Robertson, whose position on social issues, including attacks on important provisions of the consti-

tutional separation of church and state, worry many Jews. Robertson, who did poorly Tuesday, said he plans to continue in the race.

Although he is not expected to win many delegates in the upcoming primaries, neither Bush nor Dole want to alienate his supporters.

The Jewish vote, which is not monolithic, appears to be up for grabs. For the rest of the primary campaign, issues important to Jews will play a more prominent part in the race than it has up to now.

REFUSENIKS WILL LEAVE SHORTLY, SAYS CHIEF OF MOSCOW OVIR

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 9 (JTA) -- A number of prominent refuseniks will be permitted to leave the Soviet Union in "a matter of weeks," at least according to the head of the Moscow OVIR emigration bureau.

Rudolf Kuznetsov, who is attending the annual conference of the United Nations Human Rights Commission here, made the statement during a conversation with David Litman, a Geneva-based Jew who claims to be a representative of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Litman presented Kuznetsov with a list of 155 refuseniks, among whom are several who have been waiting to emigrate many years.

(In New York, Martin Strelzer, North American director of the World Union, said Litman's status with the organization is "being held in abeyance." The World Union did not know of the origin of the list and did not have a copy of it.)

Among the names on the list of refusenik families were Kim Fridman of Kiev, a former prisoner of Zion, whose wife now lives in Israel; Tanya and Yuri Ziemman of Moscow, whose daughter Galina lives in the Boston area; Yuli Kosharovsky, who is scheduled to begin a 17-day hunger strike Thursday, the 17th anniversary of his first refusal; and Abe Stolar, the Chicago-born Moscow resident whose Communist parents took him to the Soviet Union when he was a boy and who has been trying to leave for many years.

Kuznetsov, who reportedly had two conversations with Litman, looked over the list for a long time and then said, "In a short while you will not need to worry about all these people. We are going to let them emigrate to Israel."

When Litman pressed Kuznetsov for what he meant precisely, Kuznetsov said it would be "a matter of weeks."

Good Will Gesture

American diplomats attending the conference said they believed the Soviet Union will make a gesture of good will prior to the anticipated summit meeting in May between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and that Kuznetsov's statement might be based on this.

In New York, Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, said she was unaware of the meeting in Geneva and did not know about the list.

Singer said that four Jews were arrested Wednesday after a two-minute demonstration for emigration. Three men -- Joseph Lativsky, Sergei Kochecot and Sergei Labuzov -- were ordered to serve immediate prison sentences of 10 days. Olga Lativsky, arrested with her husband, was fined four rubles.

(New York correspondent Susan Birnbaum contributed to this story.)

U.S. DENIES VERNON WALTERS MET WITH PLO LEADER IN TUNISIA By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA) -- A report that the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations met in Tunisia last Saturday with a senior leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization was denied Wednesday by the envoy, Vernon Walters, as well as the State Department and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

CBS News reported Tuesday night that Walters met a PLO leader in a private home in a coastal town near Tunis, the Tunisian capital. CBS attributed the information to top PLO officials.

Walters, arriving in Geneva Wednesday to address the U.N. Human Rights Commission, categorically denied the alleged meeting. "I deny it, it is a lie. I have not met a PLO representative in Tunis. I am not authorized to speak with the PLO," Walters said in response to questions by reporters here.

He added: "It's absolute nonsense. I never saw anybody in Tunisia but Tunisians and Americans. . . . No Palestinians."

A woman who answered the telephone Wednesday at the PLO observer mission at the United Nations said no one was available to comment on the report.

In Washington, Charles Redman, a spokesman for the State Department, said the CBS report "is a complete fabrication. Somebody's been had."

A spokeswoman at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations here, Helene Mahoney, said that the report is "absolutely not true," and that the alleged meeting "did not happen."

The U.S. assured Israel in September 1975 that U.S. government officials would not meet or negotiate with members of the PLO. However, Andrew Young, then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, held a 15-minute meeting with a PLO official in New York in 1979. He subsequently resigned under pressure.

Walters conceded to reporters that CBS was accurate in reporting that he met in the 1970s with PLO representatives. "The report was correct in saying I spoke to them (the PLO) in 1975. They were killing Americans and I was sent to tell them to stop and they did. But that was 13 years ago," the 71-year-old Walters, who speaks fluent Arabic, said.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organization, said in an interview that "We accept Walter's assurances that he did not meet with the PLO and we wait for further clarifications."

(JTA correspondents Tamar Levy in Geneva and Howard Rosenberg in Washington contributed to this report.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REJECTS 3 ECONOMIC ACCORDS WITH ISRAEL By Edwin Eytan

STRASBOURG, France, March 9 (JTA) -- The Parliament of Europe overwhelmingly rejected here Wednesday ratification of three economic agreements Israel signed last year with the 12-nation European Community.

Many of the deputies said afterward that their negative votes were cast as "a sanction" against Israel's policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and what they considered Israel's refusal to start negotiating peace agreements with

the Arabs.

The three protocols, negotiated over the last two years by Israel and the European Common Market Commission, needed 260 votes for ratification. The first of them, dealing with Israel's future trade relations with the E.C. and Israeli agricultural and industrial exports, was defeated by a vote of 207-149 with 20 abstentions.

The second protocol, providing E.C. financial aid -- including a first installment of some \$90 million -- was rejected by a vote of 205-143 with 22 abstentions.

The third protocol actually consisted of Israeli concessions to Spain and Portugal upon their admission to the E.C. in 1986. It won a majority of the votes cast -- 255 to 112 -- only five short of the number needed for ratification. The Spanish and Portuguese deputies complained they were held "guilty by association with Israel."

Apart from the economic damage Israel will suffer in its trade relations with the E.C., rejection of the protocols was a blow to Israel's prestige and an indication of how far its good standing has fallen since unrest began in the administered territories three months ago.

The Parliament of Europe, the E.C.'s legislative body, traditionally is one of the most pro-Israeli international assemblies. It has regularly supported Israeli and Jewish interests and has taken a strong stand in favor of oppressed Jewish minorities in the Soviet Union and Arab countries. Though without political power, it carries heavy moral weight.

Four resolutions condemning Israeli policies in the administered territories and "refusal to start peace negotiations" are on the agenda for discussion Thursday. Several parliamentary groups, including the French Liberals and Conservatives, are trying to postpone a vote on the resolutions or soften their language.

(JTA correspondents)

HEBRON OBSERVES A QUIET STRIKE AS UNREST ENTERS FOURTH MONTH By Gil Sedan

HEBRON, March 9 (JTA) -- An eerie quiet pervaded this largely Arab town Wednesday, in sharp contrast to eruptions of violence in the rest of the West Bank, as Palestinians marked the beginning of the fourth month of their uprising in the administered territories.

Hebron, in fact, has been the only major Arab population center that has not been torn by rioting these past three months. On Wednesday, the residents locked themselves in their homes in observance of a total general strike.

Their gesture seemed to be one of both defiance and despair. The streets were virtually empty, the busy vegetable stalls deserted. All shops were closed behind iron shutters. Only a handful of stands did business, by special permission of the nationalist underground, to supply necessities to the local population.

Even Israeli soldiers, whose presence has been a regular part of the Hebron scene, were hardly noticeable. As if by tacit agreement with local Arabs, they kept off the streets. A few kept watch on such "sensitive" points as the Hadassah building in the small Jewish enclave and the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a shrine sacred to Moslems and Jews, where the two faiths have frequently clashed.

There was no public transportation and very few laborers employed in Israeli dared to go to

their jobs.

The paradox is that Hebron, a hotbed of Palestinian nationalism and Islamic religious zeal, chose to go on strike rather than demonstrate. Its former mayor, Abdul Nabi Natshe, who was deposed by the Israeli authorities, told reporters, "We can continue like this for months on end. When it comes to dignity, economic hardships mean nothing."

Israelis have been puzzling over the economic endurance of the Palestinians, not only in Hebron but elsewhere in the territories, where total strikes have paralyzed business and commerce for days at a time.

A partial explanation is that a certain amount of trading is going on behind closed doors. Workers who depend on jobs in Israel for their wages sneak away early in the morning and return in the dead of night. A system of mutual help has developed. Better-off family members help relatives who have less.

But this is not the complete picture. Palestinians, particularly at a time of nationalist euphoria, appear able to do with very little in the way of material comforts. "If need be, we shall settle for bread and water," Natshe said.

Mahmoud Kawassmeh, a young Palestinian passing the empty marketplace Wednesday, told a reporter, "Nothing will change."

'Situation Will Continue'

He said "the situation will continue as it is for a long time to come." He had no faith in U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's intensive peace efforts in the region during the past two weeks. "It's all talk, nothing will come out of it," he said.

Natshe, too, was critical of the Americans. "Shultz is sending letters to Shamir, to (King) Hussein (of Jordan), to (President Hafez) Assad (of Syria). But where is the letter to Yasir Arafat?" the deposed mayor asked, referring to the Palestine Liberation Organization chief.

Conditions in Hebron were hardly typical Wednesday. At least six persons were reported wounded in disturbances in the Samaria district of the West Bank. One man was brought dead to a Nablus hospital, according to unconfirmed reports.

The Israel Defense Force used tear gas and rubber bullets to break up a violent demonstration at the Farah refugee camp and in Silwad village, in Samaria. The Tulkarm refugee camp was under curfew after rioting there. Shots were fired at a bus near the Jewish settlement of Eilon Moreh, close to Nablus. No one was hurt.

Hundreds of Arabs blocked the road from Biddu village, north of Jerusalem, to the neighboring Jewish settlement of Har Adar. Rocks were thrown at soldiers.

A post office bus was burned near the Kalandiya refugee camp, north of Jerusalem, and an Israeli bus was torched in Halhoul, near Hebron, when it came there to pick up laborers. There were no injuries.

Similar incidents were reported in the Gaza Strip, where a 14-year-old Arab girl was arrested on suspicion of throwing a Molotov cocktail.

Meanwhile, IDF soldiers had to contend with furious Jewish settlers from Ariel in Samaria, who raided the nearby Arab village of Kharas Tuesday night, in revenge for stone-throwing attacks on the main highway that crosses Samaria from Petach Tikva in Israel to Nablus.

The villagers countered with stones. Jewish vigilantes burned an Arab car and threatened

journalists at the scene. A large military force was rushed to Kharas to prevent the settlers from entering the village.

RESERVE OFFICERS STATE TWO VIEWS ON POLICY IN THE TERRITORIES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA) -- High-ranking reserve officers of the Israel Defense Force seem to be as divided as the government over Israeli policies in the administered territories and how to deal with Arab unrest, now entering its fourth month.

A group of 96 reservists, holding ranks from majors to brigadier generals, have sent a letter to Premier Yitzhak Shamir urging him to choose peace over holding on to the territories.

But 50 other reservists of similar rank met this week to demand a harder line against Palestinian rioters and leftist Israelis who support their cause. They also urged politicians and the news media to "stop using the army as a political tool and allow soldiers and their commanders to do their jobs as they see fit."

The letter to Shamir was almost identical to one sent 10 years ago to Premier Menachem Begin by reserve officers who formed the nucleus of the Peace Now movement. The earlier letter stated that "ruling 1 million Arabs is liable to harm the Jewish democratic nature of the state." The current letter differs only by referring to "1.5 million Arabs."

Some 800 other officers, mainly of lower ranks, signed it. Most belong to elite units of the IDF and some hold various IDF decorations and commendations. Three members of one family signed -- Col. Yaakov Neria; his wife, Lt. Col. Zippora Neria; and their son, Col. Yuval Neria.

The meeting of the hard-line officers, who expressed sharply different views, was organized by Michael Ratzon, leader of the Herut party's "young guard."

Ratzon called on the IDF to take a tougher stand against Arab rioters to prevent "an indefinite continuation of the disturbances, which would lead to much greater loss of life among the Arabs."

Brig. Gen. Zvi Gov-Ari of the air force reserve said "the present situation, in which we crucify soldiers for actions arising from situations for which they are not responsible, is an intolerable one."

Brig. Gen. Zion Masuri urged the arrest of "traitors who distribute leaflets to soldiers at hitchhiking stations." He decried "the recent atmosphere, in which patriots are considered idiots."

But the right-wing officers rejected a proposal by Ratzon to bar the news media from entering the territories.

UNREST HURTING ALIYAH, TRAVEL

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA) -- Jews abroad who have filed for immigration to Israel are now reconsidering because of "the situation" in the administered territories, according to Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, Haaretz reported Wednesday.

In addition, some 3,000 of the 6,000 overseas Jewish youths who regularly attend the Jewish Agency's annual summer camp programs in Israel have not registered this year because of the ongoing disturbances, Haaretz said.

U.N. COMMISSION ADOPTS RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PROSECUTION OF NAZIS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 9 (JTA) -- Overriding objections from several European countries, particularly West Germany, the United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution by consensus Wednesday calling for the prosecution and punishment of all Nazi war criminals still at large.

It also condemned "the attempts made even today to deny the acts of genocide committed as a result of Nazi and fascist ideology and practices."

The resolution, sponsored by the United States, was initiated by Israel, which is not a member of the Human Rights Commission. It was the first time since 1970 that the subject was brought before the commission, which is holding its annual conference here.

The West Europeans were less than enthusiastic. The delegation from Bonn went so far as to appeal to Washington to abandon the resolution on grounds that the matter has been taken up before at other forums, including the U.N. General Assembly. But the United States did not waver.

The Israeli ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Pinchas Eliav, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the resolution underlined the need for international cooperation to track down Nazi war criminals.

The resolution commended the cooperation among various member states that succeeded in bringing to justice major Nazi war criminals, such as Klaus Barbie, who was convicted in France last year of crimes against humanity and sentenced to life imprisonment.

It urged all states to ensure that this cooperation will continue and that war criminals will be prosecuted, preferably in the countries where their crimes were committed.

In the debate leading up to the resolution, Ambassador Eliav and Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld referred to one of the most notorious Nazis, Alois Brunner, who has found safe haven in Syria.

BELGIUM RECEIVES NAZI LIST

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, March 9 (JTA) -- World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman said he has given to the Belgian minister of justice a document from the United Nations war crimes archives listing the names of nine of the 244 Austrians wanted in Belgium for war crimes, including murder and torture.

Bronfman spoke at a press conference here Tuesday, accompanied by WJC executive director Elan Steinberg. Steinberg said it was not clear that the Belgian government was aware of these names.

He said the justice minister, Jean Gol, told Bronfman he would compare the names with Belgian lists of war criminals and decide if further action can be taken against them.

War crimes committed in Belgium fall under a statute of limitations. But if the nine persons on Bronfman's list are still alive, they could be barred from entering Belgium.

Bronfman also lashed out at Austria for perpetuating "this lie that they were the first victims of Nazi aggression." The matter has come up in connection with the 50th anniversary of the

Anschluss -- the absorption of Austria into the Third Reich on March 11, 1938.

"Austria has to face its past and recognize that it took part in the Holocaust if it wants to join the honorable society of civilized nations," Bronfman declared. He claimed that more Austrians than Germans served in the SS in death camps.

DIVIDED AUSTRIA TO COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANSCHLUSS

By Martha Halpert

VIENNA, March 9 (JTA) -- On March 11, an internally divided Austria will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Anschluss, the country's annexation by Hitler's Third Reich.

The year of the commemoration would have come anyway, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky told journalists last week, but he said the discussion about Austria's role before and during World War II is fiercer than anyone could have predicted two years ago.

Then, Austria's image was largely of prancing stallions, apple strudel and waltzes. But former United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's successful run for the presidency split the country and changed its image abroad.

The president is becoming increasingly embarrassing for Austria, as he is on the U.S. "watch list" of undesirable aliens and will not be received by any Western country.

The fact that Waldheim lied about his wartime activities has caused many Austrians to ponder their own behavior during the Nazi era. Younger Austrians have become increasingly critical of their fathers and forefathers.

Critics accuse Austria of not accepting its share of guilt in Nazi war crimes after the annexation, which was welcomed by many Austrians.

Yet, the country will commemorate the destruction of Austrian state and sovereignty in a dignified way. For the first time, Austria will hold a nationwide minute of silence, during which work, traffic and school lessons will stop. At 11:10 a.m. Friday, the church bells will ring to commemorate when Austria became the Ostmark and was wiped off the map for seven years.

The central and official acts of commemoration will be held in the Austrian Parliament and the Hofburg Palace. Waldheim will be present at both events, but government, political parties and the National Assembly agreed that he would not utter a word at these occasions.

Ongoing Educational Activities

Activities dealing with the problems of the Anschluss began weeks ago and will continue throughout 1988 -- evidence of an internal reevaluation of Austria's role in the Nazi period.

They include symposia probing the historical, military and political background of the Austrian trauma of 1938.

"Forgive Us Our Sins" is the theme of an ecumenical gathering and religious service to be held outside the former Gestapo headquarters here. This is only one of the many activities organized by the Catholic Church, whose leaders back in 1938 openly welcomed the Third Reich.

"Youth Under the Swastika" and "Catholic Church and National Socialism" are two other projects by the official church of Austria these days.

Austrian radio and TV have produced a number of high-quality documentaries dealing with

the period.

Viennese theaters have planned special dramas dealing either with persecution of Jews, anti-Semitism or the rise of Hitler.

The Socialist Party and the trade unions are commemorating the killing of many prominent socialists.

The Union of Austrian Students has created a 10-day-program that they call "1938-1988: History and Responsibility." The students will present an exhibition about the history of the University of Vienna, where anti-Semitic riots began.

Jews Disenfranchised, Murdered

"Economy without Jews" is the March 1988 cover story of the largest Austrian business magazine, *Trend*.

The article deals with the fate of Jews after March 11, 1938, when wild, unorganized looting was followed by organized bureaucratic repression. The history of the Jews in this country is documented as is the financial benefit of their disenfranchisement for Austrians and consequently Germans.

Some 26,236 Jewish factories and shops were registered in order to be taken over legally by the Nazi authorities. Any wealth exceeding 5,000 Reichsmarks had to be reported.

While 47,768 Jews registered their property, some 40,000 needy Jews were lining up for poor-house soup.

The financial loss of the Jewish community was estimated at \$1.2 billion (1938 rate), not including art objects and jewels.

Two thirds of Austrian Jewry, 128,500 people, left the Ostmark primarily for New York, London, Shanghai, Buenos Aires and Jerusalem. But 65,459 Austrian Jews perished in the Holocaust.

CONSERVATIVE JEWS DRAFT FIRST COMMON STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA) -- A commission representing the major institutions of Conservative Judaism has issued the first common statement of principles in the movement's 143-year history.

The document, "Emet Ve-Emunah" (Truth and Belief), includes the movement's positions on belief in God, the role of women in Judaism, religious pluralism and the Conservative approach to halacha, or Jewish law. It essentially reaffirms declared individual positions of the movement.

Drafted over the past two-and-half years, the document was issued jointly by the Rabbinical Assembly, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the United Synagogue of America, the rabbinical, seminarian and congregational institutions, respectively, of the movement, with an estimated 2 million adherents in the United States.

Among its highlights is a statement of Conservative Judaism's position toward Israel, which maintains that Israel is not the center of modern Jewish life, but rather plays an essential role in a partnership with the diaspora.

"We do not believe that Jewish identity can be replaced by Israeli identity or the ability to speak Hebrew," the document states.

Israel and diaspora Jewry "must aid and enrich the other in every possible way; each needs the other."

The document also calls on the State of Israel to change its existing laws recognizing the

religious authority only of Orthodox rabbis.

"The discrimination practiced by the State of Israel against non-Orthodox Judaism is morally intolerable and pragmatically dangerous," the statement reads.

Also related to the discussion of religious pluralism is a proposal for an increase in intra-Jewish cooperation.

The statement proposes the formation of more local boards of rabbis and of a national, as well as local, intra-Jewish "batei din," or religious courts, to decide issues such as conversion and the granting of religious divorces.

On Women

While the statement of principles "pays tribute" to the expanded role of women in Conservative Judaism, it acknowledges that their functioning as rabbis and cantors has not been universally accepted among Conservative leaders. The JTS decided to ordain women as rabbis in 1983 and to grant women cantorial degrees beginning in 1987.

"Many believe that women should be encouraged" to become rabbis and cantors, the statement notes, "while others believe that women today can find religious fulfillment within the context of traditional practice."

Concerning theology, the statement maintains that belief in God is essential to Conservative Judaism, although individuals have the right to challenge God's existence and actions. Faith in a messianic age is strongly affirmed by the statement.

Concerning halacha, the statement reaffirms both the movement's "loyalty to rabbinic tradition" and "the ongoing development of Jewish law," which includes adaptation to technological and social changes. In other words, the interpretation of the God-given Torah may evolve.

The document was prepared by a 35-member commission drawn from the three major institutions as well as the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, the Cantors Assembly and the Jewish Educators Assembly.

Robert Gordis, a faculty member of the Jewish Theological Seminary and a past president of the Rabbinical Assembly, chaired the commission.

The statement of principles will be distributed in booklet form to the 850 Conservative synagogues around the world.

SURVEY FINDS ANTI-SEMITISM IN ZURICH By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 9 (JTA) -- A secret survey which found that 30 percent of the population of Zurich holds anti-Semitic prejudices in varying degrees has shocked the 8,000-member Jewish community of Zurich, the largest in Switzerland.

The survey was made by a private organization that helps minorities in Switzerland. It was for internal use only. But the magazine *Zuriwoche* obtained the results and published them this week.

According to the findings, 9 percent of Zurich residents questioned admitted they were anti-Semites; 11 percent said they had anti-Semitic tendencies and another 11 percent acknowledged they sometimes had anti-Semitic feelings.

Swiss living in neighborhoods with ultra-Orthodox Jews tended to be more anti-Semitic, the survey found. Zurich is the largest and most prosperous city in Switzerland.