

ISRAELI-APPOINTED ARAB MAYOR IS STABBED IN TOWN OF EL-BIREH
By Gil Sedan

EL-BIREH, West Bank, June 7 (JTA) -- The Israeli-appointed Arab mayor of El-Bireh, Hassan a-Tawil, was stabbed and critically wounded outside the town hall here Tuesday.

Tawil, 75, was reported in "critical but stable" condition at the government hospital in Ramallah, following surgery. The army imposed a curfew on El-Bireh and declared it a closed military area.

The mayor was assaulted shortly after 11 a.m. local time upon leaving his office. For reasons unknown he was not accompanied by his bodyguard. As he approached his car a few steps from the municipality building, he was stabbed with what hospital officials described as "a very long knife, which pierced his lung and heart." The assailant escaped.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres expressed regret over the assassination attempt. He called it "a very serious matter" and warned that "those using violence and terror will pay for it more than the victims." He said the incident would not change Israel's policy of appointing Arab mayors.

Tawil was appointed mayor of El-Bireh by the Israeli civil administration in the West Bank and took office about 18 months ago. Since then, he has received death threats, as have all Israeli-appointed mayors in the territory, and ignored them.

Police Minister Haim Barlev, who visited the scene of the attack, told reporters it would undoubtedly affect attempts to restore order in the territory. But he hoped the fallout would be marginal and the assailant swiftly apprehended.

Civil administration sources said Tuesday that the attack on Tawil was "very grave," but there was "no panic."

The sources would not say if they feared the attack might hasten the resignation of other Israeli-appointed Arab officials.

A Surge Of Resignations

There has been a surge of resignations since the Palestinian uprising began six months ago, attributed to threats of reprisal for collaborating with the Israelis.

The Israeli-appointed mayor of Nablus, Zafer al-Masri, was shot to death outside the Nablus City Hall in the winter of 1986, just a month after he took office.

All the present mayors in the administered territories have been appointed by Israel, except for the mayors of Bethlehem and Tulkarm.

Until two years ago, most Arab municipalities were run by Israel Defense Force officers, who replaced Arab mayors elected in 1976, the last time free elections were permitted in the territories.

The elected mayors were removed by the Israelis because they were, with few exceptions, staunch nationalists who supported the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Tawil had told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on his appointment that he was not worried he might become a target of political assassination. He said he was there to "serve the people."

SHAMIR CALLS FOR A MIDDLE EAST FREE OF NUCLEAR AND CHEMICAL ARMS
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 7 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is calling for the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East, as well as the establishment of a chemical weapons-free zone in the area.

In remarks prepared for delivery Tuesday evening at the General Assembly's third special session on disarmament, the Israeli leader also called on the Arab nations to scale down the arms race in the area.

"A nuclear weapons-free zone, the end of the arms race in the Middle East and the universal banning of chemical weapons are urgently needed, not only for the sake of the people in our region, but for the sake of all mankind," Shamir declared.

The prime minister noted that Israel has proposed a nuclear weapons-free zone in the past, but the Arabs have rejected the idea and refused to negotiate it with Israel.

"We do not understand this blanket refusal," Shamir said. "It reflects a consistent attitude of rejection of any kind of dealing with Israel, even on matters of vital concern to the security and future of the peoples of our region."

Shamir also said that in 1986, Israel proposed to negotiate a reduction of forces in the Middle East. "We know that the burden of the arms race is devastating to the economies of all the countries in the region. And it is getting worse," he said.

Shamir said that it is urgent, even before peace comes, to stop the arms race in the Middle East. He added that Israel is greatly troubled by the introduction of chemical weapons into the region.

"The presence and use of chemical weapons constitute a real threat to the peace of our region and to the peace of the entire world. All enlightened peoples should be alarmed by the arbitrary use of these weapons," he said.

The Israeli premier was sharply critical of the use of poison gas by Iraq in its war with Iran. "Iraq has used this vicious means of indiscriminate killing in its war with Iran. It is a gross and blatant violation of the Geneva protocol to which Iraq is signatory," he said.

He also pointed out that Syria has built facilities for the production of poison gas, and he charged that Syria's leaders have threatened to use it against Israel.

FRENCH CONSERVATIVES STRIKE DEAL WITH RIGHT-WING EXTREMIST LE PEN
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 7 (JTA) -- A coalition of center-right parties has struck a deal with Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right-wing National Front to help conservative candidates against the Socialists in the second round of France's parliamentary elections this Sunday.

The agreement reached with Le Pen by the Marseille-Cote d'Azur branch of the Union for the Republic and Center is the first time a mainstream French political grouping has aligned itself

with a party that campaigns on a racist platform and is considered by many to be anti-Semitic.

Although the agreement applies only to one region in southern France, the alliance has brought a degree of respectability to the National Front, which has been confined to the political ghetto since its emergence about a dozen years ago.

Many prominent center-right figures were opposed to the arrangement, including Simone Veil, former president of the Parliament of Europe and a prominent French Jew. The country's two top center-right leaders, former Premiers Jacques Chirac and Raymond Barre, stressed that the deal was a "local initiative" over which they had no control, but declined to comment further.

The URC is a coalition of the Rally for the Republic, headed by Chirac, and the Union for French Democracy, headed by Barre. Both were defeated by Socialist Francois Mitterrand in the presidential elections in April.

Under the deal, the URC and the National Front will each withdraw their candidates in districts where another rightist faces a run-off against a Socialist candidate Sunday. The National Front will pull out eight of its candidates and the URC three.

Although the center-right won over 40 percent of the popular vote in the first round of the parliamentary elections Sunday, compared to 37.5 percent by the Socialists, Mitterrand's party is expected to gain control of Parliament in the second round of voting this Sunday.

Pollsters predict the Socialists will emerge with more than 300 of the 577 seats in the National Assembly, a healthy majority.

The National Front, which polled 9.65 percent of the vote on Sunday, compared to 14 percent for Le Pen in the presidential race two months ago, is not likely to win more than three seats under the new electoral system. It presently has 35 seats, gained in the last elections under the system of proportional representation.

But even if practically eliminated from the National Assembly, Le Pen's party will remain the fourth largest political force in the country, after the Socialists, the center-right grouping and the Communists.

WALDHEIM PLEASSED BY HBO 'VERDICT,' HOPES 'EVERYTHING WILL DIE DOWN NOW' By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, June 7 (JTA) -- President Kurt Waldheim is understandably pleased by the "not guilty" verdict reached by a panel of judges in London after his "trial" on cable television Sunday night. And he apparently expects the world to take it seriously.

"I hope everything will die down now," Waldheim told Austrian reporters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he is on a state visit.

But legal experts and Jewish groups believe the Thames Television-Home Box Office collaboration, "Waldheim: A Commission of Inquiry," may have been good TV theater, but legally a farce, and dangerous because of the credulity of television audiences.

It was broadcast internationally and touted as a unique television venture: the "trial" of a living person for alleged war crimes not tried by any other court.

HBO claimed that 20 researchers working in 19 countries located more than 10,000 pages of material on the Waldheim case, much of which

they said was new and unpublished.

But it apparently did not include documentation of Waldheim's past possessed by the U.S. Justice Department, which succeeded in placing the Austrian president on a "Watch List" of undesirable aliens not to be admitted to the United States.

Critics further pointed out that unlike a real trial, witnesses participating in the television hearing were not under oath to tell the truth.

Waldheim served as a German army intelligence officer in the Balkans during World War II. His link to the deportation of Greek Jews and to atrocities against partisan fighters and civilians in Yugoslavia has been well documented, though he denies involvement in these events.

He has now apparently seized on absolution by television to further his claim that the charges against him were pure slander. "The (television) judges tried very intensely to find proof, spending a lot of money, but there was none," the Austrian president said.

He said he hoped the positive verdict will make an impression on Western countries that up to now have isolated Waldheim politically. Asked if he thought the television verdict could lead to lifting the American ban, Waldheim said in an election year that was problematic.

The Austrian president is on a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia. It is only his fourth trip abroad since he took office in the summer of 1986. He has previously visited the Vatican, Jordan and Pakistan.

ALBERTA COURT OVERTURNS CONVICTION OF REVISIONIST TEACHER JIM KEEGSTRA By Ben Kayfetz

EDMONTON, Alberta, June 7 (JTA) -- A three-judge panel of the Alberta Court of Appeals struck down Sunday the 1985 conviction of Jim Keegstra, who was fined \$5,000 for violating Canada's anti-hate legislation.

Keegstra, who had been a high school teacher in the Alberta village of Eckville, taught his pupils that Jews were conspiring to seize the world and that the Holocaust never occurred.

The judges determined that the criminal code section under which Keegstra was convicted was a breach of freedom-of-speech guarantees provided by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, in force since 1982.

The court ruled that the criminal code section fails to protect the constitutional right of Canadians to be convicted only where a crime is established beyond reasonable doubt.

Justice R.P. Kerans, speaking for the panel, said for those reasons, the section "has no force and effect." He said there was no need to examine other facets of the case, because preaching hatred is not cause for reasonable limit of free speech, as defined by the charter.

The Alberta attorney general is studying the judgment to determine whether to appeal it to the Canadian Supreme Court.

Jewish leaders challenged the court's decision. Joe Wilder of Winnipeg, Manitoba, national community relations chairman of the Canadian Jewish Congress, said the justices erred in their interpretation of the charter's definition of reasonable limits to freedom of speech.

Sheldon Macrov, president of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, told a news conference he was "nauseated" by the reversal of Keegstra's conviction.

WJC REPORTS MAJOR STRIDES IN SOVIET-JEWISH RELATIONS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) -- Major strides in Soviet-Jewish and Soviet-Israeli relations have been reported by a World Jewish Congress delegation that traveled to the USSR last month.

The unprecedented direct flight of WJC President Edgar Bronfman's private jet from Moscow to Jerusalem was only one high point of a trip that included meetings between high Soviet officials and members of the Jewish organization.

WJC Secretary-General Israel Singer and Elan Steinberg, the group's executive director, apprised members of the WJC-American Section of their trip at a recent meeting here.

The visit included the first open meetings in recent memory between members of the Soviet government and a Jewish organization. So unabashed were the Soviets about dealing with the Jewish group that the meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and WJC leaders was broadcast on Soviet television.

Tass, the Soviet news agency, published a report of the proceedings within 45 minutes after completion of the two-hour meeting. It was followed by a similar report in Izvestia. The reports included direct mention of talks on the question of Soviet Jewish emigration and religious rights.

"The phones were ringing off the hook in Moscow," said Singer. He said refuseniks were "exhilarated" to see him on television, wearing his yarmulka and standing next to Shevardnadze and other high Soviet officials.

Three Of 150 Still Refuseniks

Singer produced a photograph taken last year in Moscow with WJC representatives surrounded by 150 refuseniks. Of that group, only three are still waiting to emigrate, he said.

Singer and Steinberg emphasized that Soviet officials had no problem with the fact that they visited refuseniks. Unlike previous, surreptitious meetings, this time refuseniks came openly to their hotel room, Singer said.

The WJC also openly brought in boxes of books to be distributed to refuseniks, including books on the Hebrew language, religion and Jewish history.

Soviet officials indicated that teaching of Hebrew and Jewish religion would soon be legal, Singer said. He was told that Hebrew teachers would no longer be harassed and that publication of Jewish magazines, heretofore underground, would be officially sanctioned.

Singer said that in Moscow, they spoke with Procurator General Ivan Rakhmanin about prosecution of Nazi war criminals, as well as the Kurt Waldheim case, because of Waldheim's presence during World War II on the eastern front.

The Soviet official accepted a first-of-its-kind invitation to participate in a conference on Nazi war criminals to be held in New York in the fall, said Singer.

Sources also disclosed that the meetings in Moscow included discussion of the many provisions impeding so many refuseniks from emigrating, including the "secrecy," "first-degree relatives" and "poor relatives" rules.

The Soviets told them they expected 10,000 Jews to emigrate this year, and indicated better relations would enable even more.

That level of emigration would represent a

25 percent increase over the number of Jews allowed to leave in 1987, and ten times the total for 1986. But it would still be a far cry from the more than 51,000 Jews allowed to leave in 1979.

But, Singer cautioned, "The key element in determining the success of all this is performance. Assurances alone are not sufficient."

B'NAI B'RITH CHARGES NEW BILL WOULD DILUTE JACKSON-VANIK

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 7 (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith International has expressed concern that pending legislation that would seemingly make it harder for the Soviet Union to receive most-favored-nation trade benefits from the United States may in fact dilute the effectiveness of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

The legislation, in the form of an amendment to the military budget bill adopted by the Senate by a voice vote May 13, would require the president to certify to Congress in writing that the Soviet Union or any other country is "in substantially complete compliance" with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Accords, before it could receive the trade benefits.

(The House bill does not contain the provision, but observers expect it to go along when the Senate-House conference committees iron out the differences in the two bills.)

The amendment, introduced by Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho), goes beyond the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which withholds most-favored-nation status for the Soviet Union until emigration from the USSR is increased.

The legislation defines "substantially complete compliance" as upholding the Helsinki Accords "with any violations clearly the rare and exceptional act of local authorities contrary to established policy and generally observed practice in such country."

Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, said in a statement that this was a "wholly unrealistic demand" that would "effectively neutralize the intent and effectiveness of Jackson-Vanik."

Ill-Conceived Measure

He urged Congress to reject this "ill-conceived measure, which can only discourage the Kremlin from further relaxing its emigration policies."

In urging adoption of the amendment, McClure told the Senate that he was acting because of reports that the Reagan administration was considering granting most-favored-nation status to the Soviets.

H.D. Palmer, McClure's press secretary, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Tuesday that the purpose of the amendment was not to dilute Jackson-Vanik.

He said its aim was to induce compliance by the Soviets with the whole range of human rights provisions of the Helsinki Accords, including emigration, if the Soviets wanted to be included as a most favored nation.

At a news conference in Moscow last week, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev made no secret of the importance he places on increased trade with the United States.

Gorbachev also specifically attacked the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, charging that the USSR has been receiving "unfavored-nation treatment."

**EAST GERMANY MAY PAY REPARATIONS;
PROMISES MADE ON JEWISH CONCERNS**

By David Kanter

BONN, June 7 (JTA) -- East Germany is for the first time negotiating the payment of reparations to Jewish victims of Nazism and intends to make 100 million marks (some \$58 million) available for that purpose, according to Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in West Germany.

Galinski said this was confirmed to him Monday during a 90-minute meeting with East German leader Erich Honecker. It was the first such encounter between the East German Communist boss and the leader of West Germany's Jewish community.

Galinski said the negotiations are apparently taking place in the United States between the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and a delegation headed by East Germany's ambassador to Washington. The Claims Conference negotiated a reparations pact with West Germany more than 30 years ago.

Galinski said that Honecker also promised to look into a more even-handed treatment of Israel by the government-controlled East German news media.

Biased reporting about Israel, especially since the Palestinian unrest in the Israeli-administered territories began six months ago, is held largely responsible for recent anti-Semitic incidents in East Germany.

Galinski said Honecker told him East Germany was ready to study new ways to tackle the problem of anti-Semitism through the education system.

Honecker also promised to consider a suggestion by Galinski to convene the Volkskammer, the East German parliament, in special session to mark the 50th anniversary of the notorious Kristallnacht next Nov. 30.

Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass, was the first organized pogrom in Nazi Germany and marked the start of the systematic persecution of German Jews.

The Bundestag, the West German parliament, also has been asked to observe the anniversary and is considering the matter.

Galinski said Honecker accepted his suggestion to send East German Jewish students to the faculty for Jewish studies at Heidelberg University in West Germany.

Honecker also promised that a special effort will be made to better preserve the Jewish cemetery in Weissensee, reputedly the largest in Europe. It has 115,000 gravestones.

SPANIARD RAPS ISRAEL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 7 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Felipe Gonzales of Spain rapped Israel on Tuesday for its alleged violations of human rights in connection with the 6-month-old Palestinian uprising in the administered territories.

Addressing the conference of the International Labor Organization here, Gonzales said, "It is logical that our concern has grown during the last months with regard to the violation of human rights in the Arab territories occupied by Israel."

The Spanish government, he said, "supports the search for a global, just and lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East and any decision the ILO might adopt in the sphere of its

authority." The ILO is a United Nations agency.

During a news conference, Gonzales elaborated on his remarks. "I think it is evident that the human rights of the Palestinians in the territories are not being respected. Therefore, I stressed that their rights in the field of labor, or purely on a human rights basis, should be respected," he said.

Gonzales met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, a fellow Socialist, last month in Madrid, where Peres attended a meeting of the Socialist International.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL CHARTERS
SECOND PLANE, TO DEPART JUNE 19**

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) -- For the second time since the beginning of the unrest in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on Dec. 9, a planeload of hundreds of American volunteers will leave for Israel on June 19.

According to Florence Cohen, vice president and national coordinator of Volunteers For Israel, which is sponsoring the trip, more than 450 volunteers will go to Israel on the chartered El Al plane.

She said that participants in the program "will spend three weeks in Israel as civilian volunteers, living and working with Israelis at maintenance bases, kibbutzim, moshavim and in hospitals."

"We want the people of Israel to know that we are with them at this difficult time," she said, referring to the daily violence and clashes between Palestinian rioters and Israeli troops in the territories. The Israelis "must know they are not alone," she said in an interview.

The new undertaking became possible after businessman Jack Mondlak contributed "a six-figure sum" toward the chartering of the plane. As a result, it was possible to reduce the cost of the June 19 flight to \$399 per person.

Mondlak, who heads the Jack Mondlak Defend Israel Fund, said that the goal of his organization and VFI is to send 100,000 people from all over the world to Israel during the coming year.

Moreover, Mondlak asserted, "I hope to reach a point when we will be sending a weekly plane full with volunteers to Israel."

Mondlak has received much public attention here in recent months after he published several full-page advertisements in The New York Times defending Israel's policy in the territories.

On March 14, more than 600 volunteers left for Israel on a chartered VFI plane. According to Cohen, about 1,800 volunteers went to Israel in 1987 through the VFI program. She said that currently there are 200 VFI volunteers in Israel.

**KKK PLOT AGAINST JEWS FOILED IN ALBERTA
By Ben Kayfetz**

CALGARY, Alberta, June 7 (JTA) -- Police arrested two members of the local Ku Klux Klan here Sunday night and charged them with conspiracy to murder a prominent member of the Jewish community and to burn down the Jewish community center.

Robert Hamilton and Timothy Hoggan were taken into custody after being under surveillance for about a week, the police said. Their intended victim was identified as Harry Milazsky, a businessman and major developer in the area.