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**JEWISH GROUPS DEMONSTRATE
AS POPE MEETS WITH WALDHEIM**
By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, June 23 (JTA) -- A small group of Jewish demonstrators, wearing mock uniforms of concentration camp inmates and singing "Am Yisrael Chai," gathered outside the office of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim for an hour and a half Thursday to protest the meeting between Pope John Paul II and the Austrian head of state.

The group later staged another demonstration outside St. Stephen's Church, where the pope was conducting mass, while some bystanders shouted "Heil Hitler" at the demonstrators.

The pope arrived here Thursday afternoon for a five-day official visit to Austria. He called on Austrians "not to forget the past," and Vatican sources said he plans to refer on several occasions to Austria's role during the war.

The pope held the first of two meetings with Waldheim Thursday evening. They are scheduled to meet a second time next Tuesday at the end of the papal visit.

Their meeting on Thursday was to be followed by a reception for the foreign diplomatic corps, hosted by Waldheim in honor of the pope.

The Israeli charge d'affaires in Vienna, Israel's ranking diplomat here, was not scheduled to attend the reception. Israel has not had an ambassador in Austria since Waldheim's election in the summer of 1986.

The pope was scheduled to visit the Mauthausen concentration camp on Friday, where he will recite mass. He is scheduled to meet Friday morning with six Jewish community leaders from Vienna, Graz, Linz, Salzburg and Innsbruck.

The American group of demonstrators protesting here calls itself Zachor/Coalition of the Concerned, and is headed by Rabbi Avraham Weiss, a Jewish activist from Riverdale, New York.

Other groups in the coalition are the North American Jewish Student Network and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, which is also headed by Weiss.

They held signs that included a blow-up picture of Waldheim with a senior SS general and other Nazi officers in German-occupied Yugoslavia in 1943, and an enlarged version of the U.N. War Crimes Commission warrant for Waldheim's arrest.

Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld also joined the group in demonstrating against Waldheim.

The group plans to demonstrate at Mauthausen. They had previously demonstrated in Vienna at Waldheim's inauguration in 1986, and in Rome during his visit to the Vatican last year.

The Austrian Jewish community is taking a cautiously watchful position on the papal contact with Waldheim.

Paul Grosz, president of the Federal Association of Jewish communities, indicated Wednesday that the community would speak out if the pope goes beyond his diplomatic obligations toward the head of a Catholic state and praises Waldheim.

In New York meanwhile, Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, an expert on Catholic-Jewish relations who has had important contacts with the Vatican for more than 20 years, cautioned against over-reaction to the pope's visit to Austria.

He said he was advised by Vatican authorities that papal contacts with Waldheim will be kept to a minimum.

Tanenbaum, who is director of international affairs of the American Jewish Committee, said, "It is important to keep in mind some basic facts about this papal visit and not allow extremist hysteria and stridency to overwhelm wisdom and common sense."

Tanenbaum pointed out that Austria is 87 percent Catholic, and that this is a pastoral visit to the Austrian people. It is a centuries-old Vatican policy for the pope to meet with other heads of state with which the Holy See has diplomatic relations, he said.

However, Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, called Tanenbaum's remarks "shameful" and an "embarrassment."

Steinberg said that the Tanenbaum's assertion that the pope's meeting with Waldheim reflects "an absolute protocol minimum is absolutely wrong."

He said that foreign dignitaries "have routinely visited Austria and explicitly refrained from having meetings with Waldheim."

Steinberg said that what was particularly troubling was Tanenbaum's suggestion that "peaceful expression of conscience concerning the lessons of the Holocaust can be vilified as 'extremist hysteria.'"

**JERUSALEM IS THE NEXT TARGET
OF THE PALESTINIAN UPRISING**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- The underground command of the Palestinian uprising has targeted Jerusalem for two weeks of civil disobedience and boycotts.

Communique No. 20, titled "The Jerusalem Communique," was circulated Wednesday night. It calls for a general strike in the administered territories on June 28 to protest the 21st anniversary of Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem.

It urges residents of the territories to focus their struggle in the next two weeks on efforts to break Israel's hold on East Jerusalem. It exhorts them to boycott the civil administration and declare "total disobedience."

Premier Yitzhak Shamir reacted furiously. "Cut off the hands" of those who would hurt Jerusalem, he told a gathering of Jerusalem police officers.

The latest communique also urged Palestinians to continue to damage Israeli property. The day of arson declared by the Palestinian underground against Israeli agricultural assets passed Wednesday with fewer forest and field fires than the recent average.

Some of the fires were due to carelessness by Israelis, especially children and not classified as sabotage, according to Police Minister Haim Barlev.

But the failure of the Palestinian underground in that respect has not induced complacency.

Israeli security forces, fire brigades, the Jewish National Fund and the Nature Preserves Authority remain in a high state of alert against arson attempts.

**ISRAEL DENIES USING TEAR GAS
TO DISPEL WEST BANK RIOTERS**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 23 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force has rejected allegations by Amnesty International that its use of tear gas to disperse rioters may have contributed to the deaths of about 40 Palestinians.

Nevertheless, the IDF will conduct a thorough investigation into the matter, a senior military source said Thursday. That, in fact, is what the London-based, private humanitarian agency had asked for.

The IDF pointed out that it has already investigated similar complaints by residents and doctors in the West Bank, which proved to be unfounded.

Amnesty International said it had reports that Israeli soldiers fired tear gas into houses, clinics, schools, hospitals and mosques, although the gas is supposed to be used only in the open air.

The IDF said it had strict regulations to use tear gas only out of doors, not in buildings.

The agency admitted it had little clinical evidence that the gas was responsible for deaths, but said it thought the patterns of death following high exposure to tear gas were sufficiently disturbing "to warrant a thorough and urgent review of IDF use of tear gas, and an immediate investigation into deaths among civilians following exposure to tear gas."

It said almost all of the alleged victims were babies, the elderly and people with respiratory or other illnesses which made them vulnerable to gas.

The IDF stressed that the types of tear gas it uses are standard in Western countries for riot control. It is used by the IDF for that purpose only, not as punishment.

APPEAL ISSUED FOR JEWS OF YEMEN
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- An Israeli living in Canada charged Thursday that Israel has not done enough to help the Jews of Yemen, and he called it disgraceful.

Moshe Nahum, interviewed by the army radio, spoke on behalf of the World Committee for the Rescue of Yemen's Jews, which he heads.

He said there are presently some 6,000 Jews in Yemen dispersed over more than 35 localities. They are the first to suffer from political and intertribal strife. Hostility toward Jews has been fanned by Palestinians who went to Yemen after the Lebanon war.

Nahum said he has visited Yemen several times and met about 300 Jewish families that are "torn in half." He explained that "in many cases, the husband, with two or three children, lives in Yemen, and the wife lives in Israel or vice versa."

NEW ISRAELI ENVOY TO EGYPT NAMED
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- Professor Shimon Shamir, an expert on Arab affairs, will be Israel's next ambassador to Egypt, the Foreign Ministry announced Thursday.

Cairo has already agreed to the appointment, the ministry said. Shamir will take his post at the end of this summer, replacing Moshe Sasson, who has been ambassador to Egypt since 1981.

**ITALIAN JOURNALIST BLASTS JESUITS
OVER HOLOCAUST-COMPARISON ARTICLE**
By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, June 23 (JTA) -- A leading Italian Jewish journalist and intellectual, Arrigo Levi, has responded forcefully to a recent article in the Jesuit magazine, *Civiltà Cattolica*, which implied a comparison between the destruction of Jews in the Holocaust and harsh measures used by Israel to suppress the Palestinian uprising.

"How could a comparison between the repression in the occupied territories and the Holocaust spontaneously spring to the minds of these cultured priests, who cannot help but feel some uneasiness at being the heirs of the first anti-Semitism of all, that of Christians?" Levi asked.

He wrote in the influential Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*.

His response appeared on the eve of Pope John Paul II's five-day visit to Austria, where he was to meet with President Kurt Waldheim.

"The authors assure us that anti-Semitism in the Catholic Church is over," he noted.

"But they argue . . . that Catholics nevertheless cannot refrain from criticizing the violence of Israel against the Palestinians with a judgment that is also hard."

'Seriously Offends Morality'

The article in *Civiltà Cattolica* drew distinctions between Jews and Israelis, on one hand, and the Israeli government, which it charged "seriously offends morality" by "certain of its behavior."

The Jesuits added that "if because of these facts, one's thoughts thus turn spontaneously to the methods used by the Nazis against the Jews, this should not be interpreted as an equation between Israelis and Nazis . . . but as an expression of condemnation and shock over the fact that today, after and despite the terrible experiences that should be a lesson for everyone, methodical violence is being employed against human beings."

"It is the shock that history teaches people -- everyone, not just Jews -- so little, so that it repeats itself," the magazine article said.

Said Levi of this line of thinking, "That this springs into the mind of crypto-anti-Semites, happy at the idea that even Jews are capable of reprehensible acts, we know full well."

"But this certainly doesn't go for the Jesuit fathers. If it springs into their minds, too, it is only because they are not Jews."

'Tormented Every Day'

"For them, the dimension of the Holocaust is symbolic or metaphorical. It is not real. It is one episode of violence like so many others throughout history. They have never entered the gas chambers. But every living Jew has found death there."

Levy wrote, "As a Jew, I feel tormented every day for the injustices committed by the Jewish soldiers, and even more for the blindness of a part of the Israelis confronting the suffering of other men."

"I force myself, as much as I can, to help Israel save itself from the horrors of occupation. But enough of this Nazi business," he said. "Just let those people with so much anti-Semitism in their past get a little more control over their spontaneous thoughts."

CONGRESS DROPS MCCLURE AMENDMENT EASING FEARS OF SOVIET JEWRY GROUPS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 23 (JTA) -- Congress this week dropped an amendment from the 1989 Defense Authorization Bill that Soviet Jewry groups feared could dilute the power of the 1975 Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

The decision on the amendment, introduced by Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho), was made in the House-Senate conference committee resolving differences between each chamber's version of the defense bill.

But H.D. Palmer, McClure's press secretary, said the senator intends to "revisit the issue" and possibly attach it to another bill. Palmer would not say when that might occur, or if it might be revised to satisfy concerns from Soviet Jewry activists.

The Senate approved the amendment May 13 by voice vote, which would have made conferral of most-favored-nation trade status on the Soviet Union contingent on overall compliance with the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, and not just to the emigration standards set forth in Jackson-Vanik.

McClure is on the 21-member U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe monitoring Soviet compliance with the act, whose third review is currently taking place in Vienna.

It has yet to produce any communiques, but commission chairman Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) recently said the United States must demand "no more, no less" than Soviet compliance with the measure, signed by 35 nations.

While Seymour Reich, B'nai B'rith International president, has called the amendment a "wholly unrealistic demand," Soviet Jewry groups have refrained from publicly opposing it.

At a press conference Wednesday at the offices of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, National Director Micah Naftalin and President Pamela Cohen said they are still studying the amendment.

Naftalin did express personal reservations about "vitiation" of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and establishing an "unmeetable" human rights standard for the Soviets, one that may lead them to ignore human rights policies totally, including the emigration standards.

Warm and Friendly

The Congressional action followed an unusual one-hour meeting Wednesday between Soviet Ambassador to the United States Yuri Dubinin and Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Abram said earlier Thursday that the discussion, which he described as "warm and friendly," focused on the topic of Soviet Jewish emigration, and specifically the McClure Amendment.

Abram said he told Dubinin at the meeting, held at Abram's request, that he was opposed to the amendment, and that the Soviet ambassador had agreed with him.

In a related matter, the Senate last week passed a sense-of-the-Senate resolution 96 to 0, urging President Reagan to "consult with" leaders of allied nations at the Toronto economic summit on "the impact on western security of tied and untied loans, trade credits, direct investments, joint ventures, lines of credit, and guarantees or other subsidies to the Soviet Union, Warsaw Pact countries, Cuba, Vietnam, Libya or Nicaragua." It

was sponsored by Sen. James Sasser (D-Tenn.).

The House, in a letter drafted by Reps. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Toby Roth (R-Wis.), had also urged Reagan to raise the issue of the roughly \$19 billion lent to Warsaw Pact countries by U.S. banks in 1987 with no human rights guarantees in return.

Consulate in Kiev

The loans are not covered by the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, since that measure only applies to U.S. government contracts with Communist countries.

On another matter, the Senate Appropriations subcommittee, on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary recently discussed the idea of setting up a U.S. consulate in Kiev and allowing the Soviets to set up a new one in the United States.

Mark Levin, Washington director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said plans to open that consulate in 1983 fell through following the shooting down of a Korean Airlines passenger plane by the Soviets. He said such a U.S. facility could serve as an "outpost not only to gather information but also as a form of protection for the refuseniks."

On May 29, there were threats of violence against Jews in Kiev that led Soviet police to advise Jews to stay in their homes, UCSJ's Cohen said Wednesday.

"This was during the (Reagan-Gorbachev Moscow) summit," she said, "so the Soviets did not want any kind of action."

"What happens when there's not a summit and the press are not in Moscow?" she asked.

(JTA reporter Yitzhak Rabi contributed to this report.)

ADL ASKS AUSTRIA TO PROSECUTE FORMER NAZI ROBERT VERBELEN

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith called on the Austrian government this week to "prosecute Nazi war criminal Robert Verbelen under Austrian law, or revoke his citizenship so that he may be extradited to Belgium" for trial there.

In a letter to Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, dated June 20, ADL national director Abraham Foxman noted that Verbelen, a Belgian Nazi, was sentenced to death in absentia by a Belgian military court in 1947 for his role in 101 murders during World War II.

He was not extradited to Belgium because he had become an Austrian citizen. "Apparently Verbelen's Austrian citizenship was not revoked because of claims made by his attorney that it had been granted at the request of the American government," Foxman wrote.

"This claim has been shown to be absolutely false by the Justice Department's report."

Foxman referred to a report by the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, released last week, which confirmed that despite his Nazi past, Verbelen was employed by the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps from 1946 to 1956.

"Verbelen can no longer rely on his misrepresentation to maintain his citizenship which was fraudulently secured," Foxman wrote.

Foxman said that the Belgian-born Verbelen "commanded the Nazi-allied Flemish SS which terrorized the local population through reprisals, torture, assassination and deportations."

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
ON EVE OF ASSEMBLY, JEWISH AGENCY
FINDS ITSELF IN WHIRLWIND OF CHANGE**
By Charley J. Levine

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- No accounting expertise was required to understand the role of Project Renewal in last year's voluminous Proposed Budget of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

It was isolated at the very end of the official tally, set apart with a heading in red typeface, and it represented little more than a conventional "money in, money out" summary.

This year, a renamed Project Renewal and Development budget takes center stage in the 1988-89 Jewish Agency Proposed Budget, occupying a strategic slice of the budgetary pie and commanding no less than \$90 million in income and services.

The change, a fundamental conceptual shifting of gears, says a lot about the spirit of the Jewish Agency today. Overseas Jewish communities are no longer content to simply funnel contributions into innumerable bureaucratic pigeonholes in Israel.

Project Renewal is but one example of a concerted effort to bring constructive, orderly change to the fund-distribution process. Similar changes are taking place in many other spheres of Jewish Agency operations.

These changes will be manifest at next week's Jewish Agency Assembly, when 800 world Jewish leaders will gather in Israel's capital to make important decisions about the future direction of the agency.

Aside from examining agency priorities, assembly delegates are likely to discuss a number of timely controversies that have made headlines of late.

Debate Over 'Dropout' Rate

Already, major players in the Jewish Agency have joined the debate over Israel's efforts to curb a 92 percent dropout rate of Jews leaving the Soviet Union on Israeli visas. The Israeli Cabinet has proposed direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv to prevent the vast majority of Jewish emigrants from opting to live in countries other than Israel.

At a news conference in Jerusalem this week, WZO-Jewish Agency Executive Chairman Simcha Dinitz and Jewish Agency Board of Governors Chairman Mendel Kaplan shared their fervent disapproval of the escalating "dropout" trend.

Together, they challenged the "freedom of choice" argument that some Diaspora Jews intone in justifying the extension of support to Soviet Jews who, upon leaving the USSR, choose to settle in America or other Western countries.

"What kind of freedom of choice can there be," Dinitz asked, "when their minds have been systematically turned against Israel for their entire lives? Let them at least come and see the reality of Israel before they decide."

The two men also detailed plans for bone-cutting measures aimed at reducing dramatically the number of WZO-Jewish Agency emissaries abroad or, alternatively, convincing local communities to participate more fully in finding the funds to sustain the "shlichim."

The general strategy for restructuring the Jewish Agency is to appoint blue-ribbon panels to study its essential service functions. The panels have license to propose far-reaching changes.

One area in which this already has taken

place is absorption. In an age when few major institutions are prepared to relinquish time-honored functions, the Jewish Agency is now eager to turn over its absorption services for newcomers to the government's Absorption Ministry, eliminating a historic duplication of efforts.

Closing Absorption Centers

The switch, fostered by an agency-sponsored investigation, headed by academic Dr. Israel Katz, seeks to shut down several absorption centers, the newcomers' traditional first sheltered residence upon arriving in Israel, and encourage "direct absorption" into mainstream Israeli society instead.

This move has brought a sharp protest from various immigrant associations. A typical outcry took place at the Mevaseret Zion absorption center, just outside Jerusalem, recently when a 10-year reunion of largely English-speaking olim turned into a protest forum against the proposed changes.

The bonds formed by shared challenges at the critical absorption phase contribute significantly to the ultimate success of the process, the successful olim argued.

But Jewish Agency Secretary-General Howard Weisband, himself a newcomer from the United States, thinks the move is long needed to bring efficiency to the absorption process.

"You certainly can't just throw people into an apartment building," he said. "But if you enhance the family's planning through better pilot trips and augment that with more logical housing and neighborhood options, you can achieve a solid transition period within real society, not within a somewhat artificial environment."

Weisband is proud that the agency is moving away from "governmental and quasi-governmental services, and toward the supplying of professionally administered services."

New Development Strategy

Another report to be presented at the assembly will focus on the agency's rural settlement priorities. The major thrust will shift emphasis away from pouring overseas contributions into individual kibbutzim or settlements and focus on integrated regional planning.

The concept is that kibbutzim, development towns and other players in a given local scene will work together on developing the region. Common planning will cut duplication of efforts and bring more results for the dollar.

Yet another report, on youth aliyah, is in the works, with a 1989 implementation date.

Beyond substance, there is a remarkable change in the leadership style of the Jewish Agency. The old-school mold of Leon Dulzin, Akiva Lewinsky and their contemporaries has been supplanted by a crisper, higher echelon of policy-shapers.

Simcha Dinitz is younger than his predecessors and is a savvy political leader, a former ambassador to the United States who gave up his Knesset seat to serve in this new capacity.

Mendel Kaplan has a reputation as a result-oriented businessman who demands accountability. And WZO-Jewish Agency Treasurer Meir Shitrit is a powerful up-and-coming Sephardi politician who also arrived via the Knesset route.

Whatever decisions are taken in the days ahead, the 1988 Jewish Agency Assembly promises to be more open to honest self-evaluation and change than gatherings of years past.