© Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

VOE. 67 - 72nd YEAR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1989

330 SEVENTH AVENUE

NO. 13

(212) 643-1890

KOHL SAYS HE'LL PUT AN END TO GERMAN ROLE IN LIBYAN PLANT By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl deplored the role played by West German companies in building a chemical weapons factory in Libya and promised Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres that he would put an end to it.

PUBLISHED BY JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

Peres, who is also finance minister, is on a four-day official visit to Bonn. He was received by Kohl in the chancellor's office Wednesday evening.

Kohl's government came under fierce attack in the Bundestag on Wednesday for ignoring persistent reports, from its own intelligence sources, of German participation in building a Libyan poison gas factory.

The government conceded this week that it knew of such suspicions as early as August 1987.

Wolfgang Schauble, a minister in the chancellor's office, told the Bundestag, however, that the government had no evidence it could present in court until Jan. 4 of this year.

Peres told reporters after his meeting with Kohl that he was impressed by the seriousness with which the chancellor regarded the Libyan matter.

"He brought up the issue right at the beginning, and he promised to do all he could to put an end to the German help in building the Libyan factory," Peres said.

"He was fully aware of the danger to Israel and of the historic dimensions of this matter," the vice premier added.

Israel Summons Envoy

In Jerusalem meanwhile, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens summoned the West German ambassador, Wilhelm Haas, to the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday.

He expressed Israel's "deep concern" over reports that German firms have equipped Libya with the materials and technology to manufacture chemical weapons.

The envoy was asked for clarification from Bonn of reports that German firms may have helped Syria and Iraq build chemical weapons facilities, as well.

Israel also wants to know if Germany has provided the Libyan air force with in-flight refueling capabilities. This would enable Libyan jets for the first time to strike targets in Israel.

In the course off the Bundestag debate, Schauble admitted that German intelligence reports on the Libyan plant were confirmed by fresh information from the United States last August.

The Americans pinpointed the plant at Rabta, about 40 miles south of the Libyan capital of Tripoli.

But Schauble continued to argue that there was no justification at the time to inform the public on the basis of anything less than solid evidence.

He admitted, however, that the government now accepts the American assertions that Libya has been building a chemical weapons plant, that West German companies were substantially involved in its design and construction, and that they supplied it with equipment and material.

Initially, the Germans had claimed that Washington was unable to produce evidence to substantiate its information.

NEW YORK, NY 10001-5010

Norbert Gansel of the opposition Social Democratic Party charged that the government is only willing to admit what has already come to light. He accused the Kohl regime of lacking the political courage to stop Libya from building the plant.

Prosecutors Take Action

Raf Lambsdorff of the Free Democratic Party, junior partner in the coalition government led by Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, warned that the government's credibility had been heavily damaged.

He called for swift measures to repair the situation, including legal action against the companies involved.

Proceedings have already been opened by the state prosecutors in Munich and Frankfurt against companies that helped build the Libyan plant.

The Frieburg prosecutor has taken action against Imhausen-Chemie, a chemical company in the southwestern city of Lahr. It is widely believed to have been the most deeply involved German firm.

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel contributed to this report.)

RABIN WARNS ARABS NOT TO USE CHEMICAL WEAPONS AGAINST ISRAEL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Arab countries this week that there will be dire consequences if they dare to use chemical weapons against Israel.

"Israel will not tolerate even anyone thinking about using this kind of means against us," Rabin told a group of visiting State of Israel Bonds leaders from the United States, Europe and Latin America.

Israel has known for some time of Libya's plans to produce chemical weapons, he said. "Therefore, we consider Libya one of our most dangerous potential enemies.

"We have tried to make it clear to the Arab countries' leaders that Israel is not Iran, and whoever dares to use this kind of weapon against Israeli military units or against Israeli civilian targets will be clobbered 100 times or more," Rabin said.

Speaking to the Bonds leaders Tuesday, the defense minister also addressed the increased use of plastic and rubber bullets by the Israel Defense Force against Palestinian rioters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Although intended to reduce fatalities, they have often been as lethal as live ammunition.

The IDF has just expanded the use of plastic bullets. They now may be fired by senior noncommissioned officers in life-threatening situations. Previously only a commissioned officer was authorized to fire them.

Rabin insisted that the rubber and plastic bullets used in the field are no different from those used by police forces all over the world to control rioting. He said their purpose is to inflict



injury and pain. He admitted they could kill at close range.

The Bonds leaders, who were on a three-day international leadership mission, also met this week with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Cabinet ministers.

INNER CABINET GIVES SHIN BET GREATER POWER IN TERRITORIES By Hugh Orge!

TEL AVIV, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- The Inner Cabinet has given the Shin Bet more extensive power to combat the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It has also accepted a number of assumptions which seem to add up to an increased reliance on force, according to a report in Ma'ariv on Thursday.

The Shin Bet, Israel's top secret internal security agency, has been given ministerial authorization to be more actively involved in foiling planned attacks, apprehending the terrorists responsible for them and gathering high quality intelligence, Ma'ariv said.

The Wednesday meeting of the Inner Cabinet, which consists of 10 senior ministers divided equally between Labor and Likud, was also attended by ranking officials responsible for security in East Jerusalem.

They agreed that the Palestine Liberation Organization has not become more moderate, but in fact has increased its involvement in the intifada since Yasir Arafat said he was ready for political diplomacy.

They declared that broadcasts from Arab countries are an important channel for keeping the uprising alive.

They also expressed disappointment at Israel's inability to find non-PLO Palestinians with whom to conduct a dialogue.

Finally, the ministers agreed with the defense establishment that harsher punishment for rioters will gradually reduce the number of clashes between Palestinian youths and the Israel Defense Force, Ma'ariv reported.

KAHANE DECLARES NEW STATE OF JUDEA By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- Rabbi Meir Kahane and his Kach party founded a new Jewish state Wednesday.

It was proclaimed the "Free State of Judea" during a noisy Kach rally at the Jerusalem Plaza Sheraton Hotel.

The declaration was largely ignored by the news media.

Presumably, it will include any areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip that, Kahane is convinced, are about to be "surrendered" by the present Israeli government.

No details were given for the new state. Instead, the rally devoted itself to virulent attacks on the government, the Cabinet and Likud Knesset members for allegedly abandoning the ideals of Zionism.

The Parliament itself, the legal system and the press were roundly denounced.

Kahane served two terms in the Knesset, but his party was barred from running in the Nov. 1 Knesset elections because of its racist platform, which advocated, among other things, the forced expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the administered territories. JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS URGE U.S.
TO DENY ANY ARAFAT VISA REQUEST
By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations issued a statement Thursday urging the State Department to continue to deny a U.S. visa to Yasir Arafat.

Its statement came amid reports that the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman would request a visa to address the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's annual convention in Washington on April 13.

The White House said Tuesday that the United States has not received any request from Arafat. In November, Secretary of State George Shultz rejected Arafat's visa request to address the United Nations.

Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, said granting Arafat a visa would reward him for continuing to pursue a policy of terrorism.

"There now exists a U.S.-PLO dialogue in Tunis, in which American Ambassador (Robert) Pelletreau is our country's representative," said Reich. "The PLO has done nothing to warrant any further concession by the United States."

Among those agreeing to the statement was Menachem Rosensaft, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance and one of five American Jews who met with Arafat in Stockholm in December.

Rosensaft said in a telephone interview "there is absolutely no reason to justify broadening the PLO dialogue beyond that at Tunis."

In a related development, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith on Thursday launched the first issue of its "PLO Watch" newsletter to monitor PLO actions and statements.

Another Jewish organization, meanwhile, reiterated its strong criticism of the U.S. decision to talk with the PLO.

The National Executive Committee of the Zionist Organization of America, meeting this week in Miami, said the U.S. decision is "a miscalculation" and should be reversed.

PLO SIGNS IN AS 'PALESTINE' By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization -- for the first time at an international conference -- was registered as the delegation of "Palestine."

The delegation was part of the 10-day International Conference on Education which closed here Thursday.

Organized by UNESCO, the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization, it was the first international conclave at which the PLO was recognized as an equal among 600 delegates from 121 participating countries.

E. GERMANY GRANTS PLO EMBASSY STATUS By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 19 (JTA) — Heinz Galinski, leader of West Germany's Jewish community, has protested sharply over the designation of the Palestine Liberation Organization mission in East Berlin as "The Embassy of Palestine."

He said the East German move last Monday was all the more deplorable because East Germany has no diplomatic relations with Israel. Galinski chairs the Central Council of Jews here.

CLOSING DISCUSSIONS ON TABA BEGIN, AFTER HITCH AT BORDER By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- The final Israeli-Egyptian talks on Taba tripped over a gaffe before they even got started Thursday, but the minor dispute was soon resolved and progress was reported at the morning and afternoon sessions.

The delay began when the negotiators from Cairo — who spent Wednesday night at Nueba, on the Sinai coast, and drove to Taba in the morning — had their bus stopped at the Taba border checkpoint.

They were asked to transfer to an Israeli bus for the final 200 yards of their trip, but the Egyptians refused.

The impasse was broken when the United Nations Multinational Force put a bus at their disposal.

The Egyptians arrived at the Avia Sonesta hotel — the future status of which is also under negotiation — escorted by U.N. officers and followed by Israel Foreign Ministry cars.

The issues discussed between the Israeli, Egyptian and U.S. delegations included access for Israeli visitors to the Taba region, police jurisdiction and currency rules.

Taba, a tiny enclave on the Red Sea near the Israeli resort town of Eilat, was awarded to Egypt by an international arbitration panel last year.

<u>Demonstrators From Eilat</u>

The talks were about two hours late getting started, but things went smoothly, undisturbed by raucous demonstrators from Eilat, who insisted that the Sonesta and neighboring Rafi Nelson vacation village, resorts built by Israelis, still belong to Israel.

The demonstrators were in boats offshore while Israeli police kept them away from the hotel.

The head of the Egyptian delegation, Nabil el-Arabi, who is Cairo's representative to the United Nations in Geneva, discussed "free access" for Israelis to Taba with an Israel Radio reporter during the lunch break.

"As far as I am concerned, access will be in accordance with all the usual rules of passage between one country and another," the Egyptian diplomat said.

He expressed hope that Israeli tourism to Taba will continue and flourish after Egypt takes formal possession.

He indicated that the issue of Israeli access involved the duration of the visit.

Day-trippers, or people who spend one or two nights in Taba, presumably would not require passports, but those remaining a week or longer will need passports and Egyptian visas.

Other matters discussed included car insurance for Israeli drivers entering Taba, traffic violations and the payment of fines, criminal investigations and whether Israeli as well as Egyptian currency will be valid in Taba.

Friday's meeting is expected to be devoted to the final border marker extending from a sand hill to the sea, which was left out of the arbitration process.

The outgoing owners of the Sonesta hotel are negotiating separately with the Egyptians. Egyptian law requires Egyptian ownership. The Israelis would like to retain a 49 percent interest and continue to manage the hotel.

NAZI EDITOR, ONE-TIME PROFESSOR AT YALE, SEEKS ASYLUM IN CANADA By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 19 (JTA) -- A former lecturer at Yale University, who edited a Nazi magazine in the Soviet Union during World War II and who disappeared before his U.S. deportation hearing, has surfaced in Montreal. He has asked for Canadian refugee status.

Vladimir Sokolov, 74, edited and wrote for "Rech," a Russian-language Nazi newspaper published in his native Orel, Russia, during 1942 and 1943.

American courts found that the anti-Semitic articles and columns that appeared under his name were "vicious" and contributed to the persecution of Jews, as well as "world domination by Nazis."

Sokolov wrote under the name V.I. Samarin, which was his father's listed last name.

However Sokolov lived and worked in the United States under the name Vladimir Sokolov, his wife's last name, which he used upon entering the United States in 1951.

At that time he failed to reveal his wartime activities.

Sokolov -- as Samarin -- was decorated by the German army for his writings. He retreated with the Germans when the Russian army recaptured Orel.

While living in Milford, Conn., Sokolov was a member of Yale's department of Slavic languages from 1959 to 1976. The Yale Alumni Journal wrote that he "chose to resign and seek early retirement."

The case against Sokolov began with an article in Sovietische Heimland, the Yiddish-language monthly published in Moscow.

It was discovered by a Yale librarian, Sid Resnick, who did translations for the Morning Freiheit, a Yiddish newspaper.

Stripped Of Citizenship

Sokolov was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1986. Court papers refer to him as Sokolov, a.k.a. Sokolov-Samarin a.k.a. Samarin.

The Canadian Jewish Congress is attempting to intervene in the case. "Canada must not be used as a safe haven for Nazi collaborators fleeing United States justice," said CJC National Executive Director Jack Silverstone.

Silverstone, who served as CJC's associate counsel before the Deschenes Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals, said, "We regard this as an abuse of the refugee process. Having fled from an American judicial process, we hope Canadian authorities will take prompt action to have Mr. Sokolov sent back to the United States."

In Washington, Neal Sher, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, refused to comment on the case, except to say that a person who is stripped of U.S. citizenship is "automatically put on the 'watch list.' He is on the 'watch list' along with Mr. (Kurt) Waldheim."

Sources close to the investigation indicated that OSI was "not surprised" that Sokolov was in Canada, had known for some time and had been coordinating with Canadian officials on the case.

Sokolov was the first of about 25 alleged Nazi collaborators to face civil proceedings brought by OSI, which was formed in 1979 to track down Nazi war criminals living in the United States.

SOVIET JEWRY MOVEMENT FACING NEW CHALLENGES IN GORBACHEV ERA By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Jan. 19 (JTA) — With conditions for Soviet Jews seeming to improve and a Western "honeymoon" with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev still going strong, Soviet Jewry groups are taking a hard look at the future of their movement.

Last year, nearly 19,000 Soviet Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union, the highest total in nine years and well more than twice the number the year before. In 1989, as many as 38,000 may be allowed out.

The most famous of the long-term refuseniks -- Natan Sharansky, Ida Nudel, Vladimir Slepak, Viktor Brailovsky, to name a few -- are living in Israel. So is Alexei Magarik, the last prisoner of Zion.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry said that as of Jan. 1 there were 2,696 refuseniks remaining in the Soviet Union, down from 11,000 in 1986.

This developments have prompted leaders in the Soviet Jewry movement to grapple with a number of tough questions:

- * How can the movement fight the impression that the Soviet Jewish issue has been solved, when so little of the Soviet Union's changes have been institutionalized?
- * Will persistent criticism of the Soviet Union, especially in the form of support for U.S.-Soviet trade restrictions, make Jewish groups appear out of step with the American mainstream?
- * To what extent should the movement promote Jewish cultural life within the Soviet Union, after years of trying to get Jews out?
- * What responsibility does the American Jewish community have to solve the "neshira" problem and reverse a trend of Soviet Jews choosing the United States over Israel?

'Masses Of Nameless, Faceless People'

Fundamental changes in the Soviet Jewry movement became apparent last week with news that the National Conference would begin reexamining its traditional support of the 1974 Jackson-Vanik amendment, which denies most-favored-nation trade status to the Soviet Union until it allows free emigration.

The conference said it was not yet ready to call for the repeal or a waiver of Jackson-Vanik or like legislation, but that it is "assessing positive changes" in Soviet emigration.

But the conference and other groups refuse to allow talk of improvement in Soviet human rights to go unqualified.

Emigration may be up, but they say Soviet authorities are "capricious" in granting permission to emigrate. Restrictions have been lifted on the transmission of Jewish culture, but the changes have yet to be institutionalized.

Most ominously, the same freedom that has allowed Jewish cultural organizations to emerge from underground has also given rise to anti-Semitic groups, such as Pamyat.

"We accept with appreciation and acknowledge what has taken place, but it remains to be seen whether it will continue or even increase," said Shoshana Cardin, the NCSJ chairwoman.

Apparent improvements represent another challenge to the movement. Nudel, Sharansky and other well-known refuseniks were powerful symbols. With their release, the movement must now

begin what one activist called a "long program of fighting for masses of nameless, faceless people."

Micah Naftalin, national director of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, still believes in the kind of public rallies that characterized the movement for years, like the historic "Freedom Sunday" of December 1987.

But the trend has been away from big public demonstrations. Last April, organizers canceled New York's massive Solidarity Sunday event, ending a 16-year tradition, and plans have not been announced for its resumption.

The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, however, feels it is not yet time to turn off the heat on the Soviets.

"The Jewish community, at the moment of achieved success, has gone into hibernation," said Glenn Richter, the group's national coordinator.

Richter worries that the incoming Bush administration will perceive Jewish inaction as an opportunity to overlook the human rights issue in dealing with the Soviets.

Still An Aliyah Movement?

Mainstream groups counter that Washington is more aware of the Soviet Jewry movement than ever. With Soviet emigres flooding transit centers in Rome and Vienna, Jewish groups have been intensively lobbying the administration and Congress to raise the yearly quota on the number of Soviet refugees.

But lobbying efforts must be measured against prevailing public attitudes. In the weeks since jubilant New Yorkers chanted "Gorby! Gorby!" organizations know they must be on guard against the appearance of Soviet-bashing.

Abraham Bayer, director of international affairs at the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, thinks the movement can keep the pressure on if it sticks to the facts.

"This movement has always flourished based on the truth and accuracy. We've never made it better or worse than it is," he said.

The groups are also looking at attitudes within the Soviet Union, and have begun a campaign to bring Jewish culture to its Jews.

It is a major step for the movement, acknowledging the possibility for a viable Jewish life in the Soviet Union and reversing the movement's longstanding image as a movement for aliyah, or migration to Israel.

In fact, with the influx of Soviet Jews threatening to overwhelm the resettlement budgets of individual Jewish federations in the United States, some observers say it is past the time when Soviet Jewry activists can call theirs an "aliyah movement."

For David Harris, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, the movement may have to explore "what more we can do to increase Jewish national consciousness in the Soviet Union. We can renew that nationalist movement, to make Israel a more inviting and hospitable destination."

Harris also believes American groups also have a responsibility to foster the Jewish life of Soviet emigrants in this country.

"By almost everyone's account, far too many Soviet Jews remain isolated, unaffiliated, unattached and disenfranchised from the community, once they leave the federation rolls," he said.

"One of the great tragic ironies of this whole magnificent Soviet Jewry movement would be if we were to have struggled so tenaciously to see them disappear."