

# **RELEASE OF 'THE BREDA TWO' BY HOLLAND TRIGGERS PROTESTS**

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Two Nazi war criminals responsible for the deportation of more than 100,000 Dutch Jews were released Friday from Breda prison by an act of the Dutch Parliament, amid angry protests from Jewish groups and former resistance fighters in the Netherlands and other countries.

Ferdinand aus der Fuenten, 79, and Franz Fischer, 88, the last two war criminals incarcerated in Holland, were set free four hours after the lower house of Parliament voted 85-65 to expel them from the country as "undesirable aliens."

They were escorted to the West German border near Venlo, where they were handed over to German police. The West German news media paid little attention to the event.

Justice Minister Frits Korthals Altes revived longstanding proposals to release the two last Monday and the matter was promptly put to a Parliament sharply divided over the issue.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, protested in a letter to Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers.

"It is unconscionable to release such notorious individuals who perpetrated heinous crimes and caused suffering to so many thousands," he wrote to Lubbers.

"To pardon such criminals desecrates the memory of those who perished and sends the wrong signal to the perpetrators of tomorrow's crimes."

Ephraim Zorof, a Holocaust historian who heads the Wiesenthal Center in Israel, said, "Their release will not help our struggle to persuade Britain and Sweden to bring Nazis to trial."

He added that the Dutch decision "is very grave because these two criminals, who served as important parts of the Nazi mechanism in Holland, did not even express regret for their deeds."

## **Deported 13,000**

Zorof noted that aus der Fuenten, a captain in the SS, was deputy director of the office responsible for deporting Jews to death camps. In that capacity, he oversaw all Jewish deportation from the Netherlands from 1941 until the end of the war.

Fischer, a Gestapo official, registered and deported 13,000 Jews from The Hague.

The two, convicted in 1949, were among 154 German and Dutch Nazis and collaborators found guilty of war crimes and sentenced to death in Holland in the years immediately after the war.

Forty were executed. The rest had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

The sentences later were reduced to a maximum of 20 years in 106 cases. In practice, none served more than 15 years.

By the 1960s, only four remained in Dutch prisons. One, Willy Lages, was freed in 1966 because he was believed to be dying. Another, Joseph Kotsella, died in prison in 1979.

Only aus der Fuenten and Fischer remained. They became known as "The Breda Two."

In February 1972, the justice minister at the time, Andries Van Agt, supported their release. Hearings were held behind closed doors and the idea was rejected.

Now, 16 years later, the parliamentary debate on the same subject was broadcast live in its entirety by Dutch television.

On Thursday night, Jews and former resistance fighters demonstrated against release of the war criminals in The Hague and Amsterdam.

Sunday marked the annual commemoration of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp by the Red Army in 1945.

Sponsored by the Netherlands Auschwitz Committee, the ceremony usually draws about 800 people.

This Sunday, the crowd was estimated at 2,000, including several Cabinet ministers and members of Parliament. The larger turnout was attributable to the release of the two Nazis from prison.

A leading authority on war trauma, Professor Johan Bastiaans, supported their release. His rationale was that those who would be traumatized by it were already traumatized and never cured.

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)

# **EGYPTIAN FLAG TO BE RAISED MONDAY OVER TABA BEACH RESORT**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The Egyptian flag will be raised alongside the Israeli flag Monday on a hilltop overlooking Taba, the Egyptian government announced Sunday.

But it will not signify Egypt's takeover of the beach enclave outside Eilat, which is still the subject of negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens informed the Egyptian ambassador that the Israeli government agreed to the flag-raising ceremony as a goodwill gesture.

Israelis hope this will improve the atmosphere of the talks now going on between the two countries to resolve the final issues in the Taba dispute, sources said.

Taba was awarded to Egypt by international arbitration last year, and its future ownership therefore is settled.

But Israeli and Egyptian negotiating teams have been meeting for more than a week at Taba to resolve such matters as access to the beach for Israelis, customs inspection, currency and police jurisdiction.

They must also agree on the location of the last 185 yards of boundary, an issue that the arbitration process left open. The boundary line runs to the edge of the sea from border marker 91, the last put in place by the Israeli and Egyptian teams.

The Egyptian flag will be raised at marker 91.

Separate negotiations are under way for Egypt's purchase of the Avia Sonesta Hotel and the Rafi Nelson Vacation Village, tourist resorts that are Taba's only tangible assets.

The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism was instructed to negotiate with the Israeli owners.

**ACTIVIST HUSSEINI IS RELEASED,  
MAY HAVE MADE DEAL WITH OFFICIALS**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Faisal al-Husseini, a Palestinian activist with considerable influence in the West Bank, was released from six months' administrative detention Sunday amid rumors that he is being groomed as a possible negotiating partner with Israel.

On returning to his East Jerusalem home Sunday morning from Kfar Yona prison, near Netanya, he told reporters he had made no deal with the Israeli authorities.

Husseini, who heads the Arab Research Institute in East Jerusalem, supports the Palestine Liberation Organization. But he is known to differ with it on some issues.

He was reported last week to be willing to consider Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin's idea for Palestinian local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rabin stipulated the elections would have to be preceded by a three- to six-month lull in the intifada, as the Palestinians call their 14-month-old uprising.

His proposal was flatly rejected by the PLO and greeted with skepticism among Rabin's fellow ministers.

Husseini neither rejected nor endorsed the plan. He said he would agree to free, democratic elections in the territories if they were held under U.N. auspices with no interference by Israel.

But he has not yet decided whether he would participate personally in such elections. Asked if he would agree to a suspension of the uprising, Husseini insisted there must be no preconditions.

Persistent reports in the news media on the eve of his release hinted that some sort of understanding may have been reached between Husseini and Rabin's defense establishment.

**Meeting In Jail Confirmed**

The Cabinet confirmed Sunday that Shmuel Goren, coordinator of activities in the administered territories, secretly met with Husseini in prison last week.

Goren was representing Rabin. Ma'ariv said neither Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin nor Foreign Minister Moshe Arens were privy to the meetings.

The Prime Minister's Office said Saturday night that Shamir was unaware of the meetings and that Goren acted exclusively on behalf of Rabin.

Rabin, for his part, said he had not initiated the conversations, but approved them at Goren's suggestion.

The defense minister said that he himself, the civil administration in the territories and the military authorities should meet from time to time with prominent West Bank Palestinians to hear their views and explain Israel's positions.

According to sources who asked to remain anonymous, Husseini will try to gauge the mood in the territories with respect to Rabin's elections proposal and other matters.

Al Hamishmar quoted Rabin as saying Husseini would be back in prison if he resumed the activities for which he was arrested.

Those activities were never made clear inasmuch as administrative detention, a holdover from the British Mandate, allows incarceration without charges or trial.

Ma'ariv reported Sunday that the Defense Ministry will approve Husseini's request to travel abroad for consultations aimed at advancing an Israeli peace initiative.

He will be permitted to go abroad to gain support for Palestinian participation in talks with Israel, provided he does not declare an intention to meet PLO leaders, the newspaper said.

**PLO Would Favor 'Real' Elections**

Husseini told reporters, "I believe that the PLO will agree to any elections if they will be real, democratic and free elections, and under the supervision of the United Nations and with no preconditions about what will happen after that."

He also said he thinks some Israelis at least are moving in "the right direction."

Ha'aretz reported that the West Bank military government and the military commanders in the Gaza Strip continue to have contact with Palestinian public figures in order to clarify positions.

Members of the Nablus City Council, which for all practical purposes ceased to function a year ago, were summoned to meet with Col. Shmuel Morad, military governor of the city, who asked their opinion about local elections, Ha'aretz said.

The same newspaper reported that Brig. Gen. Aryeh Ramot, head of the Gaza Strip civil administration, had secret meetings over the weekend with 12 Gaza Strip leaders whom he considers moderates.

**DIVERGENT VIEWS ON THE PLO  
VOICED BY CABINET MINISTERS**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Sharply opposing views on the government's policy toward the Palestine Liberation Organization were expressed by two Cabinet ministers on an Israel Radio interview program over the weekend.

Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, a Likud hard-liner, and Science and Development Minister Ezer Weizman, a Laborite dove, seemed to represent diametrically opposed views in the Likud-Labor coalition government.

Weizman maintained Israel has no choice but to talk to PLO chief Yasir Arafat.

Sharon insisted there can be no peace in the Middle East as long as Arafat is alive.

But he blamed his own party leader, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, for failure to end the Palestinian uprising and hinted that Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin should resign.

"For 14 months, this security failure, perhaps the worst in our history, has been going on. This is liable to lead to a dangerous situation—the establishment of a PLO state in the heart of Israel," Sharon said.

"And no one is resigning, no one is being sacked and nothing is being investigated," Sharon added.

He seemed to be recalling his own forced resignation as defense minister following an investigation of the 1982 Sabra and Shatila refugee camps massacre during the Lebanon war.

Weizman, who also formerly served as defense minister, said, "My evaluation today, and I am not alone, is that the only one we can talk to is the PLO leadership, with Arafat at its head."

"If Shamir does not sit down with Arafat, a different leader will have to sit with Arafat," Weizman said.

# ADL APPLAUDS 15-YEAR SENTENCE GIVEN TO EXTREMIST LAROCHE

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Common criminality, not his political extremism, was the undoing of Lyndon LaRouche Jr., the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith commented Friday, following LaRouche's sentencing to 15 years in prison for tax evasion and fraud.

The 66-year-old politician, who ran three times for president, was sentenced by Judge Albert Bryan of federal district court in Alexandria, Va., along with six co-defendants.

They were found guilty of scheming to defraud the Internal Revenue Service and deliberately defaulting on more than \$30 million in loans from LaRouche supporters, many of them elderly.

"The sentencing sends a strong message that this anti-Semitic extremist cult leader cannot use his 'political' activities as a shield for criminal wrongdoing on a nationwide scale," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the ADL.

"This case was not about politics; it was about crime. It was about defrauding the elderly of their savings and spending lavishly to maintain a high life style," Foxman said.

LaRouche was the subject of a 54-page "ADL Special Report" released in 1986.

It focused on his bizarre world outlook, heavily laden with anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, denial of the Holocaust and allegations that the queen of England, among other things, headed a worldwide ring of drug traffickers.

LaRouche, who gave credence to the wildly anti-Semitic "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," maintained that "Adolf Hitler was put into power largely on the initiative of the Rothschilds, Warburgs and Oppenheims."

LaRouche posed a danger because he cloaked his lunatic fringe notions by championing popular causes such as strong defense, and legitimate-sounding fronts, for example, the "National Anti-Drug Coalition," the ADL study pointed out.

## ONCE AGAIN, PALESTINIAN RIGHTS TO TOP AGENDA AT U.N. CONFERENCE

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The question of Palestine and the Israeli-administered territories will once again be No. 1 on the agenda at the annual conference of the 43-nation U.N. Commission on Human Rights, according to Jam Martenson, director general of U.N. headquarters here.

Martenson, who also heads its human rights division, held a news conference on the eve of the gathering, which runs from Jan. 30 to March 10.

He said some 1,200 delegates, representing 120 U.N. member states and 120 non-governmental organizations, are attending.

The agenda items on the Middle East are Palestinian self-determination and "Israeli practices in the occupied territories."

Israel, which has observer status at the conference, will be represented by Pinchas Eliav, its ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, and Rafael Walden, counselor to the Israeli Mission.

Israel plans to maintain a low profile this year. Its diplomats intend to make only two speeches.

They will refrain from attacking the Soviet Union on the subject of Jewish emigration, which is rapidly on the rise. But the Israelis can be

expected to refer to the situation of Jews in Syria and, possibly, Ethiopia.

The Arab states seem to be divided over strategy. Some hard-liners want the usual all-out attack on Israel. Other Arabs say it would be wiser to strive for resolutions on the territories, which will be better balanced and likely to gain Western support.

The American delegation will be headed by Armando Valladares, a Cuban exile, who led the U.S. delegation last year.

Jewish organizations participating with NGO status are the World Jewish Congress, WIZO, World Union of Reform Judaism and B'nai B'rith.

The East German Democratic Republic, a member of the Human Rights Commission, will once again be represented by a reputed former Nazi. According to diplomatic sources here, he is Rudolph Frambach, who served in the SS during World War II.

East Germany sent an alumnus of the Hitler Youth to represent it at the human rights conference five years ago. The Israeli Mission protested and he took an early departure.

## GERMANS PROMISE TOUGH SANCTIONS ON FIRMS EXPORTING CHEMICAL ARMS

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The federal government here will severely punish West German firms illegally exporting chemical warfare equipment and technology.

The weekly Welt Am Sonntag reported Sunday that the government will present a bill in Parliament on Feb. 15 to allow it to confiscate the profits from such illegal sales.

In addition, the maximum prison term for offenders will be increased from three to five years and the fine raised from a half million to one million marks (approximately \$540,000).

These developments came on the heels of the government's belated acknowledgment that it was aware that German firms were helping the Libyans build a chemical plant with weapons potential at Rabta, south of Tripoli.

Aides to Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Sunday that West Germany was consulting with the United States and its other allies on how to ensure that the Libyan plant will never produce poison gas.

The Germans are anxious to avoid an American air strike at the plant, something ex-President Reagan spoke of publicly during the final weeks of his administration.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher disclosed that he has enlisted the help of Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez to propose a "European Community initiative" to block the spread of chemical weapons.

Fernandez Ordonez is currently chairman of the E.C. Council of Ministers.

The German leaders are convinced the Rabta plant still does not have the capability to produce chemical weapons.

Kohl assured Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres of that during his four-day official visit earlier in the month. He gave the same assurances last week to Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, with whom he also met.

Meanwhile, Imhausen Chemie, a company in the southern German city of Laehr that was deeply involved with the Libyan plant, has been ousted from the Frankfurt-based West German Chemical Industry Association.

## BACKLOG OF SOVIET JEWISH REFUGEES PUTTING STRAIN ON TOWNS, BUDGETS

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The increasing flow of Soviet Jewish refugees into Italy is straining the budgets of Jewish relief organizations.

It is also creating potential problems in the towns where they are temporarily housed awaiting visas for the United States and elsewhere.

Officials of Jewish relief agencies say that in light of tightened U.S. immigration policy, an effort is being made to encourage the Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel instead of to the United States.

The sources said about 7,200 Soviet Jews are presently in Italy as transmigrants, in addition to another 2,000 en route here who currently are at refugee processing centers in Vienna.

The Soviet Jews are concentrated in the small seaside resort of Ladispoli, north of Rome, and in one or two other towns nearby. In addition, about 1,000 Iranian Jews are said to be in Vienna or Italy.

Jews have been able to leave the Soviet Union in sharply increased numbers in recent months under the policies of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

At the same time, American immigration authorities have been more selective in issuing refugee status to Soviet emigrants. So far, about 600 Soviet Jews have been refused U.S. refugee status, once accorded automatically to Jewish emigrants from the USSR.

Those who have been denied refugee status could go to Israel without any problems. But many do not want to do so.

"We will have problems if these people decide to go underground and stay in Italy," said a Jewish official. "The agreement with Italy is that they can come through here, but won't stay here," the official said.

"Both the Austrians and the Italians are doing a great thing here," he added.

### Cuts In Daily Allowances

Sources here say the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which provides housing, cultural activities and financial assistance to the refugees, is "very hard pressed" to meet everyone's needs because of the increased numbers. The agency is said to be operating "on a real shoestring budget."

They said per diem allowances given by the Joint to each refugee have had to be cut by 10 percent -- from \$10 to \$9 a day -- and that further cuts may take place because "the numbers are so huge."

Sylvia Hassenfeld, president of the Joint Distribution Committee, visited the refugees last week in Ladispoli and at a hotel on the edge of Rome that serves as a way station for them.

"Ladispoli is becoming a problem," she said, because of the heavy concentration of refugees in the town.

"We encourage them to go elsewhere, but they want to go to Ladispoli. They want to stay together," she said. "After all, they left everything."

Her concern echoed that expressed earlier last week by Ladispoli's mayor, who said that although the situation had not yet become critical, the rapid influx of people could be disruptive.

Refugees arriving by train from Vienna go directly from Rome's station to the Hotel Nord-

land, where the Joint Distribution Committee pays for their stay for a week.

During this time, they are taken to Ladispoli to let them find apartments.

Last Thursday, the scene was typical. Scores of men, women and children of all ages, chatting among themselves in Russian, milled about in the hotel lobby amid enormous piles of luggage. They were waiting for a bus to take them to their new temporary housing in Ladispoli.

Meanwhile, relief workers and hotel personnel were getting ready to greet more than 100 newcomers expected any minute at the railroad station.

## SOVIET JEWS RECOMMEND TERMS FOR U.S. ROLE IN MOSCOW FORUM

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Sixteen leading Jewish activists in the Soviet Union have laid down what they think should be the conditions for American participation in the human rights conference that is to be held in Moscow in 1991.

The United States has signed the Vienna Document, which designates the USSR as host nation of the conference.

The 16 stated their views in a letter to President George Bush. They also wrote to the heads of government of the other 34 countries that participated in the Vienna Conference on Cooperation and Security in Europe.

The original letter, dated Jan. 18, was received by Pamela Cohen, president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, who forwarded it to the White House.

The signatories listed the criteria for matching Soviet performance with promises in the areas of emigration and cultural rights for Jews.

They include "a law on emigration in accordance with Soviet international obligations" and official recognition and legalization of all independent Jewish cultural and religious organizations and groups.

The Soviet undertakings also must include release of all refuseniks and freedom of action for Soviet Jews against anti-Semitism and anti-Israel propaganda, the letter says.

## ISRAELIS FACE ARRAY OF CANDIDATES IN FEBRUARY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Israelis will have 580 candidates for mayor or city council president to choose from when they cast ballots Feb. 28 in the first municipal elections to be held separately from national elections.

They will also have to select town council members from among 1,160 local lists, representing some 14,000 candidates.

The Knesset decided last year to hold parliamentary and local elections on different dates. The new Knesset was elected on Nov. 1.

The mayors and council heads are elected directly by personal ballot. The councils themselves are elected by proportional representation -- as are members of the Knesset.

This may create a divided government in the two largest cities.

While Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, a Laborite, and Mayor Shlomo Lehat of Tel Aviv, a Likud maverick, seem assured of re-election, their respective parties are not likely to retain majorities in the city councils, political analysts say.