

CARMELITE CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ WON'T BE RELOCATED UNTIL 1990

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA) -- The Carmelite convent at Auschwitz will be relocated, but not by next month, as a French Jewish leader appeared to suggest this week.

The leader, Theo Klein, said earlier this week that he had received a letter from the archbishop of Lyon indicating that the convent would be relocated to a site some 550 feet away from the perimeter of the former death camp.

Klein appeared to suggest the transfer would take place before June 22, a date Cardinal Albert Decourtray of Lyon had proposed as a deadline for resolving the matter, which has created a major rift in Catholic-Jewish relations.

But a copy of the letter, obtained by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, makes no mention of the July date and, in fact, suggests that work on the new convent will not begin before next year.

Decourtray, who has been the chief Catholic negotiator on the Auschwitz convent issue, wrote to Klein outlining agreed-upon plans that will lead to the eventual removal of the convent, as conveyed to him by Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, the archbishop of Krakow, who has jurisdiction over the convent.

Construction of a new prayer and information center on the new site can most likely be started by early 1990, the June 5 letter says.

Decourtray's letter announces that the site, "situated about 500 meters from the Auschwitz concentration camp, has finally been secured."

It was chosen from three alternative sites. "The new convent will be built in the part of the plot furthest from the camp. There will therefore be no ambiguity about its placement," writes Decourtray.

Appeals Against Demonstrations

The decision on the land, Decourtray says, followed a June 1988 visit to the area by Gerhart Riegner, co-chairman of the Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, and Professor A. Georges Schneek, head of the Belgian Jewish Consistory.

The site was approved March 2 of this year by regional and local authorities in Poland. Building plans were given to the Oswiecim Office of Town Planning and Architecture on May 23, and those plans now "will be theoretically approved with very short notice," Decourtray writes.

The land is currently held by 14 separate owners, but "the purchase of the land should not pose a problem" since the 14 "have promised to sell it to the Archdiocese of Krakow."

Decourtray quotes Macharski as saying he understands Jewish anguish over the convent's continuing presence at a site where millions of Jews were murdered.

But he urges world Jewry to refrain from staging further demonstrations at the convent site, which would exacerbate friction between Catholics and Jews "and reinforce the blind defense of the sisters."

Such a rupture between Catholics and Jews "would be a great unhappiness," Macharski is quoted as saying. "We have no need for that."

UNESCO TO CONSIDER 'PALESTINE,' BUT NOT PLO STATE, FOR MEMBERSHIP

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 20 (JTA) -- Israeli officials here said Tuesday they were "more or less satisfied" that efforts to have a "state of Palestine" admitted to the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization have suffered a major setback, even though a prolonged legal and diplomatic battle seems likely.

UNESCO's 51-member executive council announced Monday, after studying a proposal by seven Arab and African nations, that it would place a request for "Palestine's" admission on the agenda of UNESCO's General Conference.

The General Conference, the agency's equivalent of the U.N. General Assembly, will convene in October.

Israeli officials promptly pointed out that the Executive Council made no reference to a "state of Palestine," only to "Palestine," a non-existent entity.

The decision, adopted by show of hands, was a compromise worked out by the 12 nations of the European Community and representatives of the Arab states.

But the Israelis credited the United States, which quit UNESCO five years ago and has made clear it will not return if a Palestinian state is admitted or if the Palestine Liberation Organization is given the status of a sovereign state.

The executive council also promised to review the matter one more time, when it convenes again in September. The General Conference cannot admit new members without the executive council's approval.

The Israeli officials said they "have definite and binding promises from the Western delegations that they will block the admission process in September once again."

VENGEFUL SETTLERS ATTACK ARABS, AS AUTHORITIES NAB MURDER SUSPECTS

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, June 20 (JTA) -- Jewish settlers from the West Bank attacked Arabs in Israel proper Tuesday, apparently in retaliation for the murder over the weekend of a Jewish settler by Arab villagers in the West Bank.

At least one Arab was seriously wounded by gunfire near Petach Tikva Tuesday evening.

The attacks occurred after security sources confirmed they had solved the fatal stabbing of Frederick Rosenfeld, a resident of the West Bank settlement of Ariel, less than 48 hours after his body was discovered Sunday.

Three Arabs from the nearby village of Burkin, who were arrested Tuesday, confessed to the crime and re-enacted it, the sources said. Their homes were promptly demolished.

Rosenfeld, 48, a recent immigrant from the United States, was killed while hiking Saturday in the vicinity of Burkin and Salfit villages.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and thousands of settlers attended his funeral Tuesday.

Later, a 23-year-old settler from the Samaria district fired bursts from an Uzi submachine gun at a group of Arab workers waiting for trans-

portation along Geha Road, outside Petach Tikva.

Two were hit and one was seriously wounded. The assailant was chased and captured by police. His identity was not immediately announced.

At about the same time, large numbers of West Bank settlers congregated a short distance away on Geha Road, pelting passing Arab vehicles with stones.

No Motives For Murder Found

Meanwhile, Gen. Amram Mitzna, head of the Israel Defense Force central command, told reporters that the Arab murder suspects have no terrorist records and apparently had no motive for killing Rosenfeld.

"It was simply a brutal murder which is difficult to explain," he said. He stressed it was not committed by a terrorist gang.

The suspects were taken into custody Monday night by agents of Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service. They reportedly told interrogators that they met Rosenfeld Saturday at a spring between Burkin and Salfit, where he was hiking alone.

According to the suspects, they had a friendly conversation, ate with him and at one point allowed Rosenfeld to photograph them.

Then, for inexplicable reasons, one of the villagers snatched Rosenfeld's knife and stabbed him in the upper back. He was left to bleed to death.

His body was discovered by Arab villagers the next day. They summoned the village leader, who informed the Israeli authorities.

NEWS ANALYSIS: NAMING OF HARD-LINER TO IDF POST COULD SIGNAL A GET-TOUGH APPROACH By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, June 20 (JTA) -- The appointment this week of Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai to head the Israel Defense Force central command will bring to the West Bank an IDF officer with more than a year's experience riding herd on the Palestinian uprising in the Gaza Strip.

Mordechai will replace Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, who has been granted a year's leave to study abroad. The date of the changeover has not been announced.

Mordechai is reputed to be a hard-liner who does not hesitate to take harsh measures to maintain order. He apparently has the full confidence of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who has ultimate authority over military policy in the territories.

Mordechai's appointment appears to signal that the IDF is determined to suppress the intifada by whatever means are necessary.

It is being seen by some as an attempt by Rabin to appease Jewish settlers in the territories, including Orthodox militants from the Hebron area and their political backers in Jerusalem.

But if the Palestinians have reason to fear Mordechai, the settlers, too, may have to watch their behavior. The general, it is said, will not tolerate civilian interference in army business.

In the Gaza Strip, he is credited with introducing the blanket curfew, magnetized identification cards for Arabs commuting into Israel proper and a massive changeover of auto license plates.

Rabin approved every measure he suggested. Still, the uprising has not been crushed in the Gaza Strip, where it originated on Dec. 9, 1987.

Conditions in the West Bank are more complicated. It is considerably larger in area than the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian population is widely dispersed among towns and villages, many of them remote and difficult to reach.

There are more than 60,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank, compared to about 2,500 in the Gaza Strip.

Mordechai, it is said, would have preferred to have been assigned to the northern command, where he could leave the uprising behind and concentrate on the "real army work" of interdicting terrorist squads trying to infiltrate Israel from Lebanon.

He will be replaced in the Gaza Strip by Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnai, presently head of the manpower branch at IDF general headquarters.

Vilnai's job will be filled by Brig. Gen. Ran Goren, deputy commander of the air force, who will be promoted to the rank of major general.

SHAMIR, SHARON REACH COMPROMISE ON DATE OF PIVOTAL PARTY SESSION By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 20 (JTA) -- The U.S. ambassador's Independence Day reception, scheduled for July 4, helped Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud rival, Ariel Sharon, resolve a bitter dispute over when to convene the party's Central Committee, which Sharon chairs.

Both men saved face in the process.

Sharon, the minister of industry and trade, called the Central Committee into session for a referendum on Shamir's peace initiative, which Sharon vehemently opposes.

They agreed originally that it would be held in Tel Aviv on July 2. But the only hall big enough to contain the nearly 2,000 delegates was booked on that date.

Shamir had the meeting shoved back to July 4. Sharon kept the July 2 date, but shifted the venue to Jerusalem and sent out invitations.

Each man insisted he was not consulted by the other. The Likud Secretariat, headed by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, Shamir's ally, upheld the July 4 date.

Sharon, returning from a trip abroad Sunday night, said the party leadership had staged a "putsch."

But he and Shamir met Tuesday and agreed to hold the Central Committee meeting on July 5. Sharon played down their earlier dispute as a "misunderstanding."

Shamir, holding out for the July 4 date when he addressed a meeting of Likud activists Monday in Tel Aviv, was "reminded" by another speaker that July 4 was the day of the American ambassador's reception, an event that is not to be missed.

The prime minister was overheard remarking to an aide, "Why didn't anyone think of that before?"

But settling the date did not solve the more substantive disputes between Shamir and Sharon.

One is Sharon's demand that the Central Committee vote to accept or reject the peace initiative, which calls for, among other things, Palestinian elections in the territories.

The prime minister insists that inasmuch as the plan has been approved by the Cabinet and the Knesset, the party must accept it unaltered.

The Central Committee will meet in Tel Aviv's cavernous Cinerama building. There will be an opening statement by Shamir, followed by a five-hour debate.

DEMOCRATS ARE STRONG ON ISRAEL, SAYS PARTY CHAIRMAN RON BROWN

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA) -- Reaffirming the Democratic Party's support for Israel and his own dedication to the black-Jewish alliance, Democratic National Committee Chairman Ron Brown laid out his party's plans Monday for wooing Jewish supporters.

The Democratic Party "takes no voter, no community for granted," Brown said in a speech warmly received by members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

In last year's presidential election, the Democratic nominee, Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts, received close to 70 percent of the Jewish vote.

But partly because many Jews disapproved of another Democratic hopeful, Jesse Jackson, the overwhelming support Jews historically have given the Democratic Party was seen to be eroding.

Brown seemed largely to succeed in distancing himself from Jackson, whose presidential campaign he directed in 1988.

Asked to reconcile the differences between Jackson's stated support of Palestinian statehood and the Democratic party's opposition to such a state, Brown said: "I just stated my party's views. That's not to say that there aren't Democrats around the country who disagree with them, or even Jews who disagree with them."

Brown spoke here at the invitation of the Conference of Presidents, which earlier this year met with his Republican counterpart, Lee Atwater.

Asked About Stance On Jerusalem

Brown spoke emotionally about the need to "strengthen the bond" between blacks and Jews, and briefly about church-state issues and other social concerns. But the bulk of his prepared remarks described the Democrats' positions on Israel. These include:

- * Maintaining economic and military aid levels.
- * Opposing any "imposed settlement" to the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- * Fighting efforts to insert Palestinian statehood planks into local party platforms.

He said the party applauds Israel's call for Palestinian elections in the administered territories. He also described the new Democratic leadership in Congress as strongly supportive of Israel.

"I am also committed to a vision of our country's relationship with Israel, which is rooted in history, in shared values and in a strategic alliance with a strong and democratic ally," said Brown.

Brown was challenged by members of the conference to clarify the Democratic Party's stance on Jerusalem and to defend the "terse and laconic" Israel plank in the recent Democratic Party platform.

Brown called Jerusalem "the undivided capital of Israel" and said the U.S. Embassy should be moved there from Tel Aviv, "when the time is right."

On the party platform question, he agreed that words are important, but said that "actions speak a lot louder." The Republican platform may have been more explicit about that party's views on Israel, he said, "but when it comes to actions, it's not even a close call."

PROMISE OF ISRAELI JOBS PERSUADES 100 SOVIET EMIGRES TO MAKE ALIYAH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 20 (JTA) -- An offer of jobs convinced about 100 Soviet Jewish emigrants waiting for U.S. visas in Italy to come to Israel instead, the Jewish Agency for Israel reported Tuesday.

It said seven of them are already in the country and 18 more were due to arrive Tuesday evening on an El Al flight from Rome. The rest were expected to arrive shortly.

Their change of plans was the first tangible result of a joint project by the Israel Manufacturers Association and the Jewish Agency's Department of Immigration and Absorption.

Ron Fruchtman, director of the association's industrial management department, recently spent eight days with Soviet Jews in transit in Italy.

He told a news conference here that emigres who were promised jobs in the textile industry recruited other emigrant textile workers, with whom the Israelis had not made contact.

Altogether, 1,300 job offers were made to the Soviet Jews. That figure raised eyebrows here, considering that unemployment in Israel has reached a new high of 120,000 people.

But the manufacturers hope Soviet Jews will replace foreign workers and Palestinians from the administered territories who hold jobs in Israel.

ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC TO PLAY IN USSR

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 20 (JTA) -- The internationally renowned Israel Philharmonic Orchestra will perform for the first time in the Soviet Union next year, it was announced here.

The IPO will give several concerts in Moscow and Leningrad in the autumn of 1990, under an agreement just reached between the IPO and the official Soviet concert and cultural management center in Moscow.

IPO sources said the concert programs would definitely include Israeli works.

Although the Soviet Union had diplomatic relations with Israel from 1948 to 1967, the IPO was never invited to the USSR.

Unofficial contacts were revived in recent months by IPO members on private visits to the Soviet Union, including Zubin Mehta, the IPO's musical director and conductor.

AJCOMMITTEE SCRAPS CHINA VISIT

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee has canceled plans to send a delegation to China in September.

It acted to protest the Chinese government's use of force against student activists in Beijing on June 3 and its subsequent repression of the movement for democratic reforms.

AJCommittee President Sholom Comay wrote last week to the Chinese ambassador, Han Xu, that, "like Americans of all walks of life," his organization is "appalled by your government's use of tanks and automatic weapons against unarmed students and workers."

The delegation had planned to open relations with the Chinese People's Institute for Foreign Affairs, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and other institutions "in the interests of deepening relationships between the American Jewish community and the Chinese people."

BLACK RAP SINGER FIRED OVER ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA) -- A member of the popular rap music group Public Enemy has been fired after making anti-Semitic remarks in a newspaper interview.

The member, who goes by the name Professor Griff, was removed from the group Sunday "because of his remarks and beliefs," said Russell Simmons, president of Def Jam Records, Public Enemy's record company.

Griff told The Washington Times last month that he believed "the Jews were wicked," and that he could prove it.

"They have a history of killing black men," said Griff, who is black, in the Times interview. "The Jews can come against me. They can send the IRS after me. They can send their faggot little hit men. I mean, that don't move me. Listen, they have a history of doing this."

Griff "is a stone-cold racist," said Leo Cohen, chief operating officer of Rush, a management company. "He's dangerous with those opinions, but he doesn't speak for Public Enemy."

Cohen said that Griff was fired by the other group members, who "do not aspire to anti-Semitic feelings."

Griff backed up his comments in the Times interview with references to classic anti-Semitic texts about a worldwide Jewish conspiracy, including Henry Ford's "The International Jew."

Griff said he obtained his knowledge of Jewish history from the Nation of Islam's historical research department.

Griff, like the other members of Public Enemy, belongs to the Nation of Islam, the movement founded by Louis Farrakhan, who has been criticized for his anti-Semitic remarks.

'Grip On America'

"The Jews have their hands right around (President) Bush's throat," Griff said in the May 22 interview. "He won't make the wrong move. You understand what I'm saying? The Jews have a grip on America."

Copies of the newspaper article quickly passed through the hands of Jewish leaders and were reprinted in other newspapers.

Mordechai Levy, head of the militant Jewish Defense Organization, said he had mailed copies of the Washington Times interview to over 75 record distribution companies, and that he had visited Def Jam's offices.

Levy told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he was calling on the other band members to repudiate Farrakhan.

The controversy over the Griff interview came at a particularly inconvenient time for Public Enemy.

Its single, "Fight the Power," is prominently featured in filmmaker Spike Lee's widely publicized movie about racism, "Do the Right Thing," set to open June 30.

It was Griff's explanation of why the group wore leather necklaces instead of gold ones in the Washington Times interview that critics have called particularly outrageous.

"Is it a coincidence that the Jews run the jewelry business, and it's named jewelry?" Griff asked. "No coincidence. Is it a coincidence to you that probably the gold from this ring was brought up out of South Africa and that the Jews have a tight grip on our brothers in South Africa?"

\$1.5 MILLION WORTH OF RARE JUDAICA CHANGES HANDS AT AUCTION IN GENEVA

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 20 (JTA) -- Judaica dealers and collectors from Europe, Canada and the United States bid on nearly a million and a half dollars worth of Judaica here on Monday night, at an auction organized by the Habsburg Feldman house.

But the item that was to have been the highlight of the auction, the 14th-century Wolf Haggadah, did not go up for sale, though the manuscript was on display.

The Haggadah is in the hands of a Swiss judge, who has yet to sort through competing claims of ownership submitted by four separate parties.

The Jewish communities of East and West Berlin, the Jewish Historical Institute of Warsaw and an anonymous private individual are all claiming the Haggadah, which is valued at about half a million dollars.

The anonymous individual is the private dealer who brought it to the sale. According to a Habsburg Feldman spokesman, the dealer had been unaware the Haggadah was stolen from the Jewish Historical Institute of Warsaw in 1987.

Judge Vladimir Stemberger says he hopes to establish the Haggadah's rightful owner in one month's time.

The Habsburg Feldman auction, held at the Hotel des Bergues, was Geneva's first major sale of Judaica. It is said to have been the most important Judaica sale since 1975, when Sotheby's held an auction in Zurich.

The highest bid Monday night was for a hand-wrought silver Chanukah menorah from Russia, dating from 1846. The lamp fetched about \$117,000.

A Haggadah, printed in 1568, in Padua, Italy, was sold for about \$44,000. An Italian silk curtain for a Torah ark, dating from 1755, brought approximately \$47,000.

Rabbi Shlomo Pappenheim, director of the Jewish Art Museum in Jerusalem, said collectors are fascinated with European Judaica, because so little of it survived the Holocaust.

He said that rare Judaica is also in high demand, because Jews today want to have some of their own history in the home.

FIVE ITALIAN SKINHEADS ARRESTED

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, June 20 (JTA) -- Police detained five youths here Monday after finding a cache of swastika insignia, crowbars, truncheons and swords in the basement of a building in a working class neighborhood on the edge of Rome.

The detainees are suspected of belonging to hooligan gangs of the far right wing known as "Naziskins."

They are part of the growing "Skinhead" phenomenon, roving bands of youthful troublemakers with shaved heads who attack fans at soccer matches and assault people at random in the streets.

The police are cracking down, as the attacks have become more violent.

Young hooligans threw firebombs at soccer fans Sunday on a train in Florence, seriously injuring two people. Last week a gang of "Naziskins" beat up two youths outside a movie theater in downtown Rome.