

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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'MENGELE TWINS' REVISITING AUSCHWITZ HARASSED WITH ANTI-SEMITIC EPITHETS By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- A group of Auschwitz survivors and their families on a "memorial mission" to the death camp site this week had hoped to avoid embroilment in the bitter controversy over the presence of a Carmelite convent there.

But after encountering gross anti-Semitic insults, they apparently could not.

They demonstrated vigorously outside the convent Monday, demanding its removal from the place where 2 million Jews were slaughtered.

The group of about 50 "Mengele twins" are survivors of barbaric medical experiments performed by the notorious death camp doctor, Josef Mengele.

They traveled to Auschwitz with their children and grandchildren. A delegation of four members of Israel's Knesset accompanied them.

Miriam Zeiger, who heads the association of "Mengele twins" in Israel, told the daily newspaper Ha'aretz in a telephone interview last weekend that the group would avoid any provocative act in connection with the convent.

But their resolve was put to a hard test. At the Auschwitz parking lot, an attendant collecting tickets told the Holocaust survivors, "It's a pity you came. What are you looking for here, you dirty Jews?"

#### Emotional Visit To Birkenau

During the protest outside the convent, several local passersby insulted the Holocaust survivors, objecting to their presence at the site.

According to a report in the Jerusalem Post, one woman asked: "Do we have the right to drive you out of Bethlehem because Jesus was born there? What right do you have to tells us what to do here?"

A violent response by some of the visitors was narrowly averted.

The four Knesset members did not attend the demonstration, as it would have been unacceptable for them to have done so in a foreign country.

The survivors and their families visited the Birkenau death camp Sunday and nearby Auschwitz on Monday. They began the Birkenau tour by singing "Jerusalem of Gold" and "Am Yisrael Chai."

But dreadful memories broke down all semblance of a structured ceremony, when the survivors approached the ramp where Mengele selected who would be sent directly to the gas chambers.

Everyone reportedly wept as they stood together at a pile of personal effects -- tiny shoes and boots and other articles of clothing-- taken from children before they were gassed.

"The Nazis had no use for children," one man said, "but they found twins interesting."

Zeiger called the visit "our confrontation with our lost childhood."

One of the surviving twins, standing outside the Carmelite convent later, said, "The Christians never helped the Jews in Auschwitz, so they have no right to pray for the souls of the dead now." PROTESTS ARE OBSTACLE TO MOVING NUNS, POLISH CARDINAL TELLS ISRAELI OFFICIAL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Cardinal Franciszek Macharski complained to an Israeli Cabinet official on Tuesday that widespread Jewish protests were making it impossible for him to abide by the agreement he signed to remove a convent built on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp.

Macharski, the archbishop of Krakow, discussed the issue during a two-hour meeting with Zevulun Hammer, Israel's minister for religious affairs, who is visiting Poland.

Hammer explained that Auschwitz, where 2 million Jews died in the gas chambers, remains the most profound symbol of the Holocaust for the Jewish people and that they resent the presence of a convent or any sectarian institution there.

Macharski said he believed a compromise must be reached to effect the convent move, but he warned that it would take a long time and would require a "long educational process" aimed at the Polish people.

According to accounts of their talk, Macharski told Hammer he was deeply hurt by reports that anti-Semitism was manifested at Auschwitz. He said those reports did him an injustice.

But he admitted that tempers were running high among Polish Catholics.—

Local residents cannot understand why they cannot pray in the convent and why the nuns cannot live and pray there in peace, Macharski told Hammer.

#### Anti-Semitic Leaflets Surface

That lack of understanding increasingly appears to be manifested in incidents of blatant anti-Semitism. A group of Holocaust survivors visiting Auschwitz this week was called "dirty Jews" by Polish bystanders.

And in Krakow, anti-Semitic leaflets have surfaced recently blaming "the Jews" for Poland's current economic woes and wartime atrocities against Polish soldiers.

Macharski said that was why there needed to be an educational campaign to re-establish communications and understanding between Jews and Poles.

The cardinal explained that the problem was intensified by the surge of Polish nationalism in the wake of recent political changes that have weakened the hold of the Communist Party on everyday life.

Macharski was one of four European cardinals who signed an agreement with leaders of international Jewish organizations in Geneva on Feb. 22, 1987, that stipulated the convent would be relocated no later than Feb. 22, 1989.

That deadline was not met, and the nuns refuse to leave.

Macharski said he wanted to abide by the agreement, but could not implement it under pressure from Jewish organizations.

He urged Hammer to help him remove the convent issue from media headlines and to stop widespread Jewish protests.

Two weeks ago, the cardinal suspended

construction of a ecumenical prayer center away from the Auschwitz grounds, where the convent was to be relocated.

He said at the time that he was angered by what he considered gross behavior by some Jewish protesters.

He was apparently referring to a group led by New York activist Rabbi Avraham Weiss, which tried last month to scale the convent walls and was viciously assaulted by Polish workers.

Dialogue To Continue

Despite Catholic criticism of his tactics, Weiss is currently traveling to various European cities to explore the possibility of further actions at Auschwitz.

Hammer told the cardinal it would not be easy to suppress the outcry of Jews throughout the world who are deeply hurt by the presence of the convent at Auschwitz.

He spoke of the right of Jews whose relatives and people died there to be alone with their sorrow and pain.

"This place is the height of evil, the worst place which ever existed, a mass production line for murder," the Israeli minister said.

"It is saddening that now victims of this place (Jews and Christians) should have to fight one another," he added.

He and the cardinal agreed that the issue must be pursued further. Macharski said he would continue the discussion with Mordechai Palzur, head of the Israeli interests section established in Warsaw last year. Palzur holds the rank of ambassador.

Macharski also agreed with Hammer that the convent issue should not interfere with the dialogue Israeli and Jewish leaders are holding with Poles.

He said he supported the State of Israel and would like to visit it sometime, but could not do so as long as he was the target of attacks by Jews.

#### Weiss Group 'Prepared To Return'

Hammer told reporters later that all of the Polish leaders he met with before his talk with Macharski had agreed that the convent must be moved.

But despite the understanding expressed by Polish statesmen, there is a detectable hardening of attitudes on the issue, Hammer said.

At the same time, Jewish activists are showing no signs of backing down.

Rabbi Weiss, who led demonstrations at Auschwitz on July 14 and 16, is currently canvassing European cities to see if there is sufficient sentiment to mount new protests at the convent.

Weiss, who spent the last several weeks in Israel, arrived in Amsterdam on Monday and planned to continue on to Brussels and Paris, according to Glenn Richter, a participant in last month's demonstrations who was reached in New York.

"We're certainly fully prepared to return," Richter said, "even though we know we may again encounter physical violence.

"But if what we did was a trigger leading to further Catholic-Jewish dialogue on the convent," he said, "it's worth any suffering we may endure."

(Contributing to this report were JTA staff writer Allison Kaplan in New York and JTA Jerusalem Bureau Chief David Landau.)

ISRAEL CHECKING REPORTS ITS NATIONALS HELPED TRAIN COLOMBIAN DRUG HIT SQUADS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Israel said Wednesday that it is seriously investigating an NBC News report that Israeli nationals were helping train "hit squads" for the Colombian drug cartel.

A statement by the Foreign Ministry said if the reports are true, the individuals involved are acting on their own.

"Such actions would be in violation of Israeli law and would be contrary to Israeli policy, which is strongly committed to the war on drugs," the statement said.

It added that authorities are "will take all possible steps to prevent such activities."

In Washington, the State Department said Tuesday that it was "looking into the reports."

NBC News broadcast Monday what was purported to be a videotape made by a Colombian drug syndicate. It showed uniformed men being trained and the faces of the trainers, who NBC said were South Africans and Israelis.

One identified as an Israeli was shown speaking Hebrew, which was translated into Spanish.

The Colombian drug traffickers are known to maintain armed gangs and assassination squads. They are believed responsible for the murder this week of presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan.

Knesset sources suggested Wednesday that the police find out whether legal charges could be brought against Israelis who made unauthorized use of knowledge and skills acquired in the army.

### JEWS NOW EMIGRATING FROM USSR BY WAY OF HUNGARY AND GREECE By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Hungary and Greece have become two new way stations for Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union to Israel.

According to Gerald Strober, spokesman for the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, between 50 and 75 Soviet emigres have chosen to travel to Israel by way of Budapest or Athens.

Until three months ago, when Strober says Soviet Jews first began to emigrate through Hungary and Greece, the sole stopping points for the Soviets have been Vienna and Bucharest.

Hungary is the second Eastern bloc country to permit Soviet Jewish emigres to fly directly to Israel. Emigres have traveled to Israel via Romania for more than a year.

In March, Hungarian and Israeli officials signed an accord establishing regular flights between Tel Aviv and Budapest by El Al Airlines and Hungary's national carrier, Maley Airlines.

Strober said that the establishment of different routes for emigration is a natural outgrowth of the increased number of Jews now being allowed to emigrate.

He said that individual Soviet Jews are choosing these routes in order to facilitate their trip to Israel. "It's a way of getting there in the quickest way possible," he said.

A newly established World Jewish Congress office in Budapest has begun assisting the emigres, by arranging an overnight stay and giving them orientation talks.

According to a WJC spokesman, the "systematic emigration" of Soviet Jews through Budapest began Aug. 14 and has continued ever since.

# OSI WAS INVESTIGATING VON KARAJAN AT TIME OF FAMED CONDUCTOR'S DEATH By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- The U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations was conducting an inquiry into Herbert von Karajan's wartime activities in the Nazi Party, when the world-famous conductor died last month, OSI officials have confirmed.

Von Karajan, who died July 16 at the age of 81, was a member of the Nazi Party during the Third Reich.

The investigation began within the past year, following allegations that OSI Director Neal Sher would not disclose.

Elan Steinberg, executive vice president of the World Jewish Congress, said that OSI was "absolutely correct in looking at" the case. He pointed out that von Karajan had "lied about his Nazi past," specifically about the time he served as a member of the Nazi Party.

WJC brought information to OSI's attention within the past year on von Karajan, but it is unclear whether that material prompted OSI's investigation.

Since von Karajan was an Austrian citizen, it was not possible for OSI to strip him of citizenship or deport him.

But if the investigation had found he was linked to Nazi war crimes, he could have been placed on the Justice Department "watch list" barring entry to the United States.

# MASS ARRESTS REPORTED IN TERRITORIES AS AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE KILLINGS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Israeli security officials are grimly reassessing their optimistic conclusion earlier this month that the Palestinian uprising was on the wane.

The violence continued unabated this week. Authorities in the West Bank were forced to cancel plans to resume 11th and 12th grade classes at local high schools, which have been closed since January for security reasons.

The lower grades were reopened in stages recently, so far with relatively few problems. But officials admit the time is not ripe for additional normalization, because the prevailing conditions seem to be violent.

The Israel Defense Force, which for 20 months has been unable to quell the so-called intifada, is resorting again to widespread dragnets and mass arrests.

Dozens of West Bank residents were detained Wednesday, as security forces searched for troublemakers in the area.

The operation began early Wednesday morning and continued late into the evening. The IDF said the action would "reduce the level of violence in the territories."

Soldiers arrested dozens of residents of Anabta village, near the Tulkarm-Nablus road. It is the scene of frequent rock attacks on military vehicles and the cars of Jewish settlers.

The IDF said it seized several ringleaders long on the wanted list.

The situation is complicated by several unsolved killings.

One, on which the United States is pressing Israel for information, involves a 15-year-old American-born Palestinian youth, Amjad Jibril a-Tawil, who was a U.S. citizen. His battered body

was found by a shepherd in the industrial zone between Ramallah and the adjacent town of El-Bireh.

The Tawil family is prominent in Ramallah. The youth's mother lives in El-Birch. His father, Hussein Tawil, flew in from Miami, where he has lived for 16 years.

#### Slain Youth Wasn't In Army Custody

The family blames the IDF for Amjad's death. They said he was shot in the heart, his head was crushed and he bore cigarette burns.

The army insists the youth was never in its custody. An intense inquiry is being conducted with the assistance of the police.

The family, meanwhile, got an order from Israel's High Court of Justice allowing burial to be postponed.

A private pathologist, Dr. Derek Pounder of Scotland, was engaged to perform a second autopsy. He submitted his findings to the family Wednesday evening. The results were not immediately disclosed.

News of his death and charges that he was murdered by Israelis touched off rioting in Ramallah. A curfew was clamped on part of the town, and the Tawil home was put out of bounds. No one, including the dead boy's father, was allowed to enter.

In Washington, the State Department demanded Tuesday that Israel give unrestricted access to American consular officers. By Wednesday, officials said that problem had been resolved.

Adding to the tension this week were the deaths of two other Palestinian teen-agers, whose families have complained to the authorities.

One of the victims is Nasser Shaheen Abu Katrina, who was shot to death Tuesday morning in the El-Amari refugee camp in Ramallah.

A 15-year-old girl from the Askar refugee camp, near Nablus, died in a Ramallah hospital Tuesday from head wounds sustained a week ago during a clash with IDF soldiers.

A 20-year-old girl was shot to death Tuesday in the Deir el-Balah marketplace in the Gaza Strip.

## Fake ID Cards Issued

Residents in the Gaza Strip have been boycotting their jobs in Israel since Sunday, on orders from the unified command of the Palestinian uprising.

The issue is the new magnetic identity cards, which all Gaza workers must show in order to be admitted to Israel to go to their jobs.

The purpose, the Israeli authorities say, is to screen out people with criminal or security offenses. But the cards have aroused the fury of Gaza residents as few other measures have done.

Intifada activists have confiscated thousands almost as soon as they were issued.

A photo print shop in Ashkelon has been producing forged ID cards to distribute among Gaza workers. The idea is they would hand over the fake cards to intifada activists and use the valid one to get to work.

The idea is said to have originated with Israelis who employ Arabs. When the print shops voluntarily checked with police if it was legal, they were told to stop making the phony cards "until further notice."

The job boycott is supposed to last a week. The real test of the magnetized cards will start next Sunday, when the boycott ends, Israeli authorities said.

# AUGUST 24, 1989

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
JEWS FAVORING MODERATE INCUMBENT
OVER BLACK LIBERAL IN NEW YORK RACE
By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- A majority of Jewish New Yorkers are likely to pass up a chance to nominate the city's highest-ranking black official in the Sept. 12 mayoral primary.

Instead, polls show they prefer by a margin of 3-2 the man who has been the outspoken symbol of New York Jewish liberalism for 12 years and three consecutive terms, incumbent Edward Koch.

The Jewish vote is pivotal, since as many as one-third of New York's registered Democrats are Jews.

In bypassing the current, narrow frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins, Koch's Jewish supporters are challenging definitions of what it means to be a liberal.

Like Koch, they take traditional "liberal" stances in support of civil liberties and personal freedom. But they are increasingly moderate to conservative on law-and-order issues and equal-opportunity programs.

The Jewish vote in New York is by no means monolithic. Upper West Side liberals are expected to back Dinkins in the primaries, just as many Brooklyn Orthodox will support the likely Republican candidate, former U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani, in the November general election.

And there remain pockets of support for the other major candidates, all Jews. City Comptroller Harrison (Jay) Goldin, a former regional president of the American Jewish Congress, calls himself "a liberal on social issues, a conservative on fiscal issues and Attila the Hun on drugs and crime."

Businessman Richard Ravitch, the founding president of the city's Jewish Community Relations Council, also touts fiscal responsibility and a crackdown on drugs. Goldin and Ravitch each poll less than 10 percent among Jews.

#### Concern About Urban Problems

On the Republican side, Ronald Lauder, the former U.S ambassador to Austria and a major philanthropist of Jewish causes, is running a distant second to Giuliani. The heir to the Estee Lauder cosmetics fortune has distinguished himself mainly by spending a whopping \$10 million of his own money on the campaign.

But whomever they support, Jews and other New Yorkers are looking for answers to a daunting array of crises: rising homelessness and a lack of affordable housing, a deteriorating school system and a hospital system pushed to the brink of collapse.

Most of all, they seem to want someone who can contain the epidemic of drug abuse and the violence that accompanies it.

Jews may be consistent supporters of the positions of the American Civil Liberties Union, but!a majority -- as high as 70 percent in some polls -- would support a return of the death penalty in New York state.

Many are also firmly against affirmative action and housing plans that they see threatening the stability of small businesses and middle-class neighborhoods.

Milton Himmelfarb, the neoconservative analyst who has long bemoaned the Jewish tendency toward liberalism, said Koch's endorsement by the Police Benevolent Association may mean

more to Jews than the labor unions' endorsement of Dinkins.

"Where the thing cuts close to the bone -- crime in the streets, 'Am I gonna be killed?' -- Jews have more confidence in Koch," he said.

Another analyst said Jewish support for Koch could reflect an even sharper turn to the right.

Koch has "touted his alliances with conservative and neoconservative elements of the Jewish community, from Menachem Begin to Norman Podhoretz," even while "lashing out at minorities, reformers and insurgents of all races," Jim Sleeper, deputy opinion editor of New York Newsday, wrote in the progressive Jewish magazine Tikkun.

#### One Third Of Democratic Vote

Dinkins, meanwhile, knows he will need more Jewish support to guarantee a victory over Koch and then win the November election.

Jewish support has proved a decisive factor for black mayoral candidates in cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. And Jews have shown a willingness to vote for blacks or other non-Jews over Jewish candidates if the non-Jews seem closer to their values, seem more like "one of their own" on the issues.

That is perhaps why, in his appeals to Jews, Dinkins plays down his more progressive ideas and plays up his sensitivity to the Jewish community.

Knowing that Jews distrust his support for Jesse Jackson, Dinkins has come out strongly against the anti-Semitic statements of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. He reminds Jewish audiences that his support for Israel goes back 14 years, when he founded the Basic Black Americans in Support of Israel Committee.

And he is proud to have received a blessing, if not the only blessing, of the Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson.

Dinkins, like all of the candidates, denies that he is pandering to the Jewish vote when he talks about Israel, Soviet Jewry or President Ronald Reagan's trip to the German war cemetery at Bitburg.

But in their appeals, each of the candidates has run far afield of city issues to include foreign policy and even echoes of the Holocaust.

Seeing a chance to wound the popular Giuliani, they have hyped allegations that in 1986 the prosecutor's investigators used a Nazi slogan to intimidate an Auschwitz survivor into cooperating in a corruption probe.

### No Black-Jewish Clash Yet

Giuliani, who traveled to a yarmulke factory this summer to announce his endorsement by a coalition of mainly Orthodox Jewish groups, says he found out about the incident only three weeks ago. Both Koch and Dinkins have called for a complete investigation.

The New York Jewish Week called the candidates' campaign tactics for Jewish votes "shameless," adding that Jews are being seen as "a narrow-minded but powerful bloc that care nothing for education, or the homeless, or crime, subways or a failing economy."

Jewish leaders have been heartened that the Koch-Dinkins rivalry has not been played out as a competition between blacks and Jews.

David Pollock, associate executive director of the JCRC, said polls show Jews are still more likely to vote for Dinkins than other white ethnics, such as Catholics.

The election results may determine whom Jews really consider to be "one of their own."