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VOL. 67 - 72nd YEAR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1989

330 SEVENTH AVENUE

NO. 165

(212)643-1890

FRENCH CATHOLIC CLERGYMAN DEFENDS POLISH CARDINAL'S SPEECH ON CONVENT By Edwin Eytan

PUBLISHED BY JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

PARIS, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- A ranking French Catholic clergyman who supports the Jewish position in the Auschwitz convent dispute has strongly defended Polish Cardinal Jozef Glemp against accusations of anti-Semitism.

Cardinal Albert Decourtray, the archbishop of Lyon, claimed Tuesday that the public has misunderstood a sermon by the Polish primate in which he charged, among other things, that Jews wield influence over the mass media and have been using it to defame Poland over the convent issue.

But in New York, Cardinal John O'Connor said at a news conference Tuesday that he was "shocked" by the Polish primate's remarks.

Glemp, who is the highest-ranking Catholic official in Poland, has been sharply criticized by Catholics and Jews for remarks they saw as manifestations of classic Polish anti-Semitism.

Even the Solidarity newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza, normally supportive of the church, found Glemp's remarks offensive.

But Decourtray insisted that "it is inconceivable that Cardinal Glemp intended his words to have the meaning world public opinion gave them."

Neither he nor the other Polish bishops can be accused of anti-Semitism, Decourtray said. "Glemp and the other Polish bishops condemn anti-Semitism."

Glemp, in a sermon delivered Aug. 26 at the shrine of the Black Madonna, Poland's most revered icon, in the city of Czestochowa, admonished Jews to stop protesting the presence of the convent at Auschwitz and to "not dictate conditions that are impossible to fulfill."

He implied that the protests "offend the feelings of all Poles" and have infringed on Polish sovereignty.

Geneva Agreement Still Valid

But Decourtray, while defending Glemp, reiterated in the strongest terms that a long-standing commitment by the Church to relocate the convent away from Auschwitz must be honored.

The Lyon archbishop headed a delegation of four European cardinals at a meeting with world Jewish leaders in Geneva on Feb. 22, 1987. They signed an agreement that the convent would be removed from Auschwitz no later than Feb. 22. 1989.

That deadline was not observed. In retaliation for Jewish protests that followed, work was ordered suspended on a ecumenical prayer center away from the Auschwitz grounds, where the Carmelite nuns were to have been relocated.

The order was given Aug. 8 by Cardinal Franscizek Macharski, the archbishop of Krakow, who has jurisdiction over the convent and was himself a signatory to the Geneva agreement.

He was promptly taken to task by Decourtray, who asserted in a statement issued Aug. Il that the 1987 agreement "is mandatory and binding on those who signed it. Its decisions cannot be re-examined."

The other two signatories, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the archbishop of Paris, and Cardinal Godfried Daneels, head of the Catholic Church in Belgium, concurred.

NEW YORK, NY 10001-5010

Decourtray insisted again Tuesday that the agreement to remove the convent from Auschwitz "has not been canceled" and remains valid.

Angry Calls To Polish Paper

Decourtray also implied criticism of the French news media for not sufficiently reporting "those Polish voices which show sensitivity to Jewish feelings and the Shoah tragedy."

The "Polish voices" he referred to doubtlessly included the Solidarity newspaper.

It published an editorial signed by the prominent Polish Catholic intellectual, Krzystof Sliwinski, which took a swipe at Glemp.

Sliwinski warned, "One should not doubt the sincerity of Jewish feelings on this issue and see in their protests only a political or media manipulation."

Editors of the newspaper reported they had many angry telephone calls Monday and Tuesday protesting Sliwinski's editorial.

In New York, Cardinal O'Connor came out strongly against Glemp's comments.

O'Connor, who is archbishop of New York, met Tuesday morning with Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, shortly after he first read of Glemp's comments.

Siegman said that O'Connor appeared "visibly stunned" by the strong words of his fellow cardinal.

"One gets the impression that Cardinal Glemp is so distressed at the Jewish community, in particular, representatives of the Jewish community in New York, that one almost gets the impression that the blame is now being transferred to the Jewish community," O'Connor said at his news conference.

The archbishop was more vocal than he has been to date in favor of the convent being moved.

He said that he wished that the Polish hierarchy "would get on with the formal commitment that was signed in Geneva."

(JTA staff writer Allison Kaplan in New York contributed to this report.)

OUTRAGE OVER CARDINAL'S SPEECH IS MOUNTING AMONG JEWS IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- Jewish outrage continued to mount Tuesday over anti-Semitic remarks by Polish Cardinal Jozef Glemp concerning Jewish protests against the convent on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp.

Glemp charged, among other things, that Jews control the international news media and are using it to vilify Poland.

He accused Jewish protestors of attacking the convent and said demands that it be removed from the Auschwitz grounds undermine Polish sovereignty.

Some Jews called for a halt to U.S. economic aid to Poland. Others spoke of curtailing Jewish travel to that country. And one of the protesters accused Glemp of incitement to a pogrom.

The World Jewish Congress has urged Polish

government leaders to personally dissociate themselves from Glemp's polemic.

Kalman Sultanik, vice chairman of the WJC, met in Washington Tuesday with the Polish deputy ambassador, Ryzard Krystosic, who promised to the message immediately to President Wojciech Jaruzelski and newly installed Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Sultanik pointed out that Mazowiecki was present when Glemp delivered the offending sermon during a religious ceremony in Polish city of Czestochowa on Aug. 26.

In Los Angeles, meanwhile, the Simon Wiesenthal Center stated that since the Polish government has ultimate authority over Auschwitz, it must see to it that the Catholic Church honors the agreement it signed more than two years ago to relocate the convent.

It is asking its 370,000 members and others to sign a petition to that effect which will be presented to President Jaruzelski.

It also said it was considering advising Jews not to travel to Poland.

Attempt To 'De-Judaize' Holocaust

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Wiesenthal Center, denounced Glemp's remarks as "insulting and unworthy of a man of the cloth."

He took particular exception to Glemp's assertion that Jews have no special claim on Auschwitz, because most of them died at the Birkenau camp, while "mostly Poles and other peoples perished" at Auschwitz, a mile or so away.

"This is nothing less than an attempt to de-Judaize the Holocaust," Hier declared.

In Oakland, Calif., Michael Lerner, editor of the progressive journal Tikkun, called on President Bush and Congress Tuesday to withhold American economic and political support from Poland and other Eastern Bloc countries, until they deal more effectively with their indigenous anti-Semitism.

"The rush to legitimize alternatives to The two tzadekim represent the two main communist totalitarianism in Eastern Europe" has "allowed the United States to overlook a festering problem of anti-Semitism that has never been adequately dealt with in Eastern Europe," Lerner stated in telegrams to Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and a dozen leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives.

In New York, Glenn Richter, one of seven Americans who demonstrated at Auschwitz on July 14, was furious over Glemp's assertion that the demonstrators had "launched an attack" on the convent and only by chance did the nuns inside escape death.

The seven protesters were in fact set upon and beaten by Polish workers.

Richter, a member of the Coalition of Concern and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, said, "To deny that our action, witnessed by a dozen reputable foreign journalists and hundreds of Polish citizens, was anything but peaceful in intent is incomprehensible."

Richter added, "Cardinal Glemp is preaching anti-Semitism when he should be preaching against hate and for Jewish-Christian dialogue. His remarks can lay the ground for a pogrom."

In Brussels, meanwhile, "dismay and indignation" over Glemp's remarks were expressed in a statement issued by the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations.

(JTA correspondent Yossi Lempkowicz in Brussels contributed to this report.)

U.S. DEPLORES ISRAEL'S DEPORTATION OF FIVE PALESTINIANS FROM WEST BANK By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- The United States has deplored Israel's deportation Sunday of five West Bank Palestinians, contending that the measures "corrode" the atmosphere for peace negotiations.

"As we have said on numerous occasions, we are opposed to deportations," Richard Boucher. the State Department deputy spokesman, said Tuesday. "They are contrary to the Fourth Geneva Convention," which provides human rights guarantees to civilians living under military occupation.

Israel maintains that the Geneva Conventions do not apply to its administration of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Boucher said that the deportations "make it more difficult for Israelis and Palestinians to engage in constructive dialogue."

Israel's High Court of Justice last Thursday cleared the way for the Palestinians' deportation, rejecting their final appeals of expulsion orders issued as long as a year ago.

TWO FEUDING ORTHODOX FACTIONS AGREE TO DISAGREE WITH CIVILITY By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- The leaders of two feuding ultra-Orthodox factions met here this week, and while they apparently failed to settle their basic differences, they seem to have agreed to tone down the invective.

Rabbi Eliezer Schach, the head of the Degel HaTorah party, played host at his Bnei Brak home Sunday to the leader of the Agudat Yisrael party, Rabbi Pinchas Menachem Alter.

Alter is chairman of the Agudah's Council of Sages and brother of the revered Gerrer rebbe, Simcha Bunim Alter.

streams of Orthodoxy, the Mitnagged and Hasidic, whose bitter rivalry began 200 years ago in Eastern Europe.

Schach, who is a Mitnagged, broke with Agudah last year to form Degel HaTorah, which ran for election to the Knesset on a separate list.

The immediate cause of the breach was Agudah's refusal to yield to Schach's demand that its newspaper, Hamodia, reject advertisements from the Chabad Hasidic movement.

Schach considers Chabad heretical and is waging a private war against the worldwide Hasidic movement led by the Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Rabbi Alter, a friend of Chabad, is not prepared to give ground.

According to reliable sources, the issue of Chabad remains the major bone of contention between the two parties.

But from now on, the dispute will be conducted in a civilized manner.

"We have legitimate disserences but that does not mean we should not conduct our disputes in a civilized fashion, in mutual respect," said Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, leader of Degel's two-seat Knesset faction.

He added that the two parties should act in concert in the Knesset on matters of common interest. Some observers speculated the partial truce between the warring factions might lead to the formation of a unified parliamentary bloc.

LEADERS STILL UPSET WITH PBS FILM, DESPITE 'WRAP-AROUND' PROGRAMMING By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- As the Sept. 6 broadcast date for a controversial Public Broadcasting Service documentary on the Palestinians approaches, Jewish leaders are continuing to voice their displeasure over the decision to air the film.

Last week, representatives of Jewish groups met with PBS executives in Washington. The session was a follow-up to similar meetings in New York with executives of WNET-TV, the station sponsoring the documentary, titled "Days of Rage: The Young Palestinians."

The series of meetings was organized by Martin Raffel, director of the Israel Task Force of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

Raffel said the Aug. 23 session was set up "to discuss the decision to broadcast the film in the first place, as well as the perception that there's been an imbalance in recent months in their programming."

Over the past year, PBS has aired several programs that some have perceived as attacking Israel, including an episode of its "Frontline" program on the topic of U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation and a film titled "A Letter from Palestine."

PBS executives Neil Mahrer, Lance Ozier and Barry Chase, who took part in the meeting, sought to defend the network's record on fairness in presenting the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"They felt that this is something to be viewed over time," Raffel said. "They hope that over a period of years, you could conclude that they presented a balanced picture."

Supplementary Footage From Israel

The PBS officials also stood by their decision to present "Days of Rage," pointing out that PBS has a tradition of presenting "point-of-view" documentaries by independent filmmakers that do not necessarily present issues objectively.

They said they were equally as open to presenting independent films favorable to the Israeli perspective as they were to airing "Days of Rage."

Ozier, who is vice president of programming and business affairs at PBS, said in a telephone interview that from the beginning, when the original decision to air "Days of Rage" was made, PBS determined that the pro-Palestinian documentary needed "a balancing factor."

In an effort to create such a balance, WNET has produced 14 minutes of additional documentary footage shot in Israel, and a panel discussion to follow it, in order to address what they admit is a lack of mainstream Israeli voices in "Days of Rage."

The wrap-around programming includes a seven-minute piece preceding the film featuring Cabinet Minister Ehud Olmert, who is Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's adviser on Arab affairs, and a number of "average Israelis," expressing their concerns over security.

Another seven-minute piece following "Days of Rage" shows the Israeli response to the documentary's accusations of Israeli human-rights violations.

Afterward, a 45-minute panel discussion will be aired. Representatives from the American Jewish and American Arab communities, as well as U.S. government officials, participate in the panel, which was taped on July 25.

WNET has spent \$150,000 on programming that will surround the 90-minute film, expanding the entire presentation to two-and-a-half hours.

The package, which WNET has entitled "Intifada: Israel and the Palestinians," will be distributed to PBS affiliates across the United States.

GERMAN STATES SPLIT ON VOIDING DEATH SENTENCES ORDERED BY NAZIS By David Kantor

BONN, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- The dead cannot be brought back, but the 12,000 death sentences imposed on opponents of the Nazi regime by the regional courts of the Third Reich can be legally voided.

Whether such a gesture to the families of those victims will be made, in the interests of justice and compassion, is up to West Germany's 10 state governments.

A poll taken last week and published Monday in the Nuernberger Nachrichten reported that three of the states reject the idea of re-examining and eventually revoking the sentences. Five favor the idea and two are undecided.

The poll was taken in connection with this Friday's 50th anniversary of the start of World War II, on Sept. 1, 1939.

Several years ago, the federal government, responding to a public campaign, nullified the 5,000 death sentences imposed by the notorious "volksgerichtshof," the Nazi "people's courts."

The regional courts, however, are within the jurisdiction of the states, known in German as "laender."

Observers believe another public campaign could force a review, but so far the Justice Ministries of Baden-Wurtemberg and Bavaria, both states in southern Germany governed by the ruling Christian Democrats, have decided not to review the sentences.

The same position was taken by North Rhine-Westphalia, which is governed by the opposition Social Democrats.

INTEREST IN HUNGER STRIKE WANING By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- Soviet Jews protesting the refusal of American visas went into the sixth day of their hunger strike here Tuesday. But public interest in their cause appears to have faded.

The protesters are sitting on lounge chairs and mattresses along the fashionable Via Veneto, across the street from the U.S. Embassy.

They are surrounded by placards, in English and Italian, which tell their story with such slogans as "We are victims of arbitrariness," "We are abandoned" and "Reunite me with my family."

But the throngs of onlookers and supporters who have been encouraging and demonstrating with them for the past week -- and numbered nearly 600 at one point Monday -- failed to materialize as of Tuesday noon.

The hunger strikers are the vanguard of about 400 Soviet Jewish emigres who have been twice rejected for visas to enter the United States as refugees. They refuse to go to Israel, which already has granted them entry visas.

An embassy employee was quoted as saying that the hunger strike has accomplished nothing but to dramatize their situation.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: ISRAELI FIRM'S ACTIVITIES IN COLOMBIA RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT MILITARY TIES By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug 29 (JTA) -- The activities of Israeli mercenaries in Colombia currently under police investigation have triggered a debate over the morality of such undertakings and concern for Israel's international image.

So far there is no proof that Israel Defense Force reserve Lt. Col. Yair Klein and his associates in the Hod Hahanit security consulting firm were providing military training or equipment to "hit squads" of the Colombian drug cartel.

Klein emphatically denies that he or his associates had any dealings with the drug syndicate that is now waging a terrorist war against the Colombian government.

But some news media reports on Tuesday claimed the Israeli authorities were aware of Klein's activities and warned him to discontinue them, on the grounds that he was violating Colombian law.

Klein is only one of an estimated 800 Israeli individuals and firms engaged in the murky area of security counseling and training in Latin America.

Those who justify their activities say that Israel, like most other developed countries, officially provides arms and training to foreign regimes, some of them of dubious character.

Therefore, when Israeli entrepreneurs, mostly retired IDF officers, engage in this sort of business privately, they do it with the knowledge and consent of the defense establishment.

The Defense Ministry denies this, pointing to its highly selective licensing requirements for the export of weapons and military know-how.

Some Israelis think the practice should be abandoned.

They question whether former IDF officers should be allowed to utilize the skills they acquired doing national service to make money abroad by means that are at best unwise and may well besmirch Israel's name.

Not Only Israelis Involved

The Hebrew daily Ma'ariv quoted Haim Aharon, the Israeli ambassador to Colombia from 1981 to 1984, as saying that "the entire matter of the export of know-how and military training in Colombia is not exclusive to Israelis.

"It should be kept in mind that numerous Americans and South Africans are involved in it," the former envoy said. "If there was any Israeli involvement, it was undoubtedly very marginal."

"We are used to the fact that the moment Israelis are involved in any matter, Israel is placed in the spotlight," he said. "Even if a connection exists between Israelis and military training in Colombia, this is a far cry from drugs."

The debate is likely to continue long after the Hod Hahanit case is over.

Klein, the principal owner of the company, and reserve Lt. Col. Amatzia Shouali, his director of military and security training, were questioned separately for seven hours Monday at the police criminal investigation division headquarters in Petach Tikva.

Both men surrendered their passports and were released on their own recognizance.

Police escorted Klein to his home in the Jordan Valley on Monday night and reportedly

confiscated additional documents for examination.

Other alleged mercenaries and middlemen are being called for questioning.

Two of those summoned for questioning on Tuesday are both IDF reserve lieutenant colonels.

Avraham Zadka was a military instructor in Colombia, and Yitzhak Shoshani is described as a go-between for Hod Hahanit and its Colombian clients.

The Hebrew daily Ha'aretz reported that Shoshani told the police that Israel Aircraft Industries, a defense establishment firm, is the biggest supplier of planes, gunboats and military equipment to Colombia.

Warning From Embassy in Bogota

While the police interrogations are closed to the public, Klein and his associates have been most eager to give their version of events to the news media.

The story originated when NBC News broadcast a videotape on Aug. 22 showing uniformed men identified as a drug cartel "hit squad" being trained by a Hebrew-speaking officer.

Israel Television promptly identified the officer as Klein, who readily admitted that his company had a contract to provide security training in Colombia, which he said, ended about 18-months ago.

He said his clients were farmers and ranchers who needed protection from guerrillas and cattle rustlers the Colombian authorities could not control.

Klein said he made the broadcast videotape to advertise the services his company offers, which would have been "idiotic" if he were training drug hit men.

As further proof that his clients were not involved in the drug cartel, Klein said he was paid \$40,000 for his services, a negligible amount to receive from drug traffickers.

Shoshani, the middleman quoted by Ha'aretz, put the sum at \$76,000.

But Israel Radio reported Tuesday that Klein received \$800,000 for smuggling large quantities of arms and military materiel into Colombia.

Israel Radio correspondent Ronnie Daniel said the security officer at the Israel Embassy in Bogota had instructions from Jerusalem to order Klein to cease his activities immediately and withdraw his training team from the country.

Daniel attributed his information to "highly reliable defense-establishment sources."

The report, quoting those sources, also claimed that Klein and Shouali were active in Colombia as recently as four months ago and fled the country only after being targeted by kidnappers.

It said that Klein was cautioned that his activities probably contravened Colombian law, because the militias he trained might turn against the Colombian government.

But Klein ignored the warning, Israel Radio said.

Meanwhile, Eitan Coren, an Israeli in Bogota, told Israel Radio on Tuesday that Jews in Colombia have reason to fear reprisals from leftist guerrillas who have been the victims of militias trained and supplied by Israeli mercenaries.

There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated Monday, Sept. 4, because of the Labor Day postal holiday in the United States.