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SHAMIR ONCE AGAIN REMARKS ON NEED FOR 'GREATER ISRAEL'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir risked a new altercation with the United States on Sunday when he asserted for the second time this year that large-scale immigration required a "Greater Israel."

It was in essence what he had told a Likud rally here on Jan. 14. When the Bush administration, at the time, called his remarks "unhelpful," Shamir denied the linkage.

This time, he did so when reporters listening to an address he gave asked if he was harking back to the position that had annoyed Washington 10 months ago.

In his address Sunday at a memorial meeting for deceased members of Likud, Shamir declared that the commitment to the territorial integrity of the Land of Israel is significant "for future generations and for mass aliyah."

"The past leaders of our movement left us with a clear message to keep the Land of Israel from the sea to the River Jordan for generations to come, for the mass immigration and for the Jewish people, most of whom will be gathered into this country."

His remarks were quickly broadcast and commented on abroad. He was denounced by the opposition Labor Party and leftist factions at home for imperiling aliyah.

The chairman of the Labor Party's Knesset faction, Haim Ramon, charged Monday that Shamir was continuing to endanger immigration with his unwise remarks.

Wild Verbal Statements

"Coalition ministers, led by the premier himself, appear intent on vying with one another to sabotage aliyah by their wild and daily verbal statements in an apparent effort to see who can cause the most harm to immigration from the Soviet Union," he said.

But Shamir told reporters he had no intention of making a direct connection between territory and immigration.

"There is no connection whatever between our maintaining the territorial integrity of Eretz Yisrael between the sea and the Jordan River -- which is a vital security necessity for the State of Israel -- and the mass aliyah which is the fulfillment of the great Zionist dream," the prime minister said.

Shamir was criticized by the U.S. administration earlier this year after he told Likud members that increasing Soviet aliyah would lead to a "bigger Israel, a strong Israel, Eretz Yisrael."

Washington interpreted those remarks as rationalization for needing the administered territories to absorb new immigrants.

Challenged on the remark, Shamir clarified his statement saying he had only meant that immigration required a "strong, united Israel."

But his remarks had severe repercussions, among them discussions with the United States about U.S. aid for the resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel. The Bush administration has reiterated it will not assist Israel to settle Soviet Jews if they are housed beyond Israel's pre-1967 borders.

ON EVE OF PAPAL MEETING, IJCIC REGAINS TWO FORMER MEMBERS

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- The International Jewish Coalition on Interreligious Consultations, which is going to Rome next month to meet with Pope John Paul II and Vatican officials, will be a much stronger and more representative body than it has been for the past year now that two key organizations have rejoined.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Committee have been readmitted to IJCIC, and will participate in the Dec. 5 and 6 meetings.

Both groups resigned IJCIC -- ADL pulled out in 1985 and AJCommittee late last year -- because the group was not tackling what they considered essential theological issues, and because of internal conflicts between personalities within the group, according to participants.

"Discussions between IJCIC and Catholic and Protestant officials then were general, so general that they couldn't ever hurt anyone," recalled Rabbi Leon Klenicki, director of ADL's Department of Interfaith Affairs. "We pulled out because we wanted more substantive meetings."

"We were at a stage of tea and sympathy; nothing 'tachlis,' " he said, using the Yiddish word for substance.

According to ADL National Director Abraham Foxman, "IJCIC wasn't fulfilling some of our needs and the needs of the Jewish community."

Jewish Council Dissolved

AJCommittee, along with ADL and the American Jewish Congress, went on to form The Jewish Council for International Interreligious Relations, which is now being dissolved, according to Rabbi A. James Rudin, national director of Interreligious Affairs for AJCommittee.

The two projects the Jewish Council had already organized -- separate meetings with Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders in Europe in 1991 -- will be handled by IJCIC.

According to ADL and AJCommittee representatives, the time was ripe to seek readmission to IJCIC because the Vatican-Jewish relationship has matured, and because of the recent changes in Eastern Europe.

They said that IJCIC and the Vatican's representative body, The Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, had tackled difficult and important issues, such as anti-Semitism, at the meeting in Prague in September.

Fighting increasing anti-Semitism in the nascent democracies of Eastern Europe also became a priority for ADL and AJCommittee.

"The rapid changes in Eastern Europe, where the churches are playing such an important role in overthrowing Communism, have put a lot of emphasis on our struggle against anti-Semitism," Rudin said.

"The danger of anti-Semitism requires joint work," ADL's Klenicki added.

AJCommittee also faced a recent reorganization, which left fewer resources and staff people to devote to interreligious work.

"We had to look, in this climate of tremendous change, to reassess the most effective way

to have impact in that area," Rudin admitted. Being part of IJCIC "will enrich and enhance and strengthen our efforts."

IJCIC chairman Seymour Reich, who also serves as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, is credited with "keeping the door open" and encouraging the two groups to come back.

Reich said that when he "took over the chairmanship a year ago, it was a goal" to have the two groups rejoin because "it is good for the Jewish community. It strengthens IJCIC," he said.

"IJCIC has demonstrated that it is viable, that it is seen by the Christian community as the vehicle for dialogue with the Jewish community," Reich added.

He said the rejoining of ADL and AJCommittee "permits us to come together on important subjects to see if we can work out our own differences and face the Christian community together."

Several topics are slated for discussion with Vatican representatives on Dec. 5 and with the pope on Dec. 6.

"We would like to hear a reaffirmation by the pope of the Prague declaration, which is second only to Nostra Aetate in its importance to the Jewish community," Reich said.

He has been told by the president of the Vatican's Commission on Religious Relations With the Jews, Archbishop Edward Cassidy, that "the pope endorsed it wholeheartedly and without reservation. Still, it would be nice if we had some indication of that in Rome from the pope."

The statement that came out of the Prague meeting between Vatican representatives and IJCIC in early September condemned anti-Semitism as a sin and outlined concrete measures to reconcile the two faiths.

IJCIC now comprises the Synagogue Council of America, the World Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Israel Interfaith Committee and the American Jewish Committee.

FIRST FIXED ROADBLOCK GOING UP BETWEEN WEST BANK AND ISRAEL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- The first fixed roadblock between the West Bank and Israel proper is to be erected this week, by order of the region's commanding general, Davar reported Monday.

The initiative was taken by Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, head of the Central Command. Mordechai has taken the initiative without consulting his superiors, according to Davar.

Neither Defense Minister Moshe Arens nor Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff Dan Shomron was aware of it and both have expressed reservations, according to senior Defense Ministry officials.

The barrier, described as experimental, will be in place on the road to Tulkarm by the end of the week. If successful, the Central Command intends to establish 12 additional roadblocks in various parts of the West Bank.

The initial barrier will not be made of steel because it is too costly. But the Central Command said steel would be used on subsequent roadblocks if the first one proves successful.

Arens, who reportedly did not know of Mordechai's intentions until he read about them in newspapers, was said by officials to prefer only

temporary roadblocks in the West Bank.

A Defense Ministry official said the barriers "create political facts that no one agreed to."

ARENS ISSUES GAG ORDER FOLLOWING VERBAL CLASH BETWEEN IDF GENERALS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Arens issued a gag order Sunday to end the unseemly vendetta two of Israel's top generals have been conducting through the media.

Arens announced on television that he has "issued an unequivocal order to all Israel Defense Force officers, regardless of rank, that contact with the media will be allowed only with my approval."

The defense minister conceded that while he has "no control over the media," he was determined to put an end to the public warfare between Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron, the IDF chief of staff, and Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, head of the Central Command.

Their reported long-simmering feud erupted when Shomron officially reprimanded Mordechai for failing to prevent an infiltration from Jordan that resulted in the killing of a soldier last week.

Mordechai, who refused to accept the rebuke, fired back with public statements denying the charges. He accused the chief of staff of character assassination motivated by their personal differences.

There has been bad blood between the two generals since Shomron was elevated to the top IDF post to which Mordechai allegedly aspired.

Arens pointedly made laudatory remarks about both generals in announcing his ban on statements to the media.

"The IDF has a tradition of learning lessons without compromise. Gen Mordechai is a party to that norm, which is of so much importance to the army," Arens said.

He added that Mordechai has long been one of the IDF's finest officers, "especially in his current post," in which he bears the brunt of handling the intifada.

After considering the findings of a high-level panel that investigated the infiltration, Shomron reportedly summoned Mordechai to his office Friday and told him a "black mark" had been entered into his personal record.

The disciplinary action seemed called for because the fatal incident occurred well after recommendations were issued to improve defenses along the Jordanian border and apparently ignored by the responsible officers.

Nevertheless, Mordechai appealed to Arens. When he learned the reprimand was given with the defense minister's knowledge and consent, he warned the chief of staff not to make it public.

"If you hold a news conference, I will hold one of my own," he is said to have threatened.

Without going into specifics of the case, IDF officers agreed the affair should not have been allowed to become public.

Reserves Sgt. Pinhas Levy, in charge of a lookout post in the Jordan Valley, was killed by an infiltrator on Nov. 13. He died less than a week after a clash with infiltrators from Jordan resulted in another soldier's death.

Because the border with Jordan had been relatively quiet, it was manned largely by reservists who are generally older than other IDF personnel. The border troops have been beefed up with regular troops since the killings.

**OFFICIALS EXPRESS CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM
THAT ETHIOPIAN EMIGRATION WILL RISE**

By Mark Joffe

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Israeli officials and groups working on behalf of Ethiopian Jews are now cautiously optimistic that Jewish emigration from Ethiopia will return to the relatively high levels seen at the beginning of the year.

"We are beginning to see a breakthrough on the very sad and dramatic story of Ethiopian Jews," Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, told delegates attending the Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly here last week.

He pledged Israel would use "every device available" to bring Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Dinitz reported that two planeloads carrying approximately 100 Jews each arrived in Israel this month, and that the total could reach 500 by the end of November.

That is a big increase from October, when only 58 arrived.

Emigration has been slow since late June, when the flow of Ethiopian Jews, which had averaged 500 a month for most of the year, was suddenly cut to a trickle by the mercurial Ethiopian government.

Nobody knows how many Jews are left in Ethiopia. But at least 20,000 have made their way from their homes in the northern province of Gondar to the capital city of Addis Ababa, hoping to receive permission to join family members already in Israel.

They live in makeshift housing amid crime, unsanitary conditions and rampant disease. Many have died after contracting such common, treatable illnesses as tuberculosis, pneumonia and measles.

Medical Clinic In Addis Ababa

In an effort to address this situation, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, an international relief agency supported by the United Jewish Appeal, set up a medical clinic in Addis Ababa in August, staffed by doctors and nurses from the United States, Israel and Ethiopia.

Soon after, JDC doctors trained 65 Ethiopians to make twice-weekly visits to the homes of some 4,500 Ethiopian Jewish families, to watch for signs of disease and to ensure that those already being treated are taking their medication properly.

On Monday, the clinic will begin immunizing some 22,000 adults and children against tuberculosis, which has become the major killer.

Already, the improved medical care has reduced the mortality rate from 40 deaths in July to 17 in October.

"The goal of JDC is to make it very difficult for an Ethiopian Jew to die," Dr. Ted Meyers, JDC's medical consultant in Ethiopia, explained during a forum on Ethiopian Jewry held at the five-day CJF gathering, which ended here Sunday.

Also addressing the forum was Arnon Mantver, director general of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department. He spoke chiefly about the challenges of absorbing Ethiopians who eventually make it to Israel.

Unlike most of the thousands of Soviet Jews arriving in Israel, who must find their own apartments with money provided by the government and the Jewish Agency, the Ethiopian Jews are

first sent to absorption centers. There, all of their needs are taken care of while they learn Hebrew and look for employment.

Until a few years ago, all immigrants took this absorption route, but when the massive Soviet aliyah began, the Jewish Agency and government Absorption Ministry opted for a less expensive alternative: direct absorption.

However, Mantver said that direct absorption has not worked for most Ethiopian Jews, who have a more difficult time adjusting to Israeli culture having come from a society that is primitive by comparison.

He said the Jewish Agency has decided that 27 of the 30 existing absorption centers in Israel will be used almost exclusively for Ethiopian Jews.

"The policy is to give them first priority in absorption centers," he said.

While the normal stay at an absorption center is six months, many Ethiopian immigrants have needed to stay much longer.

Of the 3,316 Ethiopian immigrants who were in absorption centers in September, about a third have been there less than six months, a quarter have been there six months to a year, another quarter have been there one to two years, and nearly a sixth have been there more than two years, Mantver reported.

**HERZOG URGES JEWISH COMMUNITY
TO 'COUNTERATTACK OUR ENEMIES'**

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- On the final day of his West Coast tour, Israeli President Chaim Herzog hammered home the twin themes of anti-Israel prejudice in the United Nations and the media, and the responsibility of American Jewish leaders to counterattack against such hostile attitudes.

At a community rally on Sunday morning, Herzog expressed his concern "that in the present difficult times, Jewish leadership is allowing our enemies to dictate the form and even the content of the Jewish agenda."

Stressing that the battle now is for the minds and hearts of the Jewish people, Herzog demanded that Jewish leaders everywhere "rally our people . . . to counterattack and take back the initiative from our enemies," and to confront "the main issue facing us today, our belief in ourselves and the justice of our cause."

Herzog's speech was interrupted by enthusiastic applause from some 1,500 listeners at the Stephen S. Wise Temple, an event organized by the Jewish Federation Council in support of Operation Exodus.

On Sunday evening, at a black-tie dinner hosted by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Herzog blistered the United Nations and the West for the U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning Israel for the Temple Mount riots.

"To what limits can prejudice go if the world community, led by the great Western nations, condemns before the facts have been ascertained?" he asked. "A real Alice in Wonderland situation: 'No, no, sentence first, verdict later,' said the Queen of Hearts."

Before the dinner, Herzog and his wife attended the premiere of "Echoes That Remain," a documentary film on the lost world of the East European shtetl, produced by the Wiesenthal Center. The hour-long film included some rare documentary footage accompanied by a musical score.

COURT RULES VICHY OFFICIAL MUST BE TRIED FOR WAR CRIMES

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Rene Bousquet, who headed the Vichy government's police when the Nazis controlled France during World War II, must go on trial for crimes against humanity, a French court has ruled.

Bousquet, 81, will be the first high-ranking official of the Vichy regime to be tried since the immediate post-war years.

Moreover, he will be tried in a regular criminal court rather than by a special tribunal, which makes a speedy trial more likely. The proceedings are expected to start next year.

Bousquet's trial will be the first major trial for crimes against humanity since former Lyon Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie was convicted by a criminal court in 1988. Barbie is serving a life sentence.

The Court of Appeal, France's second-highest jurisdiction, rejected a prosecution request that a special, and long-dormant, tribunal try Bousquet. Had the prosecution succeeded, it would have taken years to constitute such a court of specially appointed judges, and there would most probably have been postponements because of the accused's advanced age and poor health.

In such a case, Bousquet might never have gone on trial, said Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld. He along with others affiliated with organizations of former deportees have accused successive French governments of deliberate failure to try officials and politicians of the Vichy regime in the interests of "national unity."

The French have sought to heal the ill feelings that existed between Gaullists and collaborators in the post-war period.

The ambiguous outcome of Bousquet's first trial in 1949 was a case in point.

Tried by a special tribunal for collaboration with the enemy, he was sentenced to five years of "national indignity."

But the court immediately suspended the sentence "due to his wartime services to the Resistance" and alleged secret help to Jews to avoid arrest and deportation.

But Klarsfeld and an organization of children of Jewish deportees have produced new documentary evidence that Bousquet ordered the Vichy police to round up Jews and arrest them, the Court of Appeal acknowledged.

Bousquet had a long, successful career as a banker and headed several large corporations and industries. He retired five years ago after Klarsfeld brought new charges against him.

CANADA'S HIGH COURT WILL HEAR REVISIONIST ZUNDEL'S APPEAL

By Bram D. Eisenthal

OTTAWA, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Canada's Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal by Ernst Zundel against his conviction for propagating the "false news" that the Holocaust never occurred.

The country's highest tribunal made clear, however, that the only issue it will consider is whether the provision in the Criminal Code against spreading false news violated Zundel's constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech.

The decision drew a mixed reaction in the Jewish community. David Satok, chairman of community relations for the Canadian Jewish Congress in Ontario, expressed disappointment.

He said, however, that he is confident the Supreme Court will find "there is no violation of the freedom of expression guarantee in a law which declares that the marketplace of ideas is not open to those of malicious intent like Zundel's."

But Frank Dimant, executive vice president of B'nai Brith Canada, thought the decision was momentous.

He said that by restricting the appeal to the narrow question of constitutional rights, the Supreme Court has affirmed the "judicial notice" taken by the judge in Zundel's 1988 trial that the Holocaust is a historical fact.

"The Holocaust is not subject for debate," Dimant said. "Survivors will no longer have to sit through the anguish of trying to have to prove that there was a Holocaust."

Ian Kagedan, B'nai Brith Canada's director of government relations, made the same point.

"While we obviously would have preferred no action at all, the most gratifying aspect is that the appeal was granted on only one ground, albeit an important one," Kagedan said.

Zundel, an anti-Semitic polemicist, was tried in 1985 for circulating a pamphlet titled "Did Six Million Really Die?" which claimed the Holocaust was a hoax perpetrated by Jews to extract reparations from Germany.

He was convicted under the "false news" statute and sentenced to 15 months in prison.

But the Ontario Court of Appeals overturned the conviction on a technicality in 1987. Zundel was retried and convicted in 1988 and sentenced to nine months in jail.

(JTA correspondent Ben Kayfetz in Toronto contributed to this report.)

BELGIAN ENVOY DENIED IRAQI VISA BECAUSE OF JEWISHNESS AND ISRAEL

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- The head of the Belgian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee reportedly was refused a visa to visit Iraq on a humanitarian mission because he is a member of the Jewish community and an active supporter of Israel.

But Jean Gol, a former deputy prime minister and member of the Liberal French-speaking party, denies he was ever a candidate for the mission.

Nevertheless, he was "honored to be persona non grata for the Iraqi Embassy," Gol told the European Jewish Press Agency.

According to press reports, parliamentary leaders, with the government's approval, decided to send a seven-man mission to Baghdad to try to free the 37 Belgian hostages still detained there.

The mission, consisting of one representative of each parliamentary faction, is supposed to leave next week. According to well-informed sources, Gol was picked by his party but the Iraqi Embassy refused him a visa.

Gol stressed that he would not be part of the delegation, which includes several members of pro-Arab groups.

Earlier this month, Willy de Clercq, a Belgian Liberal member of the European Parliament, declined at the last minute to accompany former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt to Baghdad on a mission to gain the release of hostages.

Media reports suggested that de Clercq was refused an Iraqi visa because he chairs an Israel-Europe group in the European Parliament, which is based in Strasbourg, France.