

**LAST OF THE NUNS AT AUSCHWITZ
REPORTEDLY HAS LEFT THE CONVENT****By Debra Nussbaum Cohen**

NEW YORK, July 6 (JTA) -- All of the nuns have now reportedly left the Carmelite convent on the grounds of the Auschwitz death camp in Poland, each moving either across the road to new quarters built for them or to another convent altogether.

Their departure marks the end of a nine-year controversy that severely strained relations between world Jewry and the Roman Catholic Church, at one point leading to a suspension of official contacts between the two sides.

But a new controversy has erupted over the future of the convent building, in which the Nazis once stored the deadly Zyklon B pellets used in the Auschwitz gas chambers.

Jewish groups had objected vigorously to the presence of a Catholic convent on the site of a Nazi death camp where more than a million Jews were systematically slaughtered.

Catholic Church officials agreed in February 1987 that the convent should be relocated and that a new center for prayer and meditation should be built nearby. But it was not until last week that the old convent was vacated.

The nuns' final impetus to move came from their local bishop, Tadeusz Rakoczy. In a June 30 letter to Kalman Sultanik, vice president of the World Jewish Congress, the bishop said he had closed the convent that day, which had been the final deadline for the nuns' departure.

Stanislaw Krajewski, a Polish consultant to the American Jewish Committee, was unable to confirm reports that all of the Carmelite nuns had left the convent. But he said that the important thing is that "the church has abandoned the place. It will no longer function as a convent."

'Another Play' By Nuns?

But its future function remains in doubt. The mother superior of the convent has leased the building, which her order has inhabited since the early 1980s, to an obscure Polish nationalist group that wants to turn it into a memorial to the Polish victims of World War II.

Mother Therese signed a contract with the nationalist group, the Society for the Victims of War, on June 29, apparently without consulting church or local government officials.

But the nationalist group's plan may not get far, according to Krajewski, the AJCommittee consultant. He said that local authorities are trying to stop the effort.

The nuns have a 99-year lease with the city of Oswiecim, which has jurisdiction over the building. And the lease stipulates that the building may only be used as a convent.

Dariusz Dulnik, the mayor of Oswiecim, where Auschwitz is located, has already declared that he will break his lease agreement with the Carmelite nuns in order to prevent the building from becoming a memorial, according to Krajewski.

And Rev. Marek Glowina, director of the Center for Information, Meetings, Dialogue, Education and Prayer that was built to accommodate the nuns, put out a statement Tuesday stating

that the Carmelite nuns had no right to lease the old convent building to anyone.

During a two-week waiting period required by Polish law before the contract between Mother Therese and the society goes into effect, the local authorities intend to contest the legality of the nun's arrangement, according to Rabbi A. James Rudin, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

"Father Glowina's public statement is most important because it represents the definitive and forthright position of the Roman Catholic Church and local authorities in Oswiecim," he said.

Yet the matter may still end up in the hands of Polish courts.

If that happens, said Rudin, "we are still left with a situation delaying the final disposition of the convent, which we wanted to have concluded" already.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said the mother superior's move appears to be "another ploy to gum up the works."

He said he plans to visit the site Thursday.

**PERES MEETS IN EGYPT WITH MUBARAK,
EXPRESSES HOPE ABOUT PEACE TALKS****By David Landau**

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) -- Despite the general sense of deadlock hanging over the Middle East peace talks, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres sought to project an air of optimism as they met Tuesday in the Egyptian port city of Alexandria.

Peres concluded his two-day trip to Egypt feeling confident that the Egyptians will play an active and constructive role in the peace process and press the Palestinians to be more flexible in the negotiations.

Peres told reporters Tuesday that Egypt had agreed to urge the Palestinians to continue the peace talks using an American-drafted paper as the basis for discussing Palestinian self-rule.

Despite statements of disappointment regarding the American paper by both Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Peres said in Alexandria, "I think that we have agreed that while the American draft is not a holy script, it should not be retracted."

"We have to take it as an opening position, introduce the necessary changes and try to impress the Palestinians with the need to continue preparations for the next round right away," the Israeli foreign minister said.

Peres met with Mubarak on the second day of his visit to Egypt, which was arranged to boost progress in both the bilateral and multi-lateral negotiations.

Egypt has encouraged the parties to persist in their negotiating efforts and aided indirect communication between Israel and the PLO.

During Peres' stay in Egypt, Arafat passed briefly through Cairo and reportedly met with Mubarak presidential aide Osama el-Baz. Peres met with el-Baz on Monday.

The Israeli foreign minister also met Monday with his Egyptian counterpart, Amre Moussa. He said after that meeting, "I personally believe that

we are nearer to having an agreement with the Palestinians than most people think. It is not a locked gate."

Peres and Moussa asserted that the American bridging proposals, put forward at the end of the 10th round of talks in Washington last week, are a basis for further negotiations.

Diplomatic sources said the negative reactions to the paper given by both Palestinians and Israelis are not meant to be seen as the last word, but rather as jockeying in advance of a planned visit to the region by a delegation of U.S. State Department officials, who aim to narrow the gaps regarding the paper.

The Americans are trying to get both sides to agree upon a joint declaration of principles, to be signed by Israel and the Palestinian delegation to the talks.

ISRAELIS FEAR RENEWED TERROR WAVE AFTER THREE MONTHS OF RELATIVE CALM By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) -- After three months of relative calm, Israelis fear they could be facing a renewed wave of Palestinian attacks.

Since the army sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israel proper in late March, there have been few Palestinian attacks against Israeli civilians. But in the last week, there have been a string of violent incidents that left two Israelis dead and others injured.

In the latest attack, a Palestinian from the West Bank city of Nablus tried Tuesday to stab an Israeli soldier at the Allenby Bridge crossing from Jordan.

The Palestinian assailant, who had just returned from Jordan, was overcome by other soldiers at the border terminal before he could hurt anyone.

The stabbing attempt came on the heels of two other more serious attacks in Jerusalem, and Israeli officials said further attacks were likely as Palestinian opponents of the peace process try to sabotage the talks.

Last Thursday, three terrorists boarded a crowded city bus in Jerusalem, fatally shooting one woman, Olga Chaikov, 42, and lightly wounding the bus driver, Dudi Yom-Tov, who tried to disarm one of the attackers.

Two of the terrorists then fled and commandeered an Israeli car, forcing at gunpoint a civilian driver, Jeanette Kadosh Dayan, 39, to drive them out of the city.

All three died in a hail of bullets when the car refused orders by border police to stop at a military checkpoint. Security personnel claimed Dayan was shot first by the Palestinians.

On Monday, a stabbing attack left Batsheva Hillel hospitalized with moderate wounds. She was attacked near Mishkenot Sha'ananim, on a hill overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem.

Police were still holding four Arabs suspected of having been involved in the attack.

Attacks Expected To Continue

Both Jerusalem attacks took place in areas between Jewish and Arab sections of Jerusalem. Observers have suggested there may be a link to the fact that Jerusalem's status has emerged as a major sticking point in the peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Tuesday that as a result of the latest terrorist attacks, police have reinforced their presence in Jerusalem

and added an extra helicopter to watch the capital from the skies.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said he had no doubt that terrorism would increase as the peace talks progress.

Security experts expect the wave of Arab terrorism to increase with the arrival later this week of U.S. diplomat Dennis Ross, the Clinton administration's coordinator of the peace talks.

Israeli opposition groups are also expected to turn up the heat during the visit by Ross.

Opposition parties have decided to organize joint demonstrations against the government during the Ross visit, in an effort to repeat the massive demonstrations staged against Secretary of State Henry Kissinger during the Sinai disengagement talks of 1975-1976.

A right-wing group called the Terror Victims Association held an hour-long meeting this week with Molly Williamson, U.S. consul general in Jerusalem, who serves as a de facto ambassador to Palestinians in the territories.

The group handed a letter to Williamson urging the United States not to reopen its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization or any other terrorist group. Among those signing the letter was Hillel, the victim of Monday's stabbing attack.

BURIAL OF NON-JEWISH TERROR VICTIM LEADS TO NEW SPAT BETWEEN 2 PARTIES By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) -- A new spat between two parties in Israel's coalition government has erupted over the burial of one of the victims of last week's terrorist bus attack, who was not Jewish according to traditional definitions.

Olga Chaikov, a Soviet immigrant killed when terrorists attacked a bus in Jerusalem on July 1, was ordered buried in a special cemetery section reserved for "questionable Jews" after officials of the hevra kadisha, or burial society, consulted Jerusalem Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Koltitz.

The consultation, during Chaikov's funeral service last Friday, followed a call made to the burial society from a neighbor of the deceased woman who asserted that Chaikov was not Jewish.

Hevra kadisha officials told reporters they questioned family members, who freely confirmed that this was indeed the case.

On Tuesday, after the story came to light in the press, the secularist Meretz bloc announced it would propose a bill for the creation of "civil cemeteries."

The fervently Orthodox Shas party promptly responded that it would fight against such a bill, if it "conflicts with halachah," or traditional Jewish law.

During the funeral, the burial society officials sought to skirt the recital of the Mourner's Kaddish. But Rabbi Nissim Ze'ev, a deputy mayor and the senior Shas representative on the City Council, insisted on saying the prayer.

Ze'ev later explained that even if there were some halachic question regarding the deceased woman's Jewishness, there was "no reason why a minyan of Jews should not say Kaddish."

Knesset member Ran Cohen, the chairman of Meretz's Knesset faction, said it was sickening that a person who had immigrated to the Jewish state and died because she was a Jew -- at least in the eyes of her murderers -- should not be buried with full Jewish honors.

ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES TURN OVER EICHMANN FILE TO JEWISH COMMUNITY
By Victoria Verlichak

BUENOS AIRES, July 6 (JTA) -- Argentine authorities have presented the Jewish community here with its files on Adolf Eichmann, who lived in this country under an alias for a decade before being kidnapped, tried and executed in Israel for his role in masterminding the Nazi genocide.

Ramon Ortega, governor of Argentina's Tucuman province, where Eichmann lived from 1952 to 1960, handed over the 20-page file to a representative of the Delegation of Jewish Associations of Argentina, known as the DAIA, and the World Jewish Congress, in a public and widely publicized ceremony.

"It is a symbolic act, and the opening signifies a starting point that will permit us to continue our investigation in the framework of the Testimony Project sponsored by the DAIA and the World Jewish Congress," said Jose Kestelman, the DAIA's national secretary, who received the file from Ortega.

Bernardo Litvak, a DAIA leader in Tucuman, was also present. Ortega said, "I can't say I am satisfied with this gesture. After all, it wasn't Gandhi or Martin Luther King who used to live among us."

While the documents contain no new information on Eichmann, the act of opening up the archive was seen as an important step in digging up the past of Nazi officials who found refuge Argentina from war crimes persecution.

The move was a result of an order last year, decreed by President Carlos Menem, to open to the public all official documents on former Nazi officials who have lived in Argentina.

Gen. Juan Peron, who led Argentina during the late 1940s and early 1950s, was known as an admirer of fascism and Nazism. During his reign, many Nazis found refuge in this country. Eichmann was among the more notable of these Nazis.

Eichmann's file, as showed by the local chief of police to the press, is a battered folder with 20 unnumbered pages, making it impossible to tell if anything is missing.

The file has a sketchy outline of Eichmann's history in Tucuman, where he arrived carrying false documents obtained by Buenos Aires police identifying him as Ricardo Klement.

He had already arrived from Europe with false papers issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Worked For Mercedes-Benz

According to the file, he falsified his date and city of birth and said he was unmarried.

The new identity card with the number 389.071 allowed him to obtain work at a hydraulic engineering company. It now appears that the company, CAPRI, was managed by Carlos Fuldner, an Argentine-German citizen.

Fuldner's name also appears in the dossier of Nazi official Martin Bormann, which was opened to the public in February 1992. Fuldner was said to be an adviser to Juan Peron and an officer of the immigration service.

After a couple of months in Tucuman, Eichmann was reunited with his wife, Vera Liebl, and their three children. He moved three times during that period, probably afraid of being watched.

He left the protection of the regiment and went on to the province of Catamarca for a short stay before settling in Buenos Aires again, where

he went to work as a foreman for the Mercedes-Benz car manufacturing company.

In 1960, Israeli agents here abducted Eichmann. He was tried in Jerusalem and later convicted, hanged and cremated on May 31, 1962.

Many observers said they thought the Eichmann files released in remote Tucuman posed more questions than it answered: Why did Eichmann travel that far and was there an organized network helping him? Who else went with him and are there more government documents concerning him? Did the military know who he was when he was hired by them?

When Eichmann was captured by the Israelis, his dossier was closed and nobody bothered to investigate anything else in Tucuman.

Scrawled in poor handwriting on the cover of the 20-page file, it is possible to read: "Died a violent death in Israel."

POLICE MOVE A GERMAN SOCCER MATCH AFTER NEO-NAZIS TAUNT ISRAELI TEAM
By Igal Avidan

BERLIN, July 6 (JTA) -- Police moved a soccer match between an Israeli team and a German team from Dresden to Leipzig after a neo-Nazi group hinted at a possible attack against the team from Jerusalem.

The Interotto Cup match between the Israeli team Betar Jerusalem and the German first-league team Dynamo Dresden was played Saturday under increased security.

Dresden police said soccer players were driven by buses from Dresden to Leipzig, 80 miles away, under police protection.

Although Leipzig police said no anti-Israeli threats had been registered, the German newspaper Berliner Zeitung reported that neo-Nazis had indirectly hinted at a possible attack, on a telephone hot line that tells of planned actions against foreigners.

The text of the messages had been carefully chosen in order to avoid legal action.

The German press agency reported that the original stadium in the small town of Kamenz, 31 miles northeast of Dresden, did not have a security fence.

Because the Dynamos' home stadium is being renovated, the match was transferred to the Leipzig suburb of Markkleeberg.

In another action planned by neo-Nazis, European right-wing extremists have scheduled a conference for Nov. 9, the 55th anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogrom, in Berlin's Reichstag, the old German parliament building.

The head of the Jewish community in Germany, Ignatz Bubis, has protested the conference, and the Berlin authorities have said such a meeting will put them in a difficult situation.

Bubis told the Berliner Zeitung that he will clarify with the authorities whether the assembly could be banned for fear of violent protests.

He added that he will contact the European Jewish Congress about this matter.

Rightist members of the European Parliament from Holland, Belgium, Italy, France and Germany, headed by France's Jean-Marie Le Pen, are to participate in the meeting.

The head of the Social Democrats in Berlin, Ditmar Staffelt, has called upon Germans to "block this provocation" by denying the extremist "demagogues" hotel rooms.

"A neo-Nazi conference in the Reichstag on Nov. 9 would be a nightmare," he concluded.

MANDELA MEETS WITH AJCOMMITTEE, TALKS ABOUT 'COMMON INTERESTS'

By Kenneth Dancyger

NEW YORK, July 6 (JTA) -- African National Congress President Nelson Mandela told leaders of the American Jewish Committee this week that a multicultural, democratic South Africa is an ideal that can be reached only through cooperation and careful decision-making.

At a meeting in his hotel here Monday, Mandela pledged to work together with South Africa's Jewish community during the government's transition to democracy, according to an AJCommittee representative who was present.

Mandela also spoke of the "common interests" of blacks and Jews and their history of cooperation against racism.

"There is a good amount of interaction with the Jewish community. There is a general danger that confronts all of us from the right wing," Mandela told the four-member AJCommittee delegation.

Mandela, who is in the United States on a two-week fund-raising and educational tour, had reportedly been expected to call for the lifting of economic sanctions against his country during his visit here.

But a debate over how South Africa will be run until free elections are held next April may put on hold Mandela's appeal to lift the sanctions.

AJCommittee Executive Vice President David Harris, who led the 70-minute meeting with Mandela, said the black leader is searching for "a formula that would lead to an early lifting of the sanctions" and encourage outside investment.

"He would like to be certain in his mind that the steps have been completely agreed upon" before lifting the sanctions, Harris said.

Harris said that AJCommittee's position on the trade embargo is much more general than Mandela's, but the organization feels sanctions "ought to be lifted soon."

"We believe in the lifting of the sanctions and the encouragement of foreign investment," Harris said, "to provide hope, particularly to the poorer sections of South Africa."

Country's Problems Are Not Over

Harris also expressed his support of ANC's attempts to work together with South Africa's Jewish community as the country moves toward a non-racial democracy and free and fair elections for South Africa's citizens.

During the meeting, Harris presented Mandela with a framed poster from AJCommittee's human relations campaign, and praised the ANC president for his "courageous adherence to democratic principles."

"This poster will go a long way toward influencing thoughts and conduct of many of our people who want to guide our country toward a democratic society," Mandela said.

"It will also address the concerns of those who want to end the tensions that seem to have split humanity throughout the world."

Harris said AJCommittee is working hard to correct the misconception that with the dismantling of apartheid apparently in full swing in South Africa, that country's problems are over.

"We will contribute as best we can helping to keep America's attention span to the ongoing in South Africa and contribute to a peaceful transition to a truly democratic process," said Harris.

CONTROVERSY OVER CROWN HEIGHTS FOLLOWS NEW YORK MAYOR TO ISRAEL

By Michele Chabin

TEL AVIV, July 6 (JTA) -- New York Mayor David Dinkins began a high-profile visit here Monday night by stating that Israel should retain control over a united Jerusalem.

Just minutes after arriving at Ben-Gurion Airport, Dinkins told a large contingent of reporters, "I have always supported the right of Israel to exist in secure borders, as determined by Israel, with Jerusalem as its undivided capital."

The mayor, who is here at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry, spent most of his first day in the country visiting sites in Tel Aviv.

Dinkins toured a mixed Arab-Jewish neighborhood in Old Jaffa and talked about coexistence with its residents.

He also paid a return visit to the Hatikvah neighborhood of Tel Aviv, where Iraqi Scud missiles landed during the Persian Gulf War. Dinkins made his first visit to the working-class community in the winter of 1991, soon after the missiles damaged homes and a community center.

Though Dinkins' aides stress that the visit was planned months ago and is in no way connected to the coming election, they admit that the mayor is seeking strong support from New York's Jewish voters.

Wherever he went, Dinkins was dogged by questions about the tensions between the Jewish and African American communities in New York, and about his handling of the August 1991 riots in Brooklyn's Crown Heights section.

Asked whether he was frustrated that people were asking such questions thousands of miles from New York, he replied, "No, I expected it."

Journalists were eager to know his response to an "Open Letter to Mayor David Dinkins" from New York activist Rabbi Avi Weiss that appeared in Tuesday's Jerusalem Post.

In the letter, Weiss wrote, "The divisive wounds of Crown Heights still fester. The world watched as hundreds of New York police held back, allowing gangs to 'vent,' allowing Jews to be injured, thereby creating an atmosphere in which Yankel Rosenbaum could be murdered because he was a Jew."

"The buck has to stop with you, Mr. Mayor," the letter said.

"In New York, I'm used to such ads," Dinkins responded. "They run all the time."

He then added: "The police made tactical errors, and they have acknowledged it," he said.

He said he had "maintained all along" that "I am accountable for what goes on in my administration. I've said the buck stops here."

ROBERT MANNING FILES A NEW APPEAL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) -- Robert Manning, wanted in the United States on charges connected to a 1980 mail-bombing murder in California, has filed another in a long series of appeals against his extradition from Israel.

Last week, the High Court of Justice rejected a previous appeal, ruling he should be extradited to the United States within two months.

In this latest petition, filed Tuesday, Manning argued that as an Israeli citizen he could be tried in Israel on felonies committed abroad, even if he was not an Israeli citizen at the time of the alleged crime.