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Box 11, Folder 15, Auschwitz - Carmelite controversy, June-July
1989.

CARMELITES-APPEAL June 1, 1989 (680 words) Follow-up
VATICAN AGAIN ASKS DISSIDENT NUNS TO LEAVE

By Cindy Wooden

WASHINGTON (NC) — For a second time the Vatican has ordered four Discalced Carmelite nuns to end their eight-month barricade and cooperate with church officials who offer "the possibility of saving your vocation."

The nuns, protesting what they see as a liberalization of their austere lifestyle, have been barricaded in the infirmary of their New Jersey monastery since October.

Although the Vatican congregation for Religious has declined their appeal, the nuns "are going to remain where they are" and will file an appeal with the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican's highest court, said Betty Sutton, a spokeswoman for the dissident nuns at the Carmelite monastery in Morristown, N.J.

"The sisters are doing OK; they're holding up," Mrs. Sutton said in a June 1 telephone interview with National Catholic News Service.

The Vatican Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, in a letter dated May 15 and delivered to the nuns May 30, confirmed its Feb. 22 decision that all but the oldest protester, who is in her 70s, should leave the monastery.

Five Carmelites locked themselves in the infirmary in early October fearing they would be expelled from the monastery because of their outspoken objections to changes made in the community's contemplative lifestyle by Mother Theresa of the Trinity Hewitt, the prioress since 1987.

The changes included brighter lighting in the chapel, the purchase of a television set and the serving of sweets.

One of the protesters, 28-year-old Nicole Prescott, who was called Sister John of the Cross, left the barricade in March for health reasons. Her temporary vows as a Carmelite had expired, and she is no longer a nun.

Copies of the May 15 Vatican letters were sent to Bishop Frank J. Rodimer of Paterson, in whose diocese the monastery is located. The diocese issued a statement about the situation May 31.

The statement quoted the letters to the nuns as saying, "The problem has been carefully re-examined from all points of view."

"The good of your soul, the safeguarding of the values of religious life, respect for the established authority and the witness we have to render to the church convinces us to confirm what has been decided," the letter said.

The letter affirmed the Vatican's earlier decision that Sisters Teresita Romano and Maria Ercolano should "leave the monastery at Morristown and transfer to another monastery which is willing to accept you."

Sister Philomena Kostanowski, because of her "age and the state of health," may remain at the monastery if she promises "to obey the legitimate superior."

The temporary vows of 34-year-old Lynn Williams, who was called Sister Bernadette of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have also expired.

"Considering that the chapter (an official gathering of the community's members) did not admit you to solemn profession — this is the unquestionable right of the community — and because the time for which your profession was made has elapsed, you are obliged to leave the monastery," the letter to Miss Williams said.

In a separate letter to Bishop Rodimer, Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, prefect of the Apostolic Signature, said, "There is no recourse pending before this supreme tribunal concerning the Carmelite sisters of Morristown."

However, a Vatican source told National Catholic News Service in Rome June 1 that the nuns do have a right to bring their case before the Signature. According to canon law, the court handles "contentions legitimately referred to it which arise from an act of ecclesiastical administrative power."

The nuns would pursue the appeals process because "their case has never been disclosed and defended before the supreme court," Mrs. Sutton said.

COMMENTARY
June 2, 1989

POPE JOHN PAUL II APPEALS TO ISRAEL TO HELP SAVE LEBANON

CARDINAL O'CONNOR'S VISIT RIGHTLY REFLECTS VATICAN ANXIETY OVER CHRISTIAN MINORITY

The recent appeal of Pope John Paul II to the Israeli Government to help prevent "the destruction with which Lebanon is being threatened" is a dramatic sign of the desperation that the Vatican feels over the flight of that decimated country, once the center of the Arab Christian presence in the Middle East.

It is also a statement of the actual, de facto ongoing relationship between the Holy See and the sovereign State of Israel. (I am still convinced - and this Papal act underscores it - that once peace is established between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians, full diplomatic relations between the Vatican, Israel, and Jordan will follow.)

Cardinal John O'Connor's visit to Lebanon last week, following full consultation with the Pope and the Vatican, unfortunately became caught up in controversy as a result of an apparent contradiction in two primary objectives in Vatican foreign policy. Since the days of Pope Leo I (440-461 CE), the Vatican has had a primary obligation to defend the interests of the Church and the security of Christians in the world.

During the Middle Ages, the Vatican inherited the mantle of the Roman Empire and became a major instrumentality of arbitration between nations. Arbitration necessitated a posture of impartiality, if not neutrality.

But Maronite Catholics in Lebanon, and many Christians of conscience particularly in the Western world, have been deeply upset that they have been abandoned by the Western and Christian world to mayhem and massacre by Syria and extremist Muslims. I see Cardinal O'Connor's visit as a quite legitimate effort to signal Maronite Catholics that the Vatican and the Catholic world indeed cares about their survival.

The Pope's appeal to Israeli president Chaim Herzog, while couched in the language of impartiality, is a plea to help save the Christian remnant from total genocide.

President Herzog's response was sensitive and caring. He expressed Israel's horror over the current wave of Syrian bombardment of the Lebanese Christian population, and Israel's interest in helping establish "the stability, unity, and independence of

Lebanon." If this diplomatic pattern continues, Israel may yet help the Vatican save what is left of the Christian community in Lebanon.

--Rabbi Tanenbaum, international consultant for the American Jewish Committee, is former chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC).

AUSCHWITZ CONVENT — One member of a community of Carmelite Nuns tends the convent's shrubs outside the walls of the former Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland.

Religion News Service Photo

Between The Poles And Jews

By Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum

(JTA) — NEW YORK — It is a positive thing that the meeting of the World Jewish Congress Executive in Montreal during early May adopted a resolution abandoning an earlier pronouncement of its American Section calling for a worldwide Jewish boycott of Pope John Paul II.

While this latest action may in time help ease the mounting tensions in Vatican-Jewish relations — the worst I have seen during the past 30 years — much damage has been done, and it will take considerable knowledge, experience and wisdom to correct the present troubled situation.

The core of the problem remains the presence of the Carmelite convent on the grounds of Auschwitz.

The pious, determined nuns created the problem by their unilateral transforming of a Nazi warehouse used for storing Zyklon-B gas into a convent. But some Jews, I believe, have misconstrued the stubborn Carmelite issue.

The removal of the convent to other quarters — which has been agreed upon by all parties — is overwhelmingly an issue that concerns the Polish Catholic Church, the Polish government, the Carmelite Order and world Jewry.

By church law and discipline, only the Polish church has the power to remove the convent, which is under its jurisdiction. The pope and the Vatican have much influence, but not the decision-making power, and there is a basic difference between power and influence.

Last week, Cardinal Jan Willebrands, Vatican head of Catholic-Jewish relations, at a meeting with several of us, confirmed that the Polish Catholic church possesses decisive authority to move the Carmelite convent to a new center.

He said the Vatican and he personally can and will help in the transfer, but only in the background.

It is a weird irony that most Roman Catholics have a limited perception of papal infallibility (only in "Faith and Morals"), but some Jews in their naivete believe that the pope is infallible in everything in the Catholic's world.

All he has to do is snap his fingers, and the convent and the nuns would disappear. If it has not disappeared yet, obviously the pope does not want it to, therefore, boycott the pope.

Well, the Vatican also knows how to play the boycott game. My intuition tells me — I don't yet have hard evidence to confirm it — that when the Vatican and the Anti-Defamation League canceled their scheduled meeting in early May, the first time to my knowledge that has happened with a Jewish group in 30 years since Vatican Council II, the Vatican was signaling that it does not like this boycott trifling with its Holy Father. If it continues, I'm afraid there will be further reprisals.

Meanwhile, the issue remains as it was at the beginning: The convent, which distorts the meaning of Auschwitz to the Jewish people, must be removed to an interim place until the new center and convent — which the pope committed himself to support in Vienna in June 1988 — are constructed.

That is the issue that must be negotiated directly, wisely and with calm effectiveness by world Jewry, the Polish Catholic authorities and the Polish government.

Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum is international consultant for the American Jewish Committee.

Jewish Advocate
6/6/1989

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By Bernard

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ISRAEL BUSTS 'POPULAR ARMY' OPERATED BY AL FATAH IN GAZA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) -- Indictments handed down in a military court have cast light on a little known "popular army" established last year in the southern part of the Gaza Strip.

The army, which was broken up by Israeli authorities, was apparently directed and financed by Al Fatah's office in Amman, Jordan. Fatah is the fighting arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization controlled by Yasir Arafat.

The army's purported role was to replace the local Arab police, threaten strikebreakers and other Palestinians who cooperate with Israel, and integrate its activities with the Palestinian uprising, Ha'aretz reported Wednesday.

The newspaper said that between 40 and 50 activists are in custody, including the top military and administrative leaders.

The paper identified them as Rabah Hamad, secretary of the military arm; Akram Arian, the military commander in Khan Yunis; Ramadan Dahlan, treasurer and regional coordinator; and Yassin Sharuf, who was responsible for administrative affairs in Khan Yunis.

According to the military prosecutor, the "popular army" was conceived by Al Fatah and established in the southern Gaza Strip in October 1988.

Hamad received a letter from Fatah headquarters instructing him to divide Khan Yunis into two districts, the town of Rafah into another and the refugee camps into a fourth district. Squads were set up and leaders chosen in each district.

Uniforms were purchased for the "soldiers," Ha'aretz reported. A pay scale was established. Unmarried men received the equivalent of \$60 a month in Jordanian dinars, and married men were paid \$100 a month.

Fatah approved about \$60,000 for expenses to be divided among the men.

HEAD OF WIZO QUOTES CARDINAL SAYING HE'S POWERLESS ON NUNS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) -- The ranking Roman Catholic prelate in Poland claims he is powerless to remove a Carmelite convent from the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp because the nuns refuse to leave, according to the president of the Women's International Zionist Organization.

Raya Yaglom reported here that she recently had a long conversation with the Polish cardinal, Franciszek Macharski.

He was one of the European cardinals who signed the Geneva agreement with world Jewish leaders in February 1987, promising that the convent would be relocated within two years.

"We spoke for two hours, and after much pressure he admitted he had signed the undertaking but was incapable of carrying it out," Yaglom said.

"He justified this by repeating over and over that he had not expected the nuns to be so recalcitrant and that he had anyway received tens of thousands of letters from Polish Catholics who wanted the convent left where it was," Yaglom reported.

She arrived in Israel after leading a 300-member international WIZO delegation on a study tour of Holocaust sites in Poland.

They staged a demonstration at the Auschwitz site to protest the continued presence of the convent.

Yaglom said she had her meeting with Macharski after the Auschwitz visit, when she asked him what the significance was of the 24-foot-high cross recently erected in front of the convent.

The cardinal told her it marked the place where the first Poles fell victim to the Nazis.

The WIZO head said her meetings in Poland left her "with the clear feeling that there is a strong desire there, particularly in the Church, to de-Judaize the Shoah and turn it into a Christian Holocaust."

She said of Cardinal Macharski, "At no point did he mention Jews or the suffering of the Jews. He spoke of Polish suffering, and he also denied that the convent's premises had ever been the storehouse for the death camp's Zyklon B gas cylinders."

But the Polish minister of religions, Vladislav Lorenc, admitted to Yaglom that the building that now houses the convent had indeed been used to store the gas, though it had not been the main storage.

Yaglom said that in parting, she asked the minister why he thought the Nazis chose Poland as the place to build their extermination camps.

"He went very red and said, 'That's a very provocative question,' without elaborating further," Yaglom reported.

FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS CALLS FOR END TO CATHOLIC-JEWISH TALKS

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) -- The Federation of Polish Jews in the United States said this week that it will demand suspension of Catholic-Jewish dialogue if a Carmelite convent built on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp is not removed forthwith.

The federation claimed that the furor aroused by the convent deterred plans by the Catholic Capuchin order to build a chapel on the site of Sobibor, another death camp in Poland, all of whose inmates were Jews.

Yecheiel Dobekirer and Leon Ilutovich, vice presidents of the federation, said in a statement that "had this development gone unchecked, we would soon have witnessed the establishment of additional convents, churches or chapels at Treblinka, Sobibor, Majdanek and other places where millions of Jews perished at the hands of the Nazis."

They criticized the Polish government for the convent being under its jurisdiction, saying "the government cannot be absolved of responsibility for developments like the one around the Carmelite convent in Auschwitz."

The federation specifically held Polish Cardinal Franciszek Macharski "chiefly responsible" for the continued failure to remove the convent from Auschwitz.

Macharski was one of the European cardinals who signed an agreement with world Jewish leaders in February 1987 in Geneva, pledging that the convent would be relocated within two years.

A resolution adopted by the Federation stated:

"As spokesmen of the largest community of Polish Jews in the world, representing one million Jews from Poland, we condemn the behavior of the Polish Catholic church hierarchy, and the evasive attitude of the Vatican, which violate the letter and spirit of the 1987 accord.

**KNESSET DEBATES, THEN DROPS,
PROPOSAL TO GIVE UP TERRITORIES**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 7 (JTA) -- The Knesset shelved a motion to debate whether Israel should divest itself of the administered territories, as violence in the territories continued Wednesday.

The issue in the Knesset was whether it would be feasible for Israel to rid itself of the West Bank and Gaza Strip before a political settlement is reached.

"Definitely no," was the reply of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Why not?" asked Haim Ramon, a fellow Laborite, who introduced the motion for debate.

The present situation between the Israelis and the Palestinians is intolerable and impossible to continue, argued Ramon, who comes from the dovish side of the party.

He warned that the daily presence in Israel of 120,000 Palestinian workers from the territories was disastrous for Israel's economy, its society and its moral image.

"The distorted co-existence between Jewish employers and Palestinian employees, between those who throw out the garbage and those who live in it, fuels the flames of hatred," Ramon said.

But Rabin insisted that Israel could not detach itself from the territories in the absence of a political solution.

He also argued that it would harm both the Israeli and Palestinian economic systems, because the construction, hotel and service industries in Israel rely on Arab workers, who in turn depend on Israel for their livelihood.

Conflicting Reports In Hebron

Nevertheless, security needs override even economic considerations, the defense minister said. He said the IDF reserves the right to limit work permits in Israel for Palestinians, in order to weed out those with criminal and security offense records.

Ramon's motion was removed from the agenda.

Meanwhile, a number of security incidents were reported in the territories:

- A fracas in Hebron involving a militant Jewish settler, Arabs and Israeli soldiers, led to gunfire and an automobile accident.

- The Israel Defense Force demolished the homes of two Nablus youths alleged to have thrown gasoline bombs at Jewish vehicles.

- Four yeshiva students arrested for the fatal shooting last week of a teen-aged Palestinian girl in Kifl Harit village were freed on bail. Three others remained in custody, at least until Thursday.

Scattered violence was reported in the West Bank and most of the Gaza Strip remained under curfew.

Palestinians continued a general strike in mourning for Omar Kassem, a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who died of cancer Sunday after spending 21 years in Israeli prisons.

Conflicting versions were given of events in Hebron.

According to the official report, Anat Cohen, a resident of the Jewish quarter who has scuffled with Arabs and with soldiers before, was engaged in fisticuffs Wednesday with three Arab women.

A soldier who tried to separate them was

shoved away by Cohen. A vehicle with three Arab passengers, moving slowly, allegedly bumped the Jewish woman.

An Egged bus escorted by military jeep passed by. The officer in the jeep fired a rubber bullet at the Arabs' car, which drove off.

Armed Jewish bus passengers then opened fire on the car with live bullets. They caused the driver to lose control. The car overturned, seriously injuring the driver.

Jewish settlers gave a different version. They denied that Cohen struck a soldier. They claimed an Arab-driven car deliberately tried to run her over. They denied the bus passengers fired weapons, claiming that the shots were fired by soldiers.

**U.S. FEARS INTIFADA WILL WORSEN,
BUT BELIEVES PLO IS MORE MODERATE**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) -- The United States believes that the Palestine Liberation Organization has become more flexible toward Israel.

It has warned the Israelis, however, that the Palestinian uprising will become more deadly and violent in the months ahead.

Those views emerged in recent official contacts between American intelligence officials and senior Israeli leaders, Ma'ariv reported Wednesday.

The uprising, which the Palestinians call the intifada, is already gaining momentum as the summer approaches.

It is spreading to areas that were previously relatively calm, and Palestinian efforts to acquire firearms are increasing, the American intelligence sources reportedly said.

But those sources know of no change in the PLO's orders against the use of firearms by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ma'ariv said the United States is convinced that the PLO accepts the Israeli idea of Palestinian elections in the territories and that its conditions for such elections are more flexible than they appear from the rhetoric of PLO leaders.

Washington believes a genuine change has occurred in the PLO's attitude toward Israel, including a recognition that it will have to negotiate with Israel, Ma'ariv reported.

ISRAELI ARMY KILLS TWO IN LEBANON
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force patrol killed two terrorists just north of the southern Lebanon security zone Tuesday night.

It was the fifth such encounter in 10 days and brought to 11 the number of would-be infiltrators killed by the IDF since May 28.

The army patrol, a unit of the Golani Brigade, was on a search-and-destroy mission when it detected the terrorists near Houna village. The soldiers opened fire as the intruders tried to escape.

In the same general area, the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army blew up a Hezbollah ammunition dump.

The Hezbollah, or Party of God, is the Iranian-backed militia of Shiite Moslem extremists who have worked closely with Palestinians in recent attempts to infiltrate Israel from southern Lebanon.

**JEWISH STUDENTS PROTEST CHINA'S
USE OF DEADLY FORCE IN BEIJING**

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA) -- The World Union of Jewish Students has protested in strong terms against the "indiscriminate use of force by the Chinese government" on students in Beijing.

WUJS, which has 200,000 members in 40 countries, announced Monday that it sent the protest to Chinese embassies all over the world.

According to various sources, as many as 7,000 students may have been killed on June 3, when the Chinese leadership sent troops and tanks to disperse students demonstrating for democratic reforms in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

The Chinese government maintains only 300 people were killed, most of them soldiers.

The WUJS statement said the organization "condemns in the strongest terms the use of indiscriminate force by the Chinese government and military against unarmed Chinese students and others calling for democracy."

It urged the Chinese government "to immediately cease all military and police actions and to enter into negotiations with the students."

The statement also called for the release of jailed activists.

In New York, a number of American Jewish groups last week issued statements condemning the Chinese government's action against the students.

Sholom Comay, national president of the American Jewish Committee, called the action "one of the major tragedies of our time" and urged the United States to reassess its relationship with the Chinese regime.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, who as president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation has led three missions to China, said the suppression of the student protest was "a shocking and bitterly disappointing event."

It has dealt a "serious setback for the cause of human rights in the People's Republic of China," he said.

**ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT ON AGENDA
OF GORBACHEV MEETINGS IN BONN**

By David Kantor

BONN, June 12 (JTA) -- The Arab-Israeli conflict is on the agenda of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's four-day visit to West Germany, where he arrived Monday.

He will be urged by his hosts to speed up the normalization process with Israel and re-establish full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state, a government official said.

According to the official, the Federal Republic believes the Soviet Union could contribute more effectively to the Middle East peace process if it had diplomatic relations with Israel.

At the moment, the Soviets and Israelis have consular delegations in each other's countries. But they are restricted in the scope of their diplomatic activities.

The Israeli delegation in Moscow has just been allowed to return to the Israel Embassy building, vacant since the Soviets broke relations with Israel in 1967.

But it still is not permitted to issue entry visas to thousands of Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate. Israeli visas are still being issued at the Israel interests section of the Dutch Embassy in Moscow.

**RABIN MEETS WITH FRENCH LEADERS,
BUT HIS REAL INTEREST IS AIR SHOW**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 12 (JTA) -- Israel Defense Force purchases will soon account for only 35 percent of the income of Israel's military industries, which are rapidly expanding their exports worldwide, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters here Monday.

Rabin, in Paris for official talks and to see the Air Show at Le Bourget, conferred with Prime Minister Michel Rocard Monday and was to meet Tuesday with Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement.

He met here Sunday with Soviet air force officers and engineers and spent over an hour with Nikolai Mikoyan, designer of the MIG-29.

According to Rabin, Israel's military industry "must increase its exports if it is to survive."

By the defense minister's own account, it seems to be doing well.

He said that six years ago, Israel exported only \$80 million worth of military equipment to the United States. In 1988, it had contracts for \$480 million worth, and its U.S. exports will reach the half billion dollar mark next year.

Israel has a favorable balance of weapons trade with Western Europe. Rabin disclosed that Israel buys between \$100 million and \$150 million worth of European weapons and sold \$180 million worth to Western Europe in 1988.

But the Israeli defense chief refused to give details of Israeli arms exports to Latin America, believed to be its largest weapons market.

Rabin canceled most of his appointments for Tuesday, in order to watch the Soviet aerial display at Le Bourget.

Officials here say intelligence reports reveal "huge" Soviet progress in the design and manufacture of Soviet combat aircraft and missiles, which would account for Rabin's special interest.

**BELGIANS STAGE WEEKLY VIGIL
TO PROTEST AUSCHWITZ CONVENT**

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, June 12 (JTA) -- Belgian Jews and non-Jews are maintaining a weekly vigil here to remind the Catholic Church of its failure to keep a pledge to relocate a Carmelite convent off the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp.

Each Wednesday afternoon, the protesters gather silently outside the residence of the papal nuncio, the Vatican's representative in Belgium, and wave banners demanding that the Church honor its promise.

The agreement to relocate the nuns was signed by four European cardinals with world Jewish leaders in Geneva on Feb. 22, 1987. It stipulated that the convent would be moved within two years.

The nuns have so far refused to leave, and the Church seems incapable of influencing them.

The Jewish community here, meanwhile, has extended the deadline to July 22.

The European Union of Jewish Students sent a message to Pope John Paul II last week reminding him that "there are only 50 days left" to have the nuns removed from the grounds of Auschwitz.

"We are counting on your support and assistance in settling this delicate matter, which threatens to divide Christians and Jews all over the world," the students' message read.

PALESTINIANS NOW WEAR IDF UNIFORMS TO PUNISH SUSPECTED COLLABORATORS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 12 (JTA) -- Palestinians in Nablus wearing exact replicas of Israel Defense Force uniforms are taking action against Arabs suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities and are even attacking IDF soldiers, Yediot Achronot reported Monday.

The uniforms, sewn by Arab women working at secret locations, are perfect imitations of IDF uniforms, except for insignia in the colors of the Palestinian flag.

In the past three months, Israeli soldiers have discovered duffel bags containing the uniforms and masks, concealed in niches in the Nablus casbah.

The bags hidden there are retrieved at night by members of so-called "shock committees," who then don the clothes and proceed to deal with collaborators.

A collection of homemade weapons used in the Palestinian uprising is currently on display at military government headquarters in Nablus.

They include slingshots, brass knuckles, knives, swords and uniforms similar to those used by terrorist organizations.

Also exhibited are Arabic translations of literature on combat from countries where improvised weapons have been used in warfare.

Yediot Achronot also reported that leaders of the uprising in the Nablus area have established underground first-aid stations to treat Palestinians with only slight gunshot wounds, in order to avoid sending them to hospitals where they could be identified and arrested by Israeli security forces.

Ha'aretz reported Monday that the defense establishment has decided that harsher measures are needed to deal with the intifada. Authorities plan to lengthen the period of administrative detention from six to 12 months.

Administrative detention, a holdover from the emergency regulations of the British Mandate era, allows the military authorities to hold a person in jail without trial or charges for a set period, which until now has been six months.

SOLDIER KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force soldier was killed and two others were slightly hurt in a road accident Monday morning in the Israeli-patrolled security zone in southern Lebanon.

The soldiers were riding in a convoy when their jeep apparently went out of control and overturned near the fishing harbor in the coastal town of Nakoura.

The dead soldier was identified as Najam Hazran, 21, from the Druse village of Yarka. The two others were treated for shock and sent back to their unit.

A committee was appointed by Gen. Yossi Peled, head of the IDF's northern command, to investigate the accident.

Senior IDF officers in southern Lebanon are critical of the way Israeli soldiers drive in the security zone.

"Some of us drive like crazy. We seem to have adopted the Lebanese standard," one officer admitted. "The roads here are terrible and accidents like this are bound to occur."

ISRAELI URGES WORLD PRESSURE ON ARABS TO BACK PEACE PLAN

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, June 12 (JTA) -- International pressure to convince the Palestinians to accept proposed elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is the key to the success of Israel's new peace plan, Israeli Cabinet Minister Ehud Olmert said Sunday.

"If the whole international community, the United States as the leader, along with the other European countries, will assume a very firm position on this issue," Olmert said, "then there is a genuine chance that this initiative will indeed lead to election of Palestinians, negotiations and then, hopefully, an agreement."

Olmert, who serves in the Cabinet as a minister without portfolio, made his remarks at a State of Israel Bonds dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here. He addressed an audience of Wall Street bankers, Israeli dignitaries and Israel Bonds supporters.

The event honored 12 banks that worked with Israel in refinancing \$4.8 billion of the Jewish state's military sales debt.

In his address, the Likud politician said Palestinians are facing pressure from the Palestine Liberation Organization to reject the idea of electing representatives for negotiations with Israel. The PLO, he said, "feels no need" for a democratic process.

"The PLO has been elected by itself, by the power of its guns, to represent the Palestinian people," Olmert said.

The Israeli official also touched on economic matters in his speech, calling for greater "privatization" of the Israeli economy and a reduction of "the day-to-day involvement of the government in the economy."

An End To Dependence On America

Olmert's call for reforms was echoed by former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead, who also spoke to the Bonds group. He urged Israel to make trade and investment "more attractive by reducing its own government's red tape."

Whitehead said Israel must continue working to free itself from dependence on American government support.

Until Israel can establish a strong and independent economy, he said, "her political position and her military position can never be entirely secure."

Both Olmert and Whitehead expressed hope that the cooperation between Wall Street and Israel in refinancing Israel's foreign debt would lead to future business partnerships.

The refinancing, which will save Israel approximately \$100 million a year in interest payments, was the result of a 1987 law allowing certain countries that owed money from purchases of U.S. military equipment when interest rates were high to refinance their debt at a lower interest rate.

The ceremony Sunday included the presentation of the Israel Finance Medal to representatives from each of the banks involved in Israel's debt refinancing.

Whitehead, currently chairman of AEA Investors, participated in the presentation of the awards. In doing so, he commented wryly, "Wall Street receives few public awards these days, so this is a somewhat unique occasion."

INTERNATIONAL JEWISH COMMITTEE
ON INTERRELIGIOUS CONSULTATIONS

June 14, 1989

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Synagogue Council of America
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World Jewish Congress
501 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022
(212) 755-5770

Dear IJCIC Member:

The following items are sent to you for your information:

JTA-6/13/89 Auschwitz Convent Casts a Shadow over Interfaith Ceremony in Brazil.

JTA-6/13/89 Belgians Stage Weekly Vigil to Protest Auschwitz Convent.

Jerus. POST-6/13/89 Church Putting Christian Stamp on Holocaust

JTA-6/7/89 Head of WIZO quotes Cardinal saying H's powerless on Nuns.

JTA (weekly roundup) 6/7/89 - Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum: Auschwitz Convent is not a Vatican-Jewish Conflict.

NC News Service-6/1/89 Vatican again asks Dissident Nuns to leave

Ha'aretz 5/25/89 He does not want to listen, mainly not from Jewish delegations (Hebrew).

JTA-6/7/89 Federation of Polish Jews calls for end to Catholic-Jewish talks.

Resolution of Federation of Polish Jews, adopted 6/24/89

Letter from Director General of UNESCO, 5/10/89 to the president of the Council of Belgian Jewish Women.

Relig. News Service-6/13/89 Jehan Sadat presents interfaith awards to a Catholic and Jew.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

06-13-89

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Jehan Sadat presents interfaith awards to a Catholic and Jew

By Rochelle G. Saidel
Special to Religious News Service

SAO PAULO, Brazil (RNS) — A Catholic and a Jewish leader who have devoted many years to furthering interfaith relations were presented the first "Patriarch Abraham" awards here by a prominent Muslim, Dr. Jehan Sadat.

Dr. Sadat, the widow of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, presented the awards June 11 on behalf of the National Commission for Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops.

Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, 80, president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, and Gerhart Riegner, 78, co-chairman of the Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, received the award in recognition of lifelong devotion to strengthening the relations between Catholics and Jews. The event was co-sponsored by the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops and the Jewish Confederation of Brazil.

In her keynote address, Dr. Sadat spoke of Abraham as the father of the three faiths and gave an overview of Abraham in the Koran and Muslim literature. Cardinal Willebrands also stressed the role of Abraham in the three faiths.

"This is the root of our common spiritual bond and of our common responsibility to promote human dignity, peace and freedom according to the high ethical standards God has given us," he said. "By means of our solidarity, we must avoid every form of modern racism, such as anti-Semitism, discriminatory legislation, and bio-engineering manipulation, from which genocide, ethnocide and racial and social discrimination flow."

The cardinal mentioned the "great change in our attitudes towards one another that took place after the Second Vatican Council in 1965." He said that both Catholics and Jews "look back with great sorrow upon the long history of divisions, polemics and misunderstandings which kept us apart for so long."

Cardinal Willebrands reviewed the early history of formalized Catholic-Jewish relations. After the Second Vatican Council, the Vatican established an office for Jewish relations. In 1970 a permanent International Liaison Committee was created, with five Catholic members approved by the pope and five Jewish members representing the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), of which Dr. Riegner was the first chairman. A Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews was established by the Vatican in 1974.

Both Cardinal Willebrands and Dr. Riegner referred to "tikkun olam," a phrase meaning "mending the world." The cardinal spoke of Christians and Jews cooperating in this responsibility "to make this world a better place while serving the kingdom of heaven." Dr. Riegner said one of the tasks of Catholic-Jewish relations is to ask, "What can we, in following our mutual traditions, do together to make our planet a more just, a more beautiful, a more hospitable place to dwell in?"

The Jewish leader said he was "convinced that Brazil offers particularly favorable conditions for such a constructive cooperation between our two communities, notably in the social and humanitarian domain." He added that "we have to think how we can extend our dialogue to the Muslim community, in spite of our present serious handicaps in this direction."

While lauding the progress in Catholic-Jewish relations made since Vatican II, Dr. Riegner also referred to the current controversy regarding the establishment of a Carmelite convent on the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. He said the location of the convent "deeply hurts Jews everywhere" and "seriously risks affecting the future of a harmonious Catholic-Jewish dialogue."

Dr. Riegner and Rabbi Henry Sobel, spiritual leader of Congregacao Israelita Paulista here, told a recent meeting of the World Jewish Congress in Montreal that the issue of the convent should not be a basis for severing Jewish relations with the Vatican.

Rabbi Sobel, whose synagogue is the largest in Latin America, was coordinator of the Brazilian Jewish community's co-sponsorship of the awards presented here. The Rev. Leonardo Martin, a Franciscan friar and coordinator of the National Commission for Catholic-Jewish Dialogue, was coordinator for the bishops' conference. The rabbi and the priest presented a special award to Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns of Sao Paulo in recognition of his dedication to Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

Commenting on Catholic-Jewish relations in Brazil, Rabbi Sobel said, "Problems remain here, but working together against extremists of the right and left, the experience of Catholics and Jews in Brazil offers a paradigm for joint action in the face of common concerns and for healing the breach between the two groups."

Brazil is the largest Catholic country in the world, with some 145 million people. About 90 percent of the population is Catholic, and there are only about 140,000 Jews. After both Catholic and Jewish leaders were shocked by the military government's murder of Jewish journalist Vladimir Herzog in 1975, the bishops' conference formed the National Commission for Catholic-Jewish Dialogue.

AUSCHWITZ CONVENT CASTS A SHADOW
OVER INTERFAITH CEREMONY IN BRAZIL
By Rochelle Saidel

SAO PAULO, Brazil, June 13 (JTA) -- The issue of a Carmelite convent on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp cast a shadow over an interfaith ceremony here Sunday night at which a Catholic and a Jew were honored by the Brazilian Bishops Conference.

Dr. Gerhart Riegner of Geneva, co-chairman of the World Jewish Congress Executive, and Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, received the Patriarch Abraham awards.

They were awarded by the Bishops Conference's Commission for Catholic-Jewish Dialogue, in recognition of the leaders' lifelong devotion to strengthening relations between Catholics and Jews.

The presentation was made by Dr. Jihan Sadat, a prominent Moslem lay leader who is the widow of the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

Riegner, in his remarks, urged the Bishops Conference to
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''use its influence in Rome and Krakow'' to resolve ''a serious conflict between the Jewish community and the Polish Church'' over the convent.

He explained that its presence at a site of Jewish mass extermination ''deeply hurts Jews everywhere'' and, ''because of the profound emotions it arouses, seriously risks affecting the future harmonious Catholic-Jewish dialogue.''

''We had thought that we had found a solution to the problem in the friendly talks in Geneva in February 1987,''' Riegner said. ''But unfortunately, nothing has happened so far to implement those agreements.''

He was referring to an agreement four European cardinals signed with world Jewish leaders in Geneva on Feb. 22, 1987. Under the agreement, the Catholic Church promised to relocate the convent within two years.

25 Years Of Progress

The deadline expired in February. The convent remains on the site and a 24-foot-high cross has been erected there in recent months.

The WJC Executive urged Pope John Paul II last month to ''exercise his authority to assure the removal of the convent from the grounds of Auschwitz without further delay.''

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Willebrands described Riegner as ''one of the main pillars''

of Catholic-Jewish relations over the past 25 years.

He reviewed the background to the "great change in our attitudes toward one another" that took place after the Second Vatican Council in 1965.

He recalled that shortly afterward, the Vatican established an office for Jewish relations. Then, in 1974, it instituted a Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, now headed by Willebrands.

In 1970, a permanent international liaison committee was created, with five Catholic members approved by the pope and five Jewish members representing the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations.

Riegner was the first chairman of IJCIC.

In his speech accepting his award, the WJC official hailed the Brazilian Bishops Conference for condemning anti-Semitism, acknowledging "the continuing tradition of the Jewish people as a living community" and recognizing "the right of the Jews to a tranquil political existence in their country of origin."

He noted that "for the Jewish people, these rights have become a reality in the existence of Israel."

The Vatican does not have diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

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'Model Of Mutual Recognition'

The awards ceremony was organized and overseen by Rabbi Henry Sobel of Sao Paulo and Leonardo Martin, coordinator of the Commission for Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of the Bishops Conference.

Sobel, spiritual leader of Congregacao Israelita Paulista, the largest synagogue in Latin America, called the event a milestone in the history of Catholic-Jewish relations in Brazil.

He noted that Brazil is the largest Catholic country in the world, with a population of 145 million, 90 percent of them Catholic. The Jewish population numbers about 150,000.

Despite this ratio of nearly 1,000 to 1, relations between Catholics and Jews in Brazil "are a model of mutual recognition and respect," Sobel said.

"The experience of Catholics and Jews in Brazil, working together against PLO extremists on the left and incipient neo-Nazi groups on the right, offers a paradigm for joint action in the face of common concerns -- and for building understanding of each other," the Sao Paulo rabbi said.

In her keynote address after presenting the awards, Sadat spoke of Abraham as the father of the three faiths and gave an overview of Abraham in the Koran and Islamic literature.

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**BELGIANS STAGE WEEKLY VIGIL
TO PROTEST AUSCHWITZ CONVENT**
By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, June 12 (JTA) -- Belgian Jews and non-Jews are maintaining a weekly vigil here to remind the Catholic Church of its failure to keep a pledge to relocate a Carmelite convent off the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp.

Each Wednesday afternoon, the protesters gather silently outside the residence of the papal nuncio, the Vatican's representative in Belgium, and wave banners demanding that the Church honor its promise.

The agreement to relocate the nuns was signed by four European cardinals with world Jewish leaders in Geneva on Feb. 22, 1987. It stipulated that the convent would be moved within two years.

The nuns have so far refused to leave, and the Church seems incapable of influencing them.

The Jewish community here, meanwhile, has extended the deadline to July 22.

The European Union of Jewish Students sent a message to Pope John Paul II last week reminding him that "there are only 50 days left" to have the nuns removed from the grounds of Auschwitz.

"We are counting on your support and assistance in settling this delicate matter, which threatens to divide Christians and Jews all over the world," the students' message read.

'Church putting Christian stamp on Holocaust'

Lea Levavi

WORLD WIZO president Raya Jaglom, back from a recent visit to Poland at the head of a 300-member Wizo delegation, believes the Catholic Church is trying to Christianize the Holocaust.

"It began with the beatification of the converted Jewess Edith Stein and continued with Waldheim's visit to Rome," Jaglom said in an interview. "I felt it keenly in my meeting with Cardinal Macharski, the cardinal of Crakow, who spent two hours talking to me about the Polish victims of the Nazis without saying a word about Jews. We have to nip this trend in the bud."

Her meeting with Macharski was part of a concerted effort by the Poles to dissuade her from leading a demonstration on behalf of Wizo and the World Jewish Congress against the Carmelite convent in Auschwitz.

She also met with Religious Affairs Minister Lorenc and Lt.-Col. Gornicki, chief of staff to Communist leader Jaruzelski. Lorenc told her that Poland had given the Carmelites land for a new convent but that the building would have to be constructed by the church. "There is no sign of building and I believe the instructions would have to come from Rome," Jaglom said. She said that she would recommend that the World Jewish Congress put pressure on the Vatican.

Gornicki told her that the president would "do something" about the Carmelite convent shortly. "When I had asked Macharski about the eight-metre-high cross erected at Auschwitz, he told me it was on the spot where Polish prisoners had been executed and was in their memory. Gornicki said he knew nothing about a cross and that the spot was not where the prisoners had died.

"I asked Lorenc why the Nazis had picked Poland for the concentration camps. He got redder than the red blouse I happened to be wearing and said it was a provocative question with an undertone. I said it wasn't, but he repeated the same answer and would say nothing else."

The Wizo delegation demonstrated at Auschwitz and visited other concentration camps, Jewish cemeteries, the remains of the ghettos and places where the members' grandparents or other relatives had lived.

"I sometimes felt as if I could smell the gas," said Jaglom. "Only beasts could have done what was done to our people; human beings couldn't have done it."

Her voice was filled with emotion and tears as she spoke of what she had seen. "This is why the church's effort at Christianization is so outrageous; we mustn't let them do it. What was important about our demonstration - and I hope other demonstrations will follow - is that it showed the Jews won't be silenced. We mustn't keep quiet."

HEAD OF WIZO QUOTES CARDINAL
SAYING HE'S POWERLESS ON NUNS
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) -- The ranking Roman Catholic prelate in Poland claims he is powerless to remove a Carmelite convent from the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp because the nuns refuse to leave, according to the president of the Women's International Zionist Organization.

Raya Yaglom reported here Wednesday that she had a long conversation with the Polish cardinal, Franciszek Macharski.

He was one of the European cardinals who signed the Geneva agreement with world Jewish leaders in February 1987, promising that the convent would be relocated within two years.

"We spoke for two hours, and after much pressure he admitted he had signed the undertaking but was incapable of carrying it out," Yaglom said.

"He justified this by repeating over and over that he had not expected the nuns to be so recalcitrant and that he had anyway received tens of thousands of letters from Polish
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Catholics who wanted the convent left where it was," Yaglom reported.

She arrived in Israel after leading a 300-member international WIZO delegation on a study tour of Holocaust sites in Poland.

They staged a demonstration at the Auschwitz site to protest the continued presence of the convent.

The women stood in silence, holding up Israeli flags, WIZO banners and signs reading, "Get the Carmelite Convent Out Of Auschwitz."

Yaglom said she had her meeting with Macharski after the Auschwitz visit, when she asked him what the significance was of the 24-foot-high cross recently erected in front of the convent.

The cardinal told her it marked the place where the first Poles fell victim to the Nazis.

The WIZO head said her meetings in Poland left her "with the clear feeling that there is a strong desire there, particularly in the Church, to de-Judaize the Shoah and turn it into a Christian Holocaust."

She said of Cardinal Macharski, "At no point did he mention Jews or the suffering of the Jews. He spoke of Polish suffering, and he also denied that the convent's premises had ever been the storehouse for the death camp's Zyklon B gas cylinders."

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But the Polish minister of religions, Vladislav Lorenc, admitted to Yaglom that the building that now houses the convent had indeed been used to store the gas, though it had not been the main storage.

Yaglom said that in parting, she asked the minister why he thought the Nazis chose Poland as the place to build their extermination camps.

"He went very red and said, 'that's a very provocative question,' without elaborating further," Yaglom reported.

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6/7/89

AUSCHWITZ CONVENT IS BETWEEN POLES AND JEWS;
IT IS NOT A VATICAN-JEWISH CONFLICT

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
(Copyright 1989, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.)

--NEW YORK

It is a positive thing that the meeting of the World Jewish Congress Executive in Montreal during early May adopted a resolution abandoning an earlier pronouncement of its American Section calling for a worldwide Jewish boycott of Pope John Paul II.

While this latest action may in time help ease the mounting tensions in Vatican-Jewish relations -- the worst I have seen during the past 30 years -- much damage has been done, and it will take considerable knowledge, experience and wisdom to correct the present troubled situation.

The core of the problem remains the presence of the Carmelite convent on the grounds of Auschwitz.

The pious, determined nuns created the problem by their unilateral transforming of a Nazi warehouse used for storing Zyklon-B gas into a convent. But some Jews, I believe, have misconstrued the stubborn Carmelite issue.

The removal of the convent to other quarters -- which has been agreed upon by all parties -- is overwhelmingly an issue that concerns the Polish Catholic Church, the Polish government, the Carmelite Order and world Jewry.

By church law and discipline, only the Polish church has the power to remove the convent, which is under its jurisdiction. The pope and the Vatican have much influence, but not the decision-making power, and there is a basic difference between power and influence.

Last week, Cardinal Jan Willebrands, Vatican head of Catholic-Jewish relations, at a meeting with several of us, confirmed that the Polish Catholic church possesses decisive authority to move the Carmelite convent to a new center.

He said the Vatican and he personally can and will help in the transfer, but only in the background.

It is a weird irony that most Roman Catholics have a limited perception of papal infallibility (only in "Faith and Morals"), but some Jews in their naivete believe that the pope is infallible in everything in the Catholic's world.

~~All he has to do is snap his fingers, and the convent and the nuns would disappear. If it has not disappeared yet, obviously the pope does not want it to, therefore, boycott the pope.~~

Well, the Vatican also knows how to play the boycott game. My intuition tells me -- I don't yet have hard evidence to confirm it -- that when the Vatican and the Anti-Defamation League canceled their scheduled meeting in early May, the first time to my knowledge that has happened with a Jewish group in 30 years since Vatican Council II, the Vatican was signaling that it does not like this boycott trifling with its Holy Father. If it continues, I'm afraid there will be further reprisals.

Meanwhile, the issue remains as it was at the beginning. The convent, which distorts the meaning of Auschwitz to the Jewish people, must be removed to an interim place until the new center and convent -- which the pope committed himself to support in Vienna in June 1988 -- are constructed.

That is the issue that must be negotiated directly, wisely, and with calm effectiveness by world Jewry, the Polish Catholic authorities and the Polish government.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum is international consultant for the American Jewish Committee.

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**CARMELITES-APPEAL June 1, 1989 (680 words) Follow-up
VATICAN AGAIN ASKS DISSIDENT NUNS TO LEAVE**

By Cindy Wooden

WASHINGTON (NC) — For a second time the Vatican has ordered four Discalced Carmelite nuns to end their eight-month barricade and cooperate with church officials who offer "the possibility of saving your vocation."

The nuns, protesting what they see as a liberalization of their austere lifestyle, have been barricaded in the infirmary of their New Jersey monastery since October.

Although the Vatican congregation for Religious has declined their appeal, the nuns "are going to remain where they are" and will file an appeal with the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican's highest court, said Betty Sutton, a spokeswoman for the dissident nuns at the Carmelite monastery in Morristown, N.J.

"The sisters are doing OK; they're holding up," Mrs. Sutton said in a June 1 telephone interview with National Catholic News Service.

The Vatican Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, in a letter dated May 15 and delivered to the nuns May 30, confirmed its Feb. 22 decision that all but the oldest protester, who is in her 70s, should leave the monastery.

Five Carmelites locked themselves in the infirmary in early October fearing they would be expelled from the monastery because of their outspoken objections to changes made in the community's contemplative lifestyle by Mother Theresa of the Trinity Hewitt, the prioress since 1987.

The changes included brighter lighting in the chapel, the purchase of a television set and the serving of sweets.

One of the protesters, 28-year-old Nicole Prescott, who was called Sister John of the Cross, left the barricade in March for health reasons. Her temporary vows as a Carmelite had expired, and she is no longer a nun.

Copies of the May 15 Vatican letters were sent to Bishop Frank J. Rodimer of Paterson, in whose diocese the monastery is located. The diocese issued a statement about the situation May 31.

The statement quoted the letters to the nuns as saying, "The problem has been carefully re-examined from all points of view."

"The good of your soul, the safeguarding of the values of religious life, respect for the established authority and the witness we have to render to the church convinces us to confirm what has been decided," the letter said.

The letter affirmed the Vatican's earlier decision that Sisters Teresita Romano and Maria Ercolano should "leave the monastery at Morristown and transfer to another monastery which is willing to accept you."

Sister Philomena Kostanowski, because of her "age and the state of health," may remain at the monastery if she promises "to obey the legitimate superior."

The temporary vows of 34-year-old Lynn Williams, who was called Sister Bernadette of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have also expired.

"Considering that the chapter (an official gathering of the community's members) did not admit you to solemn profession — this is the unquestionable right of the community — and because the time for which your profession was made has elapsed, you are obliged to leave the monastery," the letter to Miss Williams said.

In a separate letter to Bishop Rodimer, Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, prefect of the Apostolic Signature, said, "There is no recourse pending before this supreme tribunal concerning the Carmelite sisters of Morristown."

However, a Vatican source told National Catholic News Service in Rome June 1 that the nuns do have a right to bring their case before the Signature. According to canon law, the court handles "contentions legitimately referred to it which arise from an act of ecclesiastical administrative power."

The nuns would pursue the appeals process because "their case has never been disclosed and defended before the supreme court," Mrs. Sutton said.

FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS CALLS
FOR END TO CATHOLIC-JEWISH TALKS

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) -- The Federation of Polish Jews in the United States said this week that it will demand suspension of Catholic-Jewish dialogue if a Carmelite convent built on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp is not removed forthwith.

The federation claimed that the furor aroused by the convent deterred plans by the Catholic Capuchin order to build a chapel on the site of Sobibor, another death camp in Poland, all of whose inmates were Jews.

Yechiel Dobekirer and Leon Ilutovich, vice presidents of the federation, said in a statement that "had this development gone unchecked, we would soon have witnessed the establishment of additional convents, churches or chapels at Treblinka, Sobibor, Majdanek and other places where millions of Jews perished at the hands of the Nazis."

They criticized the Polish government for the convent being under its jurisdiction, saying "the government cannot be
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absolved of responsibility for developments like the one around the Carmelite convent in Auschwitz."

The federation specifically held Polish Cardinal Franciszek Macharski "chiefly responsible" for the continued failure to remove the convent from Auschwitz.

Macharski was one of the European cardinals who signed an agreement with world Jewish leaders in February 1987 in Geneva, pledging that the convent would be relocated within two years.

A resolution adopted by the Federation stated, "As spokesmen of the largest community of Polish Jews in the world, representing one million Jews from Poland, we condemn the behavior of the Polish Catholic church hierarchy, and the evasive attitude of the Vatican, which violate the letter and spirit of the 1987 accord signed by four cardinals of the Church -- among them Franciszek Cardinal Macharski of Cracow, whose archdiocese includes the Auschwitz camp site."

The Federation said that any further delay in implementing the agreement would leave it no choice but to demand suspension of the Catholic-Jewish interfaith dialogue and worldwide severance of Catholic-Jewish relations.

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FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS

OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

אמריקאנער פֿעדעראציע פֿון פּוילישע יידן
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RESOLUTION

**ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION OF
POLISH JEWS OF THE UNITED STATES AT ITS MEETING IN
NEW YORK CITY ON MAY 24, 1989.**

The Federation of Polish Jews of the United States expresses its outrage and indignation at the continuing postponements to remove the convent of Carmelite nuns from the site of the Auschwitz death camp, where it was established in 1984 by the Catholic church of Poland.

More than any other place in the world, Auschwitz stands out as a symbol of the Holocaust of the Jewish people. Among the millions murdered there, three quarters of the victims were Jews.

Auschwitz, its crematoria and gas chambers are an eternal memorial to Jewish martyrdom and human suffering. There is no place there for convents, chapels and houses of worship of any denomination. The site of the notorious death camp should be left as is. Never should human hands attempt to change it. But the Catholic church in Poland has made an attempt to do just that.

As spokesmen of the largest community of Polish Jews in the world, representing one million Jews from Poland, we condemn the behavior of the Polish catholic church authorities and the evasive attitude of the Vatican which violate the letter and the spirit of the 1987 accord, signed by four Cardinals of the church, among them Franciszek Cardinal Macharski of Cracow, Poland, whose archdiocese includes the Auschwitz camp site.

This accord clearly stipulated the relocation of the convent by last February. Along with his superiors in the Vatican and in Poland, Cardinal Macharski is chiefly responsible for the present situation and should be called to account for the manner in which he approached an issue of grave moral significance.

No amount of excuses can justify any further delay to relocate the Carmelite convent. If action is not taken in this direction forthwith, the Federation of Polish Jews of the United States will demand immediate suspension of the Catholic-Jewish interfaith dialogue and worldwide severance of Catholic-Jewish relations.

The Executive Committee of the Federation of Polish Jews of the United States further resolves to present this resolution to Polish government representatives accredited in the United States for transmittal to the government in Warsaw and to the Catholic church authorities in Poland. Furthermore, the resolution will be presented to the Apostolic Nuncio in Washington for transmittal to the Vatican.



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Le Directeur général

référence : DG/4.5/01/7.3/POL

10 MAI 1989

Madame,

Par votre lettre du 17 mars dernier, vous avez bien voulu appeler mon attention sur le projet d'installation d'un couvent de Carmélites dans un bâtiment du camp d'Auschwitz.

Comme vous le savez sans doute, dès 1986 l'inquiétude suscitée par les projets d'aménagement et d'affectation au Carmel du "Theatergebäude" d'Auschwitz avait été partagée par mon prédécesseur et par le Président du Comité du patrimoine mondial, en raison de l'inscription du camp d'Auschwitz-Birkenau sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

A l'époque les autorités polonaises avaient été informées par les soins de l'Unesco de l'émotion qu'avait soulevée cette question. Des consultations ont eu lieu entre des représentants des différentes communautés intéressées et une solution satisfaisante pour toutes les parties a été trouvée, sur la base d'un accord de principe portant sur le respect dû au site d'Auschwitz.

Les contacts nécessaires vont être pris avec les autorités polonaises afin d'appeler leur attention sur votre communication.

Par ailleurs, le Secrétariat ne manquera pas de transmettre tous les éléments dont il disposera sur cette question au Bureau du Comité du patrimoine mondial lors de sa prochaine session.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Madame, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.


Federico Mayor

Madame E. Sperling-Levin
Présidente
Conseil des Femmes juives de Belgique A.S.B.L.
Voskenslaan 137
B 9000 Gent (Belgique)

**AUSCHWITZ CONVENT CASTS A SHADOW
OVER INTERFAITH CEREMONY IN BRAZIL**
By Rochelle Saidel

SAO PAULO, Brazil, June 13 (JTA) -- The issue of a Carmelite convent on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp cast a shadow over an interfaith ceremony here Sunday night at which a Catholic and a Jew were honored by the Brazilian Bishops Conference.

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The presentation was made by Dr. Jihan Sadat, a prominent Moslem lay leader who is the widow of the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

Riegner, in his remarks, urged the Bishops Conference to "use its influence in Rome and Krakow" to resolve "a serious conflict between the Jewish community and the Polish Church" over the convent.

He explained that its presence at a site of Jewish mass extermination "deeply hurts Jews everywhere" and, "because of the profound emotions it arouses, seriously risks affecting the future harmonious Catholic-Jewish dialogue."

"We had thought that we had found a solution to the problem in the friendly talks in Geneva in February 1987," Riegner said.

"But unfortunately, nothing has happened so far to implement those agreements."

He was referring to an agreement four European cardinals signed with world Jewish leaders in Geneva on Feb. 22, 1987.

Under the agreement, the Catholic Church promised to relocate the convent within two years.

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He reviewed the background to the "great change in our attitudes toward one another" that took place after the Second Vatican Council in 1965.

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In 1970, a permanent international liaison committee was created, with five Catholic members approved by the pope and five Jewish members representing the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations.

Riegner was the first chairman of IJCIC.

In his speech accepting his award, the WJC official hailed the Brazilian Bishops Conference for condemning anti-Semitism, acknowledging "the

continuing tradition of the Jewish people as a living community" and recognizing "the right of the Jews to a tranquil political existence in their country of origin."

He noted that "for the Jewish people, these rights have become a reality in the existence of Israel."

The Vatican does not have diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

'Model Of Mutual Recognition'

The awards ceremony was organized and overseen by Rabbi Henry Sobel of Sao Paulo and Leonardo Martin, coordinator of the Commission for Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of the Bishops Conference.

Sobel, spiritual leader of Congregacao Israelita Paulista, which is the largest synagogue in all of Latin America, called the event a milestone in the history of Catholic-Jewish relations in Brazil.

He noted that Brazil is the largest Catholic country in the world, with a population of 145 million, 90 percent of them Catholic. The Jewish population numbers about 150,000.

Despite this ratio of nearly 1,000 to 1, relations between Catholics and Jews in Brazil "are a model of mutual recognition and respect," Sobel said.

"The experience of Catholics and Jews in Brazil, working together against PLO extremists on the left and incipient neo-Nazi groups on the right, offers a paradigm for joint action in the face of common concerns -- and for building understanding of each other," the Sao Paulo rabbi said.

In her keynote address after presenting the awards, Sadat spoke of Abraham as the father of the three faiths and gave an overview of Abraham in the Koran and Islamic literature.

**IRANIAN JEWS MAY BE WORSE OFF
IN AFTERMATH OF KHOMEINI'S DEATH**

NEW YORK, June 13 (JTA) -- As bad as their situation was under the rule of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Jews of Iran may find themselves in even more precarious straits under his successor.

That is the opinion of Rabbi Shlomo Berger, director of the Near and Middle East Section of the Agudath Israel of America. He is considered to be an authority on Iran's Jewish community, which is said to number between 25,000 and 30,000.

"While Khomeini was alive, the Jewish community encountered hardship and suffering, but the political atmosphere was relatively stable and they usually had a clear idea where they stood," Berger said.

"Now, with various factions rivaling for control, the uncertainty in itself compounds the precariousness of the Jews' situation."

Berger, who heads Agudath Israel's worldwide assistance efforts for Jews in distress, said his office is besieged by telephone calls from Iranian Jews who settled in the United States in recent years, seeking information about events in Iran.

He said his organization has received updated information from Jews who left Iran after Khomeini's death. But he would not be specific.

"We are monitoring the situation very closely. It's time to be alert and to pray that things will work out favorably," Berger said.

MEDIEVAL HAGGADAH UP FOR AUCTION SAID TO HAVE BEEN STOLEN YEARS AGO

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, June 13 (JTA) -- A valuable French medieval Haggadah set to be auctioned in Geneva next week was stolen several years ago from Poland, Judaica experts say.

The Jewish Historical Institute of Warsaw, which last possessed the Wolf Haggadah, has alerted the police, the Polish Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Polish Foreign Ministry that the item is being auctioned in Switzerland, said Rabbi Philip Hiatt, who has been in contact with the institute.

Hiatt is assistant to the president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

The Wolf Haggadah, valued at half a million dollars, according to its pre-sale estimate, is expected to be the highlight of a June 19 auction conducted by Habsburg Feldman Co., the first major auction of Judaica held in Geneva.

But Hiatt is calling on Habsburg Feldman to facilitate the return of the Haggadah to Warsaw.

"It should be returned to where it was stolen from," he said.

In 1982, Hiatt organized the showing of the Wolf Haggadah, along with other Judaica, in an exhibit that traveled to three U.S. cities.

The exhibit, called "Fragments of Greatness Rediscovered," was displayed in New York's Jewish Museum before being taken to Baltimore and Los Angeles.

Habsburg's managing director, David Feldman, has said that the anonymous owner of the Haggadah had supplied his auction house with documentation of legal ownership.

Hiatt called that documentation "pure, utter nonsense."

The Wolf Haggadah is named for a 19th-century German collector who donated the Haggadah to Berlin's Jewish community. It is believed that the Haggadah was confiscated by the Nazis, and ended up in Poland after World War II.

Hiatt said the Haggadah was offered for sale two years ago in England, but the prospective buyer changed her mind after hearing it was stolen.

The richly illustrated Haggadah "is a very rare object, and very valuable," said Menahem Schmelzer, professor of medieval Hebrew literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary. "My concern is that this fine piece should become accessible to the public and should be preserved."

WORLDWIDE COMMEMORATIONS HELD MARKING ANNE FRANK'S BIRTHDAY

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, June 13 (JTA) -- The small, gray-haired woman climbed the marble pulpit and addressed the audience in a soft Dutch accent.

"I was Anna Frank's playmate. We used to meet after school in the big square in Amsterdam South. She was lively and popular and although we were the same age, she was already much more mature. While we were playing marbles, she was already smiling at boys.

"I remember being taken to meet her mother at their apartment. Five years later, beside a railway track in Russia, after our liberation from Auschwitz, I introduced my mother to Mr. Frank. In 1953, Anna became my posthumous stepsister."

Eva Schloss told her simple tale at a commemorative concert Monday night at New York's

Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, on what would have been Anne Frank's 60th birthday.

Frank died in the Nazi concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen in 1945, a month before British troops liberated the camp on April 15 and three months shy of her 16th birthday.

The diary she kept as her family hid from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic, saved by non-Jewish friends and released by her father, has for 40 years pricked the conscience of the world.

The concert, sponsored by the American Friends of the Anne Frank Center and the International Center for Holocaust Studies of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, was one of the largest events being held this week worldwide to mark the anniversary.

Other ceremonies included a lecture at the Holocaust Resource Center in Allentown, Pa., special broadcasts on public television, and art exhibits and discussion groups at youth centers throughout Frankfurt, West Germany, the city of Anne's birth.

ADL chose the occasion to release a special Holocaust curriculum for secondary school students, and Doubleday used the event to publish an unexpurgated critical edition of the diary.

For Schloss and others appearing at the New York commemoration, including the actress Liv Ullman, the anniversary was a time not only to remember the gifts of the young writer but to defy those evils -- from war to homelessness -- that still cause the deaths of children.

The Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra played conductor Lukas Foss' "Elegy for Anne Frank," composed specially for the concert. And high-school student Matthew Silver read his prize-winning essay, "What Anne Frank Means to Me."

"Why weren't tears shed and protests held when they could have saved the victims?" he asked, his voice echoing and extending into the far reaches of the cavernous cathedral. "We must stand up for morality and decency and never allow inhumanity to be accepted by our silence."

HUMOR CONFERENCE NO LAUGHING MATTER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 13 (JTA) -- The Third International Conference on Jewish Humor will be held at Tel Aviv University here next week -- but the participants will not be telling jokes or talking about the Palestinian uprising, the main topic of conversation in Israel these days.

Noting that politics remains the focus of any conversation in Israel, Avner Ziv, a psychology professor at the university, said that "there is life outside of politics. In fact, one of the original things about the conference is that there will not be one word about the intifada."

Sam Girgus, of the University of Oregon, will be lecturing on "Philip Roth and Woody Allen: Freudian Poetics and the Humor of the Oppressed," while Paulo Santarcangelo of Italy's University of Turin will talk about "Fundamental Features of Jewish Humor in Time and Space."

Ziv pointed out that when the Jews started leaving Eastern Europe, the "schlemiels" (fools) went to America and the "chutzpaniks" (gutsy ones) went to Israel.

The fools continued to invent and trade Jewish jokes in the "goldena medina," while the hard-headed idealists put their chutzpah to work clawing out the Jewish state.

But in the process, they became so serious they lost one of the best Jewish traits -- humor.

Rabin maintained that the Palestinians now have an option. "They must choose between negotiations and violence. It is up to them to make the decision," he said.

The Palestine Liberation Organization has informed the United States that it would consider the election option only if guaranteed that Israeli military forces will be withdrawn from the territories beforehand.

Israeli leaders have ruled out such an evacuation. But Rabin's stated willingness to discuss where troops would be deployed indicates that the Israeli position on this point may be more flexible than previously believed.

Rabin said that Israel has two parallel tasks in the administered territories: to maintain order and to prepare for the negotiating process.

He spoke at a breakfast meeting with a group of about 20 intellectuals, including Marie-Claire Mendes-France, widow of the late French Jewish prime minister, Pierre Mendes-France.

Mendes-France has been sympathetic to both Israel and the Palestinian cause. She met with PLO leader Yasir Arafat last Friday in Tunis.

Rabin praised U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's May 22 speech on the Middle East, though it angered many Israelis.

"The only misgivings I have deal with the fact that he talked about the final outcome of the negotiating process by calling on us to give up the vision of a Greater Israel.

"The final outcome should be left open," Rabin said.

Rabin met Monday with Premier Michel Rocard and with the French defense minister, Jean-Pierre Chevenement, on Tuesday. He was due to return to Israel Wednesday morning.

IDF CRACKS DOWN ON WEST BANK GANGS, ARRESTING 50 AND DEMOLISHING HOMES By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 13 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force cracked down this week on terrorist gangs in the Nablus and Jenin areas that have targeted Palestinians believed to be cooperating with the Israeli authorities.

The army also imposed a curfew on the Tulkarm refugee camp Tuesday following disturbances there.

More than 50 arrests were made in the Nablus area. Four houses belonging to suspects were demolished and six were sealed off, following the arrests.

The security forces hope the roundup put an end to the yearlong firebomb attacks in the Nablus area, which badly burned several people and caused extensive property damage.

Targets of the bombings included the local planning office, a Bank Leumi branch and several cafes.

The Jenin gang was responsible for the death of a local policeman last year. The homes of two of its members were demolished, and four other houses were sealed off.

The demolitions were carried out after the High Court of Justice rejected an appeal from a family living in one of the two homes. The other family did not appeal.

In other punitive actions, the IDF demolished a house in Beit Ummar and sealed two others in Samua village, in the Hebron area. The owners were arrested for allegedly attacking local residents and for other acts of violence.

A Gaza military court imposed prison sen-

tences Tuesday on three Arab youths accused of illegal assembly and incitement.

One received 30 months in jail and another got two years for incitement. A third youth was sentenced to 20 months in jail and fined \$635 for throwing objects at an army patrol.

The army barred a pro-Palestinian group of Israelis on Tuesday from entering the Dehaishe refugee camp, near Bethlehem. The army said it could not be responsible for its safety.

Meanwhile, Shmuel Goren, coordinator of government activities in the administered territories, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday that the civil administration is searching for ways to reopen Palestinian schools.

Israel has come under considerable criticism abroad for the closures.

Goren said the civil administration would only agree to reopen the schools if it received guarantees they would not be used for incitement to violence.

SAGGING TRADE, UNEMPLOYMENT RISE POINT TO A RECESSION IN ISRAEL By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 13 (JTA) -- Israel's economy appears to be sinking into a recession and business leaders do not expect it to recover this year, despite rosier forecasts by the Treasury.

According to newly released figures, the trade deficit has widened, exports are stagnant and unemployment is on the rise.

Industrial output has fallen 2.5 percent so far this year, on top of a 3.5 percent decline in 1988, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported.

Treasury officials say the immediate effect of the economic downturn has been a sharp drop in tax revenues, which may force a further tightening of the state budget.

Officials of the Manufacturers Association told a news conference in Tel Aviv on Monday that measures the Treasury adopted in January to stimulate economic growth were insufficient.

They accused the country's economic policymakers of misleading the public, dubbing them the "national anesthetizers."

Exports have not risen despite the devaluation of the shekel and the erosion of salaries, the business leaders pointed out.

Industrial wages for the first three months of 1989 dropped to the level of the second quarter of 1987.

ANOTHER SOLDIER DIES IN ACCIDENT By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, June 13 (JTA) -- A reserve soldier was killed Tuesday morning and two other soldiers were injured in the second fatal road accident in two days involving an Israel Defense Force jeep.

It occurred in Halhoul, near Hebron in the West Bank, under circumstances that were not immediately clear. The driver is believed to have lost control of the jeep, possibly because a tire blew out.

The soldier who died was identified as staff Sgt. Rafi Baruch. The two injured soldiers were taken to Hadassah University Hospital, Ein Kerem.

An IDF soldier was killed and two others injured only 24 hours earlier, when their jeep overturned in the southern Lebanon security zone.

NCSJ CONDITIONALLY SUPPORTS WAIVER OF JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT SANCTIONS
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 13 (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry said Tuesday it was "prepared to support a waiver" of sanctions contained in the 1975 Jackson-Vanik Amendment, if President Bush receives "appropriate assurances" from the Soviet Union in four key areas.

The conference's preconditions for granting such a waiver are a sustained high level of Soviet emigration; codification of emigration laws; progress on resolving the cases of long-term refuseniks; and reversal of emigration refusals to those who allegedly had access to state secrets.

In essence, the vote gives a green light to the Bush administration to urge the 12-month waiver, something the administration would be loath to do without significant American Jewish support.

"It gives a signal that if they feel comfortable with a waiver, that's their option," said Martin Wenick, executive director of the National Conference.

A waiver would grant the Soviets most-favored-nation trade status and allow them to receive U.S. government credits for the first time since 1975.

On May 12, President Bush said he would support a temporary waiver if the Soviet Union codifies its emigration laws. A day earlier, Secretary of State James Baker said it would also be appropriate to waive the less-powerful Stevenson Amendment, which withholds U.S. government loan guarantees, should the emigration reforms be institutionalized.

President Bush "has that first responsibility -- to act in the best interest of the United States," Shoshana Cardin, chairwoman of the National Conference, said at a news conference convened Tuesday afternoon to announce her organization's new policy stance.

Only Three Members Dissented

The new policy was approved overwhelmingly by the conference's Board of Governors, which met here Monday and Tuesday. Of 52 voting members, only three dissented and one abstained.

The three voting against the policy change were the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and representatives of two undisclosed Jewish federations. A third federation representative abstained.

The vote came after four hours of discussion and debate that were "wrought with emotion," said Cardin. The 14-year-old amendment has become for the Soviet Jewry movement the ultimate measure of U.S. intentions on Soviet emigration matters.

There was no discussion of the Stevenson Amendment, because it did not have the same "vested interest" for the Jewish community, said Cardin.

The National Conference, a coalition of 47 national Jewish groups and close to 300 Jewish community relations councils and federations, announced Jan. 10 that it planned to reassess its position on Jackson-Vanik.

The organized Jewish community had been anxiously awaiting NCSJ's decision, in the wake of

the marked increase in Soviet Jewish emigration over the past six months, projected to exceed 40,000 this year.

Supporters of a waiver include the World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Congress, the Workmen's Circle and the majority of delegates to the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council plenum in February.

Delegates to the NJCRAC plenum included representatives from 110 local Jewish community relations councils, as well as national Jewish groups including the American Jewish Committee and American Jewish Congress.

NJCRAC Takes Action, Too

The decision Tuesday is "very much consistent" with an action taken Monday by the executive committee of NJCRAC, which met in Cincinnati.

Albert Chernin, executive vice chairman of NJCRAC, said in an interview from Cincinnati that his group also based its decision on "assurances that the U.S. would seek the cooperation of Congress in granting a temporary waiver should the Soviet Union codify its immigration laws."

Opponents of a waiver at this time include the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, representing 50 local Soviet Jewry councils and 100,000 members worldwide.

Pamela Cohen, national president of the Union of Councils, said in an interview from Chicago that the National Conference decision could be seen by the Soviets as "a premature major concession."

Cohen said the Union of Councils wants more than "assurances" of Soviet progress, but "resolution of all the long-term cases and publication and implementation of legislation" consistent with past Soviet promises.

The Soviets pledged in January, in a human rights agreement signed in Vienna, to codify a liberalization of its emigration practices.

But according to Cardin of the National Conference, "this is not the end of the process, but a beginning." Noting that her organization's announcement "culminated six months of study," she called this a "historic day."

(JTA staff writer Andrew Silow Carroll in New York contributed to this report.)

RABIN SAYS DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS DURING ELECTIONS IS NEGOTIABLE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 13 (JTA) -- Israel will not agree to remove security forces from the territories during the proposed Palestinian elections there. But where troops will be stationed is a matter "open to negotiations," Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said here Tuesday.

Rabin, in Paris on an official visit and to attend the air show at Le Bourget, spoke to a group of French intellectuals about Israel's peace plan which, among other things, calls for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I don't want to go into any details before we have a positive reply from our future negotiating partners," the defense minister said.

So far, none of those prospective interlocutors has stepped forward.

FATE OF 14TH-CENTURY HAGGADAH NOW IN HANDS OF SWISS JUDGE

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 18 (JTA) -- The fate of a valuable medieval Haggadah is moving from the auction floor to the courtroom.

A Swiss judge will rule Monday whether the contested Wolf Haggadah will go on sale that same evening, or whether the sale will be stopped, in order to give those claiming ownership of the Haggadah time to submit their pleas.

Marek Potovsky, spokesman for Habsburg Feldman auction house, said the 14th-century manuscript, valued at about half a million dollars, is being claimed by three parties.

Two of the claimants are the Jewish communities of East and West Berlin. The third is the Polish government, representing the Warsaw's Jewish Historical Institute.

Court sources said Judge Vladimir Stemberger will meet Monday with attorneys representing the various claimants and then decide if the sale should proceed.

The possibility remains that the Haggadah could be sold that same evening, along with other Judaica scheduled to be auctioned.

The controversy over the Haggadah's ownership stems from its mysterious history.

Albert Wolf, a German Jew, reportedly donated the manuscript to Berlin's Jewish community around the turn of the century. The Haggadah disappeared during World War II and turned up in the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw in 1946.

In 1982, the Haggadah was part of an exhibit shown in three U.S. cities, entitled "Fragments of Greatness Rediscovered."

Shortly afterward, it was allegedly stolen from the Historical Institute.

Heskel Toporowitch of Tel Aviv, Habsburg Feldman's consultant on the Haggadah, disputes this version of the Haggadah's history.

Toporowitch claims the manuscript belonged to a small synagogue in Berlin, where it disappeared during World War II. No one knows, he said, what happened to it next.

Toporowitch, who is in Geneva for the auction, said he did not believe that either the East or West Berlin Jewish community or the Polish government had a legitimate claim on the manuscript.

Habsburg Feldman spokesman Potovsky told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency the auction house "shall obviously abide by the court's ruling."

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

RARE MOSAIC REPORTEDLY PURLOINED FROM BEIT SHE'AN EXCAVATION SITE

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- A rare mosaic floor was stolen from an archaeological excavation site at Beit She'an, in northern Israel, apparently late Thursday night.

The mosaic, dating from the Roman Byzantine period, measures 5 feet square and shows the Roman goddess Tyche with a crown on her head, holding a horn of plenty in her hand.

Experts have stated that the mosaic is one of the most impressive finds at the Beit She'an excavations.

Archaeologist Giora Soler of the Education Ministry's antiquities section said the theft was

revealed early Friday morning and that it was a professional job.

"The thieves removed the goddess from the rest of the mosaic in a most professional way, and probably without damaging the mosaic," Soler said. He said he believes the perpetrators were professional antiquities thieves and that the theft was well planned.

Soler said the value of the stolen mosaic cannot be estimated, "since it's one of a kind in Israel and abroad."

"I'm shocked by the sheer nerve of the thieves -- to steal such a rare mosaic," he said.

Archaeologist Gabi Mozer, manager of the Beit She'an site, said that there is no possibility of selling the mosaic in Israel. He said all sea-ports and airports have been notified to prevent the smuggling of the artifact out of the country.

BUNDESTAG REJECTS BID TO CENSURE OFFICIAL WHO DEFENDED WAFFEN SS

By David Kantor

BONN, June 18 (JTA) -- The West German parliament last week rejected a resolution censuring government spokesman Hans Klein for remarks last month in which he appeared to defend the actions of the Waffen SS.

Klein, a member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democratic Union, was quoted as saying that members of the Nazi elite force were not criminals, but regular soldiers who acted in the belief they were serving their country.

The Bundestag also rejected a separate motion which sought to distance the house from Klein's remarks.

Both motions were easily defeated by the governing majority of the CDU and Free Democratic Party. Voting for the motions were the Greens and some members of the Social Democratic Party.

Klein, who holds the rank of minister, was quoted in early May by the Munich weekly Quick as saying the Waffen SS was "a fighting unit, not criminals."

Political observers believe Klein's defense was meant to recapture conservative voters who recently deserted the CDU for the extreme right-wing Republican Party and other factions.

Last Thursday in Parliament, Jutta Oesterle-Schwerin of the left-wing Greens, a Jerusalem-born deputy who holds Israeli citizenship, said no distinction could be made between the SS and the Waffen SS, a unit which sometimes had combat assignments.

Oesterle-Schwerin pointed out that during the war, regular exchanges took place between concentration camp guards and members of the combat troops.

She also said the Wehrmacht, the 3rd German army, committed many atrocities, too, and was part of the Nazi machinery.

Her statements caused an uproar.

Members of the CDU repeatedly shouted "rabble-rouser" when she said that opponents of the Nazis and deserters were the heroes of the time, not the Waffen SS.

Klein defended his remarks, saying it was wrong to earmark all members of the SS as criminals.

He also said he did not mean to offend Holocaust survivors and was merely echoing former utterances by leading West Germans, including the late Social Democratic leader Kurt Schumacher.

SENATE CONFIRMS BUSH'S CHOICE TO HEAD BUREAU ON MIDDLE EAST

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 18 (JTA) -- The Senate last week confirmed John Kelly to be assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

President Bush, meanwhile, announced that Richard Schifter would continue as assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, retaining the post he has held since late 1985, when he succeeded Elliott Abrams.

Kelly, who was confirmed by voice vote June 14, began work immediately, co-chairing a U.S.-Soviet meeting of Middle East experts here last Thursday and Friday.

Kelly co-chaired the meeting with Dennis Ross, who heads the department's policy-planning staff and who led a State Department delegation last month to Israel, Egypt and Jordan.

Leading the Soviet side was Vladimir Polyakov, who heads the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East department. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Friday she would have nothing to report about the meeting.

Meanwhile, a letter signed by more than 230 members of the House of Representatives was sent to Secretary of State James Baker on Friday.

Similar to one sent a week before by 95 senators, the letter calls on the secretary to show full support for Israel's proposal for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Also on Friday, Israel's minister of justice, Dan Meridor, met with Baker, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Robert Kimmitt and Attorney General Dick Thornburgh.

Meridor also spoke Friday at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and Saturday at the 76th annual meeting of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in New York.

ARENS SAYS ISRAELI PEACE PLAN GETTING GOOD REACTION IN EUROPE

By David Kantor

BONN, June 18 (JTA) -- Israel's peace initiative is receiving a favorable, though cautious, reaction in European capitals, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said here Sunday.

Arens, who is here to discuss Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan for elections of Palestinian representatives in the administered territories, said the Europeans "are interested in hearing us, and they do display a sympathetic attitude."

Arens, emerging from a three-hour meeting with his West German counterpart, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, said he hoped his talks here will help shape a positive European attitude toward the Israeli plan, which is intended to provide for some form of Palestinian autonomy in the future.

"They certainly do not reject our idea," Arens said of European leaders.

Genscher was not available for comment, but one of his aides said the conversation with Arens had produced a better understanding of the Israeli point of view.

Arens took issue with the tendency of European government leaders to favor an international Middle East peace conference and to bring the Palestine Liberation Organization into the process, suggesting that both formulas were outdated.

"No one can think today of convening a

peace forum, which has to take into consideration the present situation and to move forward to a realistic assessment," Arens said.

On Monday, Arens will get a chance to put this position to a test. He is due to meet with Hans-Jochen Vogel of the opposition Social Democratic Party, who recently announced a decision to invite an official PLO delegation to Germany in October.

Arens also is scheduled to meet Monday with West German President Richard von Weizsacker and with Jurgen Warnke, the minister of economic cooperation, who handles foreign aid programs.

Refused To Step On German Soil

In a potentially embarrassing development, two of Arens' aides refused to accompany him, so as not to set foot on German soil. The refusal was reported in the German press but did not come up in his meeting with Genscher.

Sunday evening, Arens was to have dinner with Rita Sussmuth, chairwoman of the Bundestag, Germany's parliament. Sussmuth reportedly said recently that she could not visit Israel in an official capacity because the chairman of the Knesset, Dov Shilansky, refused to receive German guests.

Also on Sunday, Arens laid a wreath at a memorial built on the site of a former synagogue here, located on the bank of the Rhine River.

The foreign minister is due to follow up his stop in West Germany with a three-day visit to neighboring Denmark, where he will likewise test the diplomatic waters regarding Shamir's election proposal.

In Copenhagen, Arens and his wife will be official guests of Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Elleman-Jensen, who invited his counterpart for a reciprocal visit, following his stay in Israel.

The Danish government is divided in its approach to dealing with the PLO, which maintains an office in Copenhagen without enjoying diplomatic status.

The Danish Social Democratic Party invited PLO leader Yasir Arafat to visit Denmark, but the foreign minister refused to extend an official invitation.

In recent months, some leaders of the Social Democrats visited Arafat in his headquarters in Tunis. They followed this up with a visit to Israel.

Danish police are making tight security arrangements for the Arens visit.

(JTA Copenhagen correspondent Eli Kohen contributed to this report.)

JUDGE DESTROYS ANTI-NAZI PLAQUE

By David Kantor

BONN, June 18 (JTA) -- Disciplinary proceedings were initiated Friday against a West Berlin judge who destroyed a plaque commemorating draft resisters during the Nazi era who died for their beliefs.

Egbert Weiss last week ruined a plaque dedicated to the victims of the Reichskriegsgericht, a special Nazi court that sent to their deaths some 500 youths who refused to be drafted to military service.

The judge apparently was upset because many of the victims were "simply deserters."

The plaque was dedicated recently in a Berlin court in which Weiss presides. The building had been used as a Nazi court that handed down verdicts against conscientious objectors.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
LATEST ROUND OF LIKUD BATTLE
CENTERS ON DATE, TIME AND PLACE**
By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- The dispute in the Likud bloc over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's peace plan is heading toward a major collision, with disagreement currently centered on the unlikely issue of the time and place of the party's upcoming Central Committee meeting.

Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens want to convene the meeting on the afternoon of July 4 in Tel Aviv, while three other powerful Likud members insist the meeting take place on the evening of July 2 in Jerusalem.

Although the date and venue of the meeting is temporarily the bone of contention, the issue at the center of the power struggle is the prime minister's peace initiative, which was approved last month by both the Cabinet and the Knesset, and will be voted on at the Likud meeting.

Opposing the plan are Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, Housing Minister David Levy and Yitzhak Moda'i, a minister without portfolio who heads the Liberal Party wing of Likud. They argue that the initiative in its present form will result in a Palestinian state.

Shamir and Arens say that changes in the plan proposed by the opposition will make it unacceptable to both the Arabs and the United States.

The tally of Likud Central Committee members who endorse the peace plan and oppose it is uncertain, but it is believed to be very close. Both sides believe a few votes may tip the balance.

Shamir's camp is concerned that if the meeting is held on the evening of July 2 in Jerusalem, Sharon, who is chairman of the Central Committee, could delay the vote on the peace plan until late at night, when some Shamir supporters -- many of whom are older and live in the Tel Aviv area -- could either leave early without voting or cut the debate short.

Washington Is Concerned

The vote is a battle Shamir cannot afford to lose. If the committee rejects the peace plan, it will be viewed as a vote of "no confidence" in Shamir by his own party. Acknowledging this, the prime minister has threatened to resign if Likud does not endorse the initiative.

In Washington, senior officials in the Bush administration told the Israeli newspaper Hadashot that they fear both instability in the Israeli government and an escalation in the Palestinian uprising if the Central Committee rejects Shamir's plan.

The committee meeting and the vote were scheduled after Sharon and his allies complained that Shamir sought international support for the plan without consulting his own party. Under heavy pressure, Shamir agreed to put the matter before the committee.

It originally had been agreed to convene the committee on July 2. But the cavernous Tel Aviv Cinerama building, one of the few large enough for the gathering, was not available on that date, so the meeting was put back to July 4.

But Sharon's aides, speaking for the minister, who was overseas, said Wednesday they had already sent invitations to committee members to convene in Jerusalem on July 2.

In a countermove Thursday, the Likud Secre-

tariat, which is chaired by Arens, ruled that the meeting would take place on July 4.

The next day, Sharon reacted angrily in telephone interviews from London, saying the Secretariat decision was illegal and that, as Central Committee chairman, it was he who had the right to determine the time and place of the meeting.

Israeli newspapers said Sunday that Shamir is losing patience with Sharon and is considering moving to throw him out of Likud.

In a secret poll conducted by the Shamir-Arens camp, 1,175 Central Committee members were asked whether they would support the peace plan. Of these, 565 said they would support it, 88 said they would oppose it, 151 were undecided and 371 refused to participate in the survey.

Observers here speculated Sunday that Shamir and his opponents would reach some form of compromise before the meeting, in the hope of avoiding a general showdown over the peace plan.

But if the issue comes to a head, they are predicting that the meeting will far outshine the 13th Maccabiah Games as being "the best show in town."

**HIGH COURT PANEL VISITS JAIL
AND FINDS IMPROVED CONDITIONS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 18 (JTA) -- A demand for the closure of the Dhahiriya detention facility in Hebron has been retracted by Israel's Association for Civil Rights.

The association, petitioning with four Dhahiriya detainees, had asked that the facility be shut down because of inhuman conditions there. Their petition included complaints about overcrowding, a lack of light and ventilation and generally unhygienic conditions.

But a visit to the West Bank detention center by a panel of judges from the High Court of Justice showed that improvements had recently been made, according to a report in the Israeli newspaper Davar.

In anticipation of the court's visit, wider windows were installed in the detention center, hygiene conditions improved and the time allotted for detainees' walks outside their cells had been extended.

Following the panel's visit, the High Court ruled that a committee of experts that now supervises conditions at the Ketziot detention facility should also supervise the conditions at Dhahiriya.

Davar also reported that leaders of detainees at the Ketziot facility have rejected a recent proposal by the Israel Defense Force.

The army had proposed that detainees work at binding books for Gaza schools. The detainees refused on the grounds that such cooperation with prison authorities was prohibited by the unified leadership of the uprising.

ISRAEL AGAIN STRIKES BASES IN LEBANON
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 18 (JTA) -- Israeli air force planes attacked terrorist bases in Lebanon again on Friday, for the second time in a week.

The targets of the raid were said to have been bases of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Abu Nidal group, located in the Rashidiya refugee camp, south of the coastal city of Tyre.

CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ TO MOVE SOON, FRENCH CARDINAL TELLS JEWISH LEADER

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 18 (JTA) -- The Carmelite convent built at Auschwitz may soon be relocated, an action that would remove both a troubling symbol from the site of the former death camp and an obstacle in the path of smoother Catholic-Jewish relations.

The convent will be relocated to a site some 550 yards away from the former camp perimeter, a chief Catholic official involved in trying to resolve the dilemma reportedly has informed a Jewish leader here.

Theo Klein, who headed the Jewish delegation that negotiated the original agreement to move the convent, said he was promised in a letter from Cardinal Albert Decourtray of Lyon that the move would take place before July 22, a deadline suggested by the cardinal earlier this year.

"The cardinals have honored their pledge," said Klein, who is immediate past president of CRIF, the Council of Jewish Institutions in France.

But World Jewish Congress officials here and in New York, who have been following the controversy closely, expressed surprise Sunday, when told of Klein's announcement.

In fact, Serge Cwaigenbaum, director of the WJC Paris office, said that when he asked Klein for confirmation, Klein told him he had "no idea when the nuns would move." Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director, said in New York.

Decourtray and other Roman Catholic Church representatives signed a document two years ago agreeing that the convent would be removed by Feb. 22, 1989.

Prompt Removal Of Cross Urged

Failure to meet that date has caused a furor among Jewish leaders, who have met repeatedly, in Europe, Israel, the United States and Canada, with representatives of the Vatican and of the government of Poland, where Auschwitz is located.

To quell the fury, Decourtray suggested earlier this year that the convent be moved by July 22 to interim quarters, where the Carmelite nuns would stay until a new convent could be built.

On Friday, Klein said he hoped the nuns would remove without delay the 24-foot cross they have erected at the convent, which soars above the site of the former death camp.

Klein said Decourtray told him that the owners of the plot of land on which the nuns plan to build their new convent have agreed to the sale and that a contract would be signed in a few days.

The new convent would be separated from the former death camp by two streets, several blocks of buildings and a row of trees, Klein said.

He said local Polish authorities have delivered a construction permit to the head of the Krakow See, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, another of the parties to the original agreement to move the convent.

But Steinberg of WJC said, "I know at

present that the proposed site of the new convent is an empty plot of land with no possibility of construction until 1990, according to Decourtray."

"We would welcome a resolution to this controversy, which casts a long shadow on Vatican-Jewish relations," he said.

Macharski, in whose domain Auschwitz lies, has been considered the Catholic leader most able to move the nuns from their controversial location. But as recently as this month, he said he was unable to convince the nuns to move.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

DARING SHOOTING ATTACK IN GAZA HIGHLIGHTS WEEKEND OF BLOODSHED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was shot and slightly wounded Sunday in a daring attack near Israel Defense Force headquarters in Gaza.

The IDF officer was fired upon from a passing car as he was walking toward the offices of the civil administration.

The soldier, Capt. Yisrael Barshai, a 42-year-old reservist serving in the civil administration, suffered only a slight injury. But another bullet from the car hit an Arab, who was badly wounded in his hip.

The incident was one in a series of bloody events in the Gaza Strip over the weekend. Four Palestinians were killed and over 30 wounded during clashes with IDF soldiers at Gaza refugee camps.

Three were shot at the Rafah camp, and one, a 15-year-old Palestinian youth, was killed at the Khan Yunis camp.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, a 17-year-old Palestinian youth died Sunday. He had been shot by an IDF patrol after he refused to identify himself and ran away from the soldiers.

The army demolished eight houses during the weekend and sealed off another three. The houses were owned by suspected members of Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist organization.

A group of Jewish leftist activists, led by Knesset member Yossi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement, expressed solidarity Sunday with the family of a suspected terrorist, whose house the IDF plans to demolish.

Standing near the house, Sarid said that demolition of homes is not a common practice in democratic countries and its practice here is detrimental to the foundations of democracy in Israel.

The group of activists visited the family in the house, although the army had tried to prevent them from doing so. The visitors said they had not known the area was declared a closed military area.

In Jerusalem, a firebomb was thrown Sunday at a border police unit patrolling the Old City. No one was hurt.

In Haifa, a synagogue was set on fire over the weekend. Police arrested four Arab suspects, all of whom deny any connection with the arson.

A fire was set in the same synagogue five months ago, after an arson attack on a mosque in the village of Ibtin.

**BLACK RAP SINGER FIRED
OVER ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS**

By Allison Kaplan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Grip On America'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Tamar Levy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIVE ITALIAN SKINHEADS ARRESTED

By Ruth E. Gruber

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

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

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

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

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

**DEMOCRATS ARE STRONG ON ISRAEL,
SAYS PARTY CHAIRMAN RON BROWN**
By Andrew Silow Carroll

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Asked About Stance On Jerusalem

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PROMISE OF ISRAELI JOBS PERSUADES
100 SOVIET EMIGRES TO MAKE ALIYAH**
By Gil Sedan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC TO PLAY IN USSR
By Hugh Orgel

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

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

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

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

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

AJCOMMITTEE SCRAPS CHINA VISIT

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

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

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

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

portation along Geha Road, outside Petach Tikva.

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

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

No Motives For Murder Found

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Both men saved face in the process.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CARMELITE CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ
WON'T BE RELOCATED UNTIL 1990**

By Susan Birnbaum

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appeals Against Demonstrations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Edwin Eytan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**VENGEFUL SETTLERS ATTACK ARABS,
AS AUTHORITIES NAB MURDER SUSPECTS**

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
165 E. 56th Street
New York, NY 10022
(212) 751-4000 FAX: (212) 319-0975

DATE: 6/22/89 TIME: _____
TO: Marc Tanenbaum FROM: Rita Segal
FIRM: _____ DEPT. _____
FAX #: 876-8351

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET 3

MESSAGE AREA

IF THIS BOX IS CHECKED, PLEASE FAX BACK TO CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS FAX.

RESPONSE AREA

DID YOU RECEIVE THIS MESSAGE GARBLED? IF SO, CHECK THE BOX BELOW AND FAX BACK. WE WILL RESEND.

THE ABOVE FAX WAS RECEIVED GARBLED. PLEASE REPEAT FAX.

FAX OPERATOR _____

22/06 '89 11:27

Z 01 485 4512 STERNBERG

02

Sir Sigmund Sternberg O.S.I.J. KCSG JP

Star House Grafton Road
 London NW5 4BD
 Telephone 01-485 2538
 Facsimile 01-485 4512

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
 American Jewish Committee

Date 22 June 1989

Our ref SSS/MD

Your ref

"STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL"

Dear Marc

During his stay in London General Jaruzelski sent a message to me, through the Polish Ambassador, Dr Zbigniew Gertych, that he will speak to Cardinal Glemp about the removal of the Auschwitz Convent. I am told that the Carmelite nuns would leave immediately if they were told to do so by Cardinal Michalski.

The head of the Belgian Jewish community visited the Carmelite nuns recently and has seen the Mother Superior and made a report to Theo Klein. Do you know about this? It is said that a decision will be made by July and that the Polish government has put a large site at the disposal of the convent and building will start in 1990. I cannot imagine that temporary accommodation cannot be found for twenty two Carmelite nuns until their permanent accommodation is ready.

To clarify the situation might I suggest that you and I, together with a Polish speaking Sister of Zion, visit the Carmelite nuns in Auschwitz to find out what will make them move to temporary accommodation. For instance, we might consider offering study trips to the States or Israel, or possibly offer educational material. We could try to explain that they are acting against the interest we all have in our hearts - better relations between Christians and Jews.

We might see Cardinal Glemp, Cardinal Michalski and General Jaruzelski.

22/65 '69 11127

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My view is that it is the Carmelite nuns who do not want to move because they receive a great deal of Polish support and if this is so there is not much the Vatican can do. I would like to remind you of the situation in the States showing how intransigent nuns can be.

The downside risk of a visit is small, should we fail we might have removed the Vatican from the firing line - as the world would see where the fault lies. If our mission succeeds then we have solved the situation which could turn more unpleasant than it is now. As we are well regarded in Catholic circles we would be listened to with great care. Should we undertake such a mission it is essential that no publicity is given beforehand.

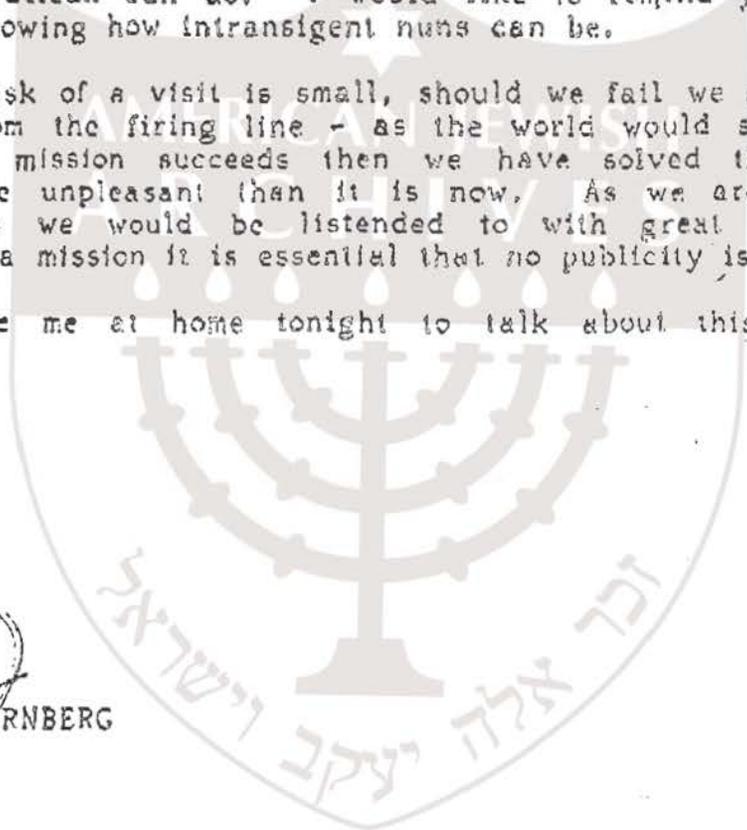
Please telephone me at home tonight to talk about this - or I will try to ring you.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



SIR SIGMUND STERNBERG



Sir Sigmund Sternberg O.St.J. KCSG JP

Star House Grafton Road
London NW5 4BD
Telephone 01-485 2538
Facsimile 01-485 4512

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

Date 23 June 1989

Our ref SSS/MD

Your ref

FAX: 6 pages including this

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Dear Marc

Should you decide to come to Auschwitz with me, please let me know cost of your travelling expenses to enable me to reimburse to at once.

Please find attached publicity from today's Jewish Chronicle, copy of my letter to the Pro Nuncio and copy letter from Cardinal Decourtray to Mr Theo Klein, for your information.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely



SIR SIGMUND STERNBERG

P.S. Copy letter was sent to Bishop Mahon as he is organising the Papal audience.

Sir Sigmund Sternberg O.St.J. KCSG JP

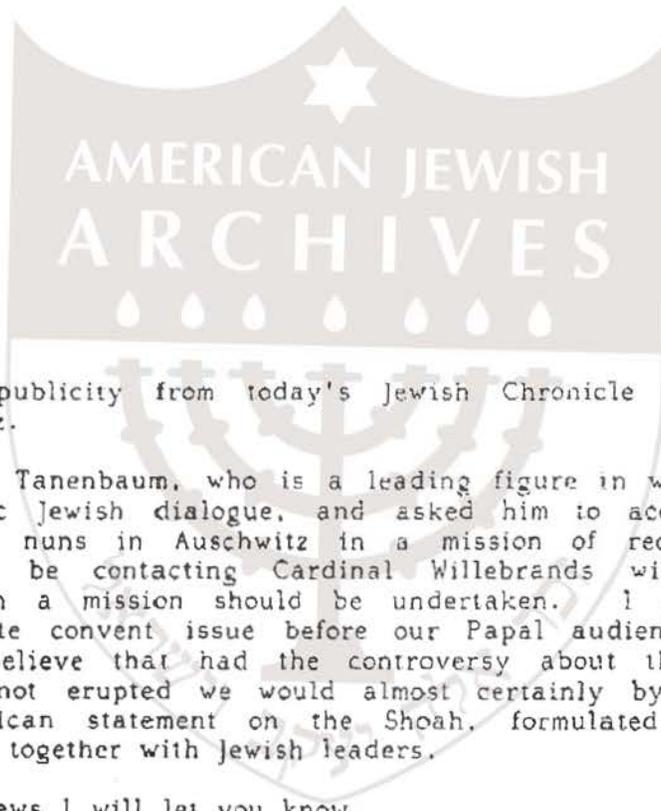
Star House Grafton Road
London NW5 4BD
Telephone 01-485 2538
Facsimile 01-485 4512

Apostolic Nunciature
H.E. Archbishop Luigi Barbarito
54 Parkside
LONDON
SW19 5NF

Date 23 June 1989

Our ref SSS/MD

Your ref



Dear Archbishop

Please find enclosed publicity from today's Jewish Chronicle relating to the Convent in Auschwitz.

I spoke to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, who is a leading figure in world Jewry responsible for Catholic Jewish dialogue, and asked him to accompany me to visit the Carmelite nuns in Auschwitz in a mission of reconciliation. Rabbi Tanenbaum will be contacting Cardinal Willebrands with a view to finding out if such a mission should be undertaken. I am anxious to resolve the Carmelite convent issue before our Papal audience on 25th September because I believe that had the controversy about the Carmelite Convent at Auschwitz not erupted we would almost certainly by now have had an important Vatican statement on the Shoah, formulated after the deepest heart-searching together with Jewish leaders.

If I have any further news I will let you know.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

SIR SIGMUND STERNBERG

enc. JC

c.c. Bishop Mahon

[start]

Original documents
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JEWISH CHRONICLE

23 JUNE 1989



'Antisemitism rife' in Polish elections

By IRVING GIN-SKLODZKI
Our East Europe Correspondent

Anti-Jewish incitement was a feature of the Polish elections, which ended on Sunday with a decisive victory for Solidarity, the free trade union organisation which, antisemites declared, was dominated by Jews.

"Wicezór", an evening paper published in the Silesian city of Wrocław, described the accord reached earlier between the Polish Government and Solidarity as a "Zionist Plot." ["Zionist" is a Polish code word for "Jewish," as in the "anti-Zionist" campaign mounted by Wladislaw Gomulka in 1968.]

Graffiti in Wrocław declared: "Down with Jews and Communists!" while, in Warsaw, two weeklies, "Stolica" and "Przegląd Kulturalny," said that Jews had been responsible for the crimes of the Stalin era.

An antisemitic banner lashed to the gates of Warsaw University was speedily removed on the orders of the rector.

In some districts of Poland, a

strongly Roman Catholic country, bishops advised against voting for Jewish or atheist candidates.

The Bishop of Katowice, in Silesia, however, in contrast to what appeared to have been the general feeling in his diocese, urged the electorate to vote for Mr Adam Michnik (born Sztybel) and not the candidate of a Roman Catholic political party.

Mr Michnik, a leading Jewish activist member of Solidarity, was one of three Jews targeted by the 1968 "anti-Zionist" campaign, who were elected to the Polish Parliament.

The other two were Mr Jan Litynski (like Mr Michnik, a student leader in 1968) who was elected to the Sejm (Lower House) with Mr Michnik, and Mr Katoł Modzelewski (also active in the student movement in 1968), who was elected to the Senate. All four were Solidarity candidates.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Polish Government's Jewish candidate, formerly its spokesman and now chairman of the State Committee for TV and Radio, failed to gain election.

[end]

Original documents
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Cher Maître,

Le 7 juin 1989, le Cardinal François Macharski, *Przewodniczący ds. Kościoła*, m'adressant une longue lettre donnant des informations sur la réalisation de l'assise du PP d'août 1987 à Genève. Il me demande de vous les transmettre.

1°) Le terrain.

Le terrain n° 2, situé à 500 m environ du camp de concentration d'Auschwitz, a été finalement retenu. Le Docteur Kiegnar et le Docteur Schneck l'avaient visité et accepté lors de leur passage à Cracovie en juin 1988. Ce terrain a une superficie de 4 hectares et demi.

Le camp est séparé de ce terrain par plusieurs ensembles de constructions et un rideau d'arbres. Le nouveau couvent sera construit dans la partie du terrain la plus éloignée du camp. Il n'y aura donc aucune ambiguïté dans sa localisation par rapport au "Theatergebäude" et au camp.

Le 2 mars 1989, le Voïvodie de Biesko-Biala et la ville d'Oswiecim ont donné leur accord définitif sur le choix de ce terrain pour la construction du nouveau couvent des carmélites comme pour celle du "Centre d'informations, d'éducation, de rencontres et de prières".

2°) Début des travaux.

Toutes les conditions de viabilité nécessaires pour la construction de ces deux ensembles de bâtiments, selon la législation polonaise, ont été acceptées officiellement.

Les plans de conception du nouveau Couvent et du Centre ont été déposés au bureau d'urbanisme et d'architecture de la ville d'Oswiecim, le 23 mai 1989. Ils y sont actuellement exposés avec le plan d'aménagement global d'Oswiecim jusqu'au 17 juin 1989. Après cette date, ils devraient être théoriquement approuvés dans des délais très courts.

L'achat du terrain ne doit pas poser de problème puisque les 14 petits propriétaires qui en possèdent chacun une parcelle ont promis de le vendre à la Curie de Cracovie.

L'achat du terrain terminé, les plans techniques des différents bâtiments devront être présentés, dans leur phase définitive, pour approbation. Celle-ci constituera la permission officielle pour entreprendre les travaux. Ceux-ci pourront très vraisemblablement commencer au début du premier semestre 1990.

Voici le calendrier précis que je puis vous transmettre d'après les informations que vient de me communiquer le Cardinal Macharski.

Dans sa lettre, le Cardinal Macharski me fait part des obstacles qui "proviennent de l'incompréhension de trop nombreux

chrétiens à la perspective d'un déplacement du carnal". Ceux-ci seront peu à peu levés par, comme il me l'écrit, "le très utile travail de formation et d'information" entreprise par la Commission épiscopale polonaise pour le dialogue avec le Judaïsme, présidée par Mgr Muszynski qui oeuvre activement dans ce sens.

Il me semble utile de vous citer le dernier paragraphe de la lettre que le Cardinal Mucharski vient de m'adresser : "Je voudrais enfin exprimer un souhait. L'impatience et la souffrance juives sont tout à fait compréhensibles. J'aimerais pourtant dire à nos frères juifs que toutes les manifestations et les démarches qu'ils ont entreprises ou envisagent d'entreprendre devant le "Theatergebäude", contre la présence des carmélites en ce lieu, provoquent des réactions contraires de la population et la renforcent dans la défense aveugle des soeurs. Il serait dramatique que cela creuse un fossé entre les catholiques et les juifs, en Pologne. Ce serait un grand malheur. Nous n'en avons pas besoin".

J'espère de tout coeur qu'un signe tangible pourra être posé sur le nouveau terrain lui-même, dès que cela sera possible. Il témoignera de notre édification complète à l'accord de Genève ? et à la déclaration d'Auschwitz du 22 juillet 1986,

Je puis vous assurer que la délégation catholique déploie tous ses efforts pour que la construction du nouveau couvent des carmélites se réalise dans les plus brefs délais.

En terminant cette lettre, je me dois de vous faire part de la reconnaissance du Cardinal Mucharski pour "l'oeuvre de paix que vous n'avez cessé de mener depuis le début de ce long dialogue qui portera ses fruits".

Ajoutant ma propre reconnaissance à la sienne, je vous prie d'agréer, cher Maître, l'expression de ma haute considération.

A. Courcouray

+ Albert Cardinal COURCOURAY
Archevêque de Lyon

**CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ TO MOVE SOON,
FRENCH CARDINAL TELLS JEWISH LEADER**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 18 (JTA) -- The Carmelite convent built at Auschwitz may soon be relocated, an action that would remove both a troubling symbol from the site of the former death camp and an obstacle in the path of smoother Catholic-Jewish relations.

The convent will be relocated to a site some 550 yards away from the former camp perimeter, a chief Catholic official involved in trying to resolve the dilemma reportedly has informed a Jewish leader here.

Theo Klein, who headed the Jewish delegation that negotiated the original agreement to move the convent, said he was promised in a letter from Cardinal Albert Decourtray of Lyon that the move would take place before July 22, a deadline suggested by the cardinal earlier this year.

"The cardinals have honored their pledge," said Klein, who is immediate past president of CRIF, the Council of Jewish Institutions in France.

But World Jewish Congress officials here and in New York, who have been following the controversy closely, expressed surprise Sunday, when told of Klein's announcement.

In fact, Serge Cwajgenbaum, director of the WJC Paris office, said that when he asked Klein for confirmation, Klein told him he had "no idea when the nuns would move." Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director, said in New York.

Decourtray and other Roman Catholic Church representatives signed a document two years ago agreeing that the convent would be removed by Feb. 22, 1989.

Prompt Removal Of Cross Urged

Failure to meet that date has caused a furor among Jewish leaders, who have met repeatedly, in Europe, Israel, the United States and Canada, with representatives of the Vatican and of the government of Poland, where Auschwitz is located.

To quell the fury, Decourtray suggested earlier this year that the convent be moved by July 22 to interim quarters, where the Carmelite nuns would stay until a new convent could be built.

On Friday, Klein said he hoped the nuns would remove without delay the 24-foot cross they have erected at the convent, which soars above the site of the former death camp.

Klein said Decourtray told him that the owners of the plot of land on which the nuns plan to build their new convent have agreed to the sale and that a contract would be signed in a few days.

The new convent would be separated from the former death camp by two streets, several blocks of buildings and a row of trees, Klein said.

He said local Polish authorities have delivered a construction permit to the head of the Krakow See, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, another of the parties to the original agreement to move the convent.

But Steinberg of WJC said, "I know at present that the proposed site of the new convent is an empty plot of land with no possibility of construction until 1990, according to Decourtray."

"We would welcome a resolution to this controversy, which casts a long shadow on Vatican-Jewish relations," he said.

Macharski, in whose domain Auschwitz lies, has been considered the Catholic leader most able to move the nuns from their controversial location. But as recently as this month, he said he was unable to convince the nuns to move.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

ÉTRANGER

- 3 Chine : après les premières condamnations à mort.
- 4 États-Unis : la faillite de la Majorité morale.
- 6 Fin du voyage de M. Mitterrand en Pologne. Les funérailles d'Imre Nagy.
- 7-8 Europe 1993 : les élections au Parlement de Strasbourg.

Un nouveau terrain leur ayant été cédé

Plus rien ne s'oppose au départ des carmélites d'Auschwitz

Le nouveau couvent des carmélites d'Auschwitz (Pologne), dont l'installation à la lisière de l'ancien camp de concentration a été à l'origine d'une grave polémique entre l'Église catholique et la communauté juive internationale, pourra être déplacé, conformément aux accords signés à Genève en 1987, et construit à plus de cinq cents mètres de l'édifice actuel.

Il sera séparé du camp par deux rues, des blocs de maisons et des rideaux d'arbres. Les quatorze propriétaires de parcelles du terrain convoité depuis deux ans ont enfin donné leur accord pour l'opération de vente et de construction, ainsi que les autorités polonaises, qui viennent de délivrer le permis de construire au cardinal Macharski, archevêque de Cracovie. Plus rien ne s'oppose donc aujourd'hui au déménagement des religieuses.

L'ultime délai avait été fixé par les négociateurs catholiques et leur chef, le cardinal Decourtray, au 22 juillet prochain. Une certaine impatience était croissante dans les milieux juifs. M^r Théo Klein, ancien président du CRIF et responsable de la négociation pour les juifs, se félicite de l'attribution du nouveau terrain et du projet de déménagement :

« Les cardinaux ont maintenu leurs engagements », dit-il. Mais il attend « un geste symbolique » des intentions réelles des religieuses, notamment le retrait de la croix qu'elles ont dressée, il y a plusieurs mois, sur l'emplacement même du couvent actuel et au-dessus du camp d'Auschwitz.

[HJAP Online];72H APV-3757

AP 06/21 10:17 EDT V0359

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GENEVA (AP) -- A Jewish leader said Wednesday he has received new assurance that a Roman Catholic convent on the grounds of the Auschwitz death camp will finally be moved, ending a 5-year-old dispute.

Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich, European director of B'Nai B'rith, said in a telephone interview that he was confident that the convent would be located after a conversation with Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, archbishop of Cracow, Poland, whose diocese includes Auschwitz.

Under the terms of a 1987 Geneva declaration signed by 18 Catholic and Jewish leaders, Macharski is charged with arranging the transfer of the convent, founded in 1984.

Jews have protested the convent, located in a former storehouse on the Auschwitz camp perimeter, as a Christian symbol that intrudes on the place that was one of Hitler's busiest extermination camps. Nazi Germany killed 6 million Jews during World War II. [22H]JPress (CR) for more ! [HJAP Online];72H APV-3759

Jews during World War II.

The Geneva declaration recognized the special significance of Auschwitz in the holocaust, and called for the transfer of the convent's 14 Carmelite nuns within two years.

When the deadline passed on Feb. 22, there were renewed calls for removal of the convent.

There also was considerable opposition among Poland's Catholics but Ehrlich, a co-signer of the declaration, said that in a June 7 letter Macharski said this opposition was fading. Construction of a convent 500 yards from the camp would "most probably" begin early next year, the letter said.

The letter "makes plain that all preconditions exist now for the implementation of the accord," Ehrlich said. "I never doubted that Macharski would stick to the accord but it is a pity that all this could not be done already two years ago."

Macharski said in the letter that "Jewish impatience ... is completely understandable" but that protests only "provoke adverse reactions from the population and strengthen it in the blind defense of the nuns."

"It would be sad if this would create a gulf between Catholics and Jews in Poland," he wrote. [22H]JPress (CR) for more ! [HJAP Online];72H APV-3763



RECEIVED

JUN 22 1989

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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PUBLISHED BY JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY • 330 SEVENTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, NY 10001-5010 • (212) 643-1890

VOL. 67 - 72nd YEAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1989

NO. 116

CARMELITE CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ WON'T BE RELOCATED UNTIL 1990

By Susan Birnbaum

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appeals Against Demonstrations

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, YOUR EMINENCES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FRIENDS,

LET ME FIRST EXPRESS MY DEEP GRATITUDE TO YOU, SIR, AND TO THE BRAZILIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE FOR THE GREAT HONOR BESTOWED ON ME TONIGHT. I AM FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS HONOR COMING FROM THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF THE LARGEST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD, OF A COUNTRY WHICH IS NOT ONLY ONE OF THE GREATEST IN SIZE ON OUR GLOBE, BUT WHICH WITH ITS ENORMOUS HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES IS CALLED TO BECOME ONE OF THE MAJOR POWERS AND ONE OF THE GREATEST CENTERS OF CIVILIZATION OF THE FUTURE, IT IS A COUNTRY THAT HAS ALREADY GIVEN SO MANY LESSONS OF HUMANE LEADERSHIP AND TOLERANCE TO THE WORLD.

YOU HAVE PLACED THIS AWARD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PATRIARCH ABRAHAM. A FEW YEARS AGO I HAD THE GREAT PRIVILEGE TO RECEIVE ONE OF YOUR FRENCH COLLEAGUES, CARDINAL ETCHEGARAY, IN BEER-SHEVA, WHERE HE WAS GRANTED THE FIRST ECUMENICAL AWARD EVER GIVEN IN ISRAEL, BY THE BEN GURION UNIVERSITY. IT GAVE ME AN ENORMOUS JOY THAT THIS CEREMONY TOOK PLACE IN BEER-SHEVA, THE CITY OF ABRAHAM, THE FATHER OF THE THREE GREAT MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS. INDEED WHO SYMBOLIZES MORE OUR COMMON SPIRITUAL ORIGINS, WHO IS MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT WHICH UNITES US IN OUR RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS? SPIRITUALLY, I FEEL, I AM TONIGHT AGAIN IN BEER-SHEVA.

I AM ALSO VERY HAPPY AND VERY PROUD THAT I SHARE THIS GREAT HONOR TONIGHT WITH CARDINAL JOHANNES WILLEBRANDS WHO HAS BEEN IN EVERY SENSE OF THE TERM, A REAL PIONEER IN CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS DURING THE LAST 25 OR 30 YEARS. HE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAIN PILLARS OF THIS MEMORABLE DEVELOPMENT, FIRST AS THE MAIN ASSISTANT OF THE LATE CARDINAL BEA, THEN AS HIS SUCCESSOR AS PRESIDENT OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY WHICH WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RELATIONS, AND FINALLY, AS PRESIDENT OF THE HOLY SEE'S COMMISSION FOR RELIGIOUS RELATIONS WITH THE JEWS. UNDER HIS SIGNATURE TWO VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS ON CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED, WHICH HAVE MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ELABORATION OF A NEW CATHOLIC THEOLOGY ON JEWS AND JUDAISM, AND I PROBABLY AM NOT REVEALING A SECRET WHEN I SAY THAT HE HAD HIS HAND IN SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SPEECHES OF POPE PAUL VI AND POPE JOHN PAUL II WHICH CONSTITUTED IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN OUR RELATIONSHIP. BUT MORE THAN THAT: IN SPITE OF DIFFICULT SITUATIONS, CONFRONTATIONS AND CRISES WHICH - AS IN ALL HUMAN RELATIONS - HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME DISTURBED OUR RELATIONS, HE HAS NEVER

LOST FAITH AND NEVER WAVERED IN HIS CONVICTION THAT WE WERE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, THAT WE HAD TO WEATHER THE STORMS AND TURBULENCES AND THAT WE HAD TO CONTINUE ON OUR PATH, UNDISMAYED, WITH FAITH, DETERMINATION AND DEDICATION. FOR THIS WE OWE HIM A GREAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

MY FRIENDS,

THE BRAZILIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE NEW CATHOLIC THEOLOGY ON JEWS AND JUDAISM AS INAUGURATED BY THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL AND TO THE CATHOLIC-JEWISH DIALOGUE IN THIS COUNTRY. IT HAS SET UP A NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THIS PURPOSE, WHICH IN 1983 HAS ISSUED AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT CALLED "ORIENTATIONS FOR CATHOLIC-JEWISH DIALOGUE". IN THIS DECLARATION YOU HAVE FOLLOWED THE TEACHINGS OF THE CONCILIAR DECLARATION "NOSTRA AETATE", PARTICULARLY IN TWO MAJOR DIRECTIONS. YOU HAVE RECOGNIZED THE CONTINUING TRADITION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AS A LIVING COMMUNITY, AND YOU HAVE ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT THE KNOWLEDGE OF JEWISH SELF-UNDERSTANDING IS A KEY TO A SIGNIFICANT MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP. MOREOVER, WHILE YOU HAVE UNRESERVEDLY CONDEMNED ALL FORMS OF ANTISEMITISM AND LAID DOWN RULES HOW JUDAISM SHOULD BE TREATED IN CATECHETICAL TEACHING AND LITURGY, YOU HAVE AT THE SAME TIME RECOGNIZED "THE RIGHT OF THE JEWS TO A TRANQUIL POLITICAL EXISTENCE IN THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN WITHOUT LETTING THIS CREATE INJUSTICE OR VIOLENCE FOR OTHER PEOPLE", AND YOU HAVE STATED THAT FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE THESE RIGHTS HAVE BECOME A REALITY IN THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. THESE ARE VERY IMPORTANT STATEMENTS.

AND YOUR COMMISSION HAS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROMULGATION OF THE CONCILIAR DECLARATION "NOSTRA AETATE", PUBLISHED AN EXCELLENT GUIDE BOOK FOR THE CATHOLIC-JEWISH DIALOGUE IN BRAZIL, WHICH COULD SERVE AS A MODEL AND AN EXAMPLE TO MANY OTHER BISHOPS' CONFERENCES IN FOREIGN LANDS.

OUR ENCOUNTER TODAY FOLLOWS IN THIS TRADITION AND BY ITS SOLEMN CHARACTER STRESSES AGAIN, AND IN A PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE MANNER, THE SIGNIFICANCE THAT THE BRAZILIAN CHURCH ATTACHES TO THIS RELATIONSHIP.

BUT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS STILL A NEW AND FRAGILE ONE. WHILE THERE EXIST BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR TWO COMMUNITIES WHICH FOLLOW FROM OUR FAITH COMMITMENTS THAT WE HAVE TO RESPECT AND WITH WHICH WE HAVE TO LIVE, THERE OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME ON BOTH SIDES MISUNDERSTANDINGS OR FAILURES TO UNDERSTAND THE SENSITIVITIES OF THE OTHER SIDE WHICH BURDEN OUR RELATIONSHIP UNNECESSARILY.

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, A SERIOUS CONFLICT HAS ARISEN BETWEEN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THE POLISH CHURCH ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARMELITE CONVENT ON THE SITE OF THE AUSCHWITZ EXTERMINATION CAMP WHICH DEEPLY HURTS JEWS EVERYWHERE AND WHICH, BECAUSE OF THE PROFOUND EMOTIONS IT AROUSES, SERIOUSLY RISKS AFFECTING THE FUTURE OF A HARMONIOUS CATHOLIC-JEWISH DIALOGUE. WE HAD THOUGHT THAT WE HAD FOUND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IN FRIENDLY TALKS IN GENEVA IN FEBRUARY 1987. BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, NOTHING HAS HAPPENED SO FAR TO IMPLEMENT THESE AGREEMENTS. MAY I BE PERMITTED TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT IN THE INTEREST OF CONSOLIDATING THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WHICH EXIST TODAY BETWEEN CATHOLICS AND JEWS IN BRAZIL, THE BRAZILIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE IN ROME AND CRACOW TO BRING ABOUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE A SOLUTION FOR WHICH WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

MY FRIENDS,

OUR ENCOUNTER TONIGHT IS NOT ONLY A CELEBRATION. IT SIGNIFIES ALSO THE RENEWAL OF A COMMITMENT, A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE OUR TASK WHICH WE HAVE BARELY BEGUN.

OUR FIRST TASK IS TO MAKE THE NEW CATHOLIC THEOLOGY KNOWN TO A MUCH WIDER PUBLIC. THE GREATER PART OF THE FAITHFUL HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE NEW THEOLOGICAL APPROACHES. WE HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO ENSURE THEIR POPULARIZATION AND WIDESPREAD DISSEMINATION AND WE HAVE TO DEVISE NEW METHODS BY WHICH THEY WILL BECOME AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR POPULAR CULTURE.

OUR SECOND TASK IS TO STAND UP TO THE NEW TRENDS AND DANGERS WHICH HAVE ARISEN. THE TIDE OF RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM IS SPREADING IN MANY DIRECTIONS. IT HAS AFFECTED OUR OWN COMMUNITIES. A SERIOUS TREND TOWARDS RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM AND FANATICISM IS GAINING STEADILY IN STRENGTH AND WILL NO DOUBT SLOW DOWN, IF NOT SET BACK, THE PROGRESS SO HAPPILY DEVELOPED DURING THE LAST GENERATION.

OUR THIRD TASK IS TO DRAW THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP AND TO ASK OURSELVES WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER FOR TIKKUN OLAM, FOR THE MENDING OF THE WORLD. WHAT WE CAN, IN FOLLOWING OUR MUTUAL TRADITIONS, DO TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR PLANET A MORE JUST, A MORE BEAUTIFUL, A MORE HOSPITABLE PLACE TO DWELL IN. AND I AM CONVINCED THAT BRAZIL OFFERS PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR SUCH A CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COMMUNITIES, NOTABLY IN THE SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN DOMAIN.

A FOURTH TASK IS BEFORE US: WE HAVE TO THINK HOW WE CAN EXTEND OUR DIALOGUE TO THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY, IN SPITE OF OUR PRESENT SERIOUS HANDICAPS IN THIS DIRECTION.

I AM DEEPLY GRATIFIED THAT WE HAVE TONIGHT THE GREAT PRIVILEGE TO HAVE WITH US AS OUR GUEST OF HONOR MRS. JEHAN SADAT. SHE IS NOT ONLY THE WIFE OF A GREAT MAN OF PEACE WHOSE PLACE IN HISTORY AS ONE OF THE TRUE VISIONARIES OF OUR TIME IS FOR EVER SECURED. SHE IS ALSO A GREAT LADY IN HER OWN RIGHT WHO, IN DEEP ATTACHMENT TO HER OWN FAITH AND WITH GREAT COURAGE HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED HER WORK FOR THE POOR AND THE NEEDY, FOR THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN, BUT ABOVE ALL HER STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND HER FIGHT FOR A SPIRIT OF TOLERANCE AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS AS HER MAIN TASKS IN LIFE. I AM SURE THAT WE CAN COUNT ON HER IN CONFRONTING THIS DIFFICULT TASK.

AND IT IS PERHAPS FITTING TO RECALL, ESPECIALLY IN THESE DAYS DURING WHICH WE CELEBRATE THE JEWISH FEAST OF SHAVU'OTH, IN THIS PARTICULAR RESPECT THE WONDERFUL DREAM OF ANWAR EL SADAT TO BUILD ON THE FOOT OF THE SINAI, NEXT TO EACH OTHER, A SYNAGOGUE, A CHURCH AND A MOSQUE, AS A SYMBOL OF PEACE AND HARMONY BETWEEN THE THREE GREAT MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS.

THIS BRINGS ME FINALLY TO THE PROBLEM OF PEACE. I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE TRAGEDY WHICH IS HAPPENING IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHERE TWO PEOPLES CONFRONT EACH OTHER, WHERE RIGHT STANDS AGAINST RIGHT, AND WHERE THERE IS NO QUICK SOLUTION IN SIGHT. IT IS NOT BY RECRIMINATION OR BY CONDEMNATIONS - WHICH ONLY STIFFEN RESISTANCE - OR BY TAKING ONE SIDED EXTREMIST POSITIONS THAT THE SITUATION WILL BE EASED. IT IS ONLY BY BREAKING THROUGH THE WALLS OF FEAR ON BOTH SIDES, BY SHOWING COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING, BY SUPPORTING THE MODERATES ON EACH SIDE, THOSE WHO ARE READY FOR COMPROMISE AND FOR TAKING RISKS ON BEHALF OF PEACE, AND BY BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN THEM THAT SOME PROGRESS CAN BE ACHIEVED.

LET US THEN GO ON WITH OUR TASK. THE ROAD WE HAVE TO TAKE IS CLEAR: MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY FOR A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY, FOR A SOCIETY COMMITTED TO THE RESPECT OF THE HUMAN PERSONALITY AND COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS FOR ALL WITHOUT DISTINCTION.

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY IF WE WANT TO AVOID A NEW ERA OF WARS OF RELIGION. IT IS FOR THESE GOALS THAT WE HAVE TO GO ON WITH OUR WORK. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I ACCEPT THE GREAT HONOR OF THE PATRIARCH ABRAHAM AWARD AND I THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR GREAT KINDNESS.

Gerhart M. Riegner

BRAZIL-AWARD June 12, 1989 (520 words)

JEWISH LEADER ASKS BRAZILIAN BISHOPS TO HELP RESOLVE CONVENT ISSUE By Richard Cohen
Catholic News Service

SAO PAULO, Brazil (CNS) — A veteran leader of the World Jewish Congress has expressed hope that the Brazilian bishops' conference will "use its influence" to help resolve the controversy over a Carmelite convent at the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz.

Gerhart Riegner of Geneva, co-chairman of the World Jewish Congress governing board, spoke at a June 11 ecumenical ceremony honoring him and Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

The two received the first Patriarch Abraham Awards "in recognition of their lifelong devotion to strengthening the relations between Catholics and Jews." The awards were presented by the Commission for Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of the Brazilian bishops' conference and the Jewish Confederation of Brazil. Riegner, in accepting his award, spoke of "misunderstandings" that burdened the relations between Catholics and Jews.

"At this very moment, a serious conflict has arisen between the Jewish community and the Polish church on the establishment of a Carmelite convent on the site of the Auschwitz extermination camp," Riegner said. He said the convent issue "deeply hurts Jews everywhere" and "because of the profound emotions it arouses, seriously risks affecting the future of a harmonious Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

"We had thought that we had found a solution to the problem in friendly talks in Geneva in February 1987, but unfortunately nothing has happened so far to implement those agreements." Riegner said he hoped that "in the interest of consolidating the excellent relations that exist today between Catholics and Jews in Brazil, the Brazilian bishops' conference will use its influence in Rome and Krakow (Poland) to bring about, in the near future, a solution for which we have been waiting for more than two years." The controversy centers on a group of Carmelite nuns who moved into an old theater in which the Nazis had stored Zyklon B gas, used in the mass murder of an estimated 4 million inmates — 90 percent of them Jews.

The location of the convent next to the camp — which many Jewish organizations want as a memorial to the Nazis' Jewish victims — and a fund-raising campaign for the convent that focused on conversions raised a continuing controversy.

In 1987, Jewish and Catholic representatives met in Geneva and agreed to a timetable for moving the Carmelites and establishing an interreligious prayer and information center devoted to the victims of Auschwitz.

However, within the last few months the Carmelites have paired the roof on the convent and erected a new cross.

Cardinal Willebrands, accepting his award, warned against losing ground on the progress made in Catholic-Jewish relations. "We should never retrace the steps we have made during and after the Second Vatican Council, but go forward and develop further and deeper our relations in the light of faith and with confidence in Abraham's God, who brings us together toward a better world for the benefit of all humanity," Cardinal Willebrands said. The Patriarch Abraham Award is a bronze dove designed by a leading Brazilian sculptor. One wing of the dove represents a Catholic hand and the other a Jewish hand.

END

WILLEBRANDS June 15, 1989 (380 words)

VATICAN II VIEWS ON JUDAISM MUST REACH THE FAITHFUL, CARDINAL SAYS

By Richard Cohen

Catholic News Service

SAO PAULO, Brazil (CNS) -- Insights on Judaism developed during the Second Vatican Council must be taught "to the great mass of the faithful," said Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

Speaking at a luncheon given by one of Brazil's Jewish leaders, Cardinal Willebrands said the "new theology" of Vatican II and the changed attitude it expressed toward Judaism and Jewish people "was not really new but rather was something always there, rediscovered or brought to the surface of our conscience."

"Indeed, the views expressed at the Second Vatican Council and enshrined in the documents adopted there are deeply rooted in our teachings," said Cardinal Willebrands. "As part of the great effort that we must undertake to bring to the great mass of the faithful these 'new' teachings, we must explain the real meaning of the Gospels, and especially those passages that appear to be anti-Jewish."

Cardinal Willebrands spoke June 13 at a luncheon given by Rabbi Henry Sobel of the Congregacao Israelita Paulista, the largest synagogue in South America. Two days earlier, the cardinal and Gerhart Riegner, co-chairman of the World Jewish Congress governing board, received ecumenical awards for their work in Catholic-Jewish relations.

The cardinal said that understanding the real meaning of Scripture, "how to interpret the text in its true sense, and not only in its superficial meaning -- this is an immense task of education, for we must overcome centuries of mistrust, hostility and separation."

The goal must be "to achieve a level of Catholic-Jewish relations marked not only by mutual confidence but even fraternity. This means Vatican II must be turned not only into new theological teachings but, more important, into the daily lives of the faithful."

"Nostra Aetate," the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, declared that the church "deplores the hatred, persecutions, and displays of anti-Semitism directed against the Jews at any time and from any source."

It rejected once-common views that the Jews as a people were responsible for Christ's death and the Jews are a people "repudiated and cursed by God." The document particularly objected to the use of Scripture for making such claims.

END



**INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
JEWISH WOMEN**

18, RUE DE TEHERAN
75008 PARIS

President

Stella Rozan
France

BULL

Resolution / Statement

Deeply offended by the imposition of their faith upon the Jewish dead in Auschwitz by the women of the Carmelite order -

We 300 women of the ICJW, meeting in Strasbourg on May 29 and 30, representing 20 European countries, insist that the Carmelite Convent be moved forthwith from the grounds of Auschwitz.

This also respecting the UNESCO Resolution of July 1979.

This move must be effected by July 22, 1989 in keeping with the agreement signed by 4 Catholic Archbishops and Jewish representatives in February 1987.

We further propose that suitable action be taken by Jewish Communities worldwide to ensure that the Catholic Authorities, the Polish Government and the Public at large be made aware of the great pain felt by Jews at the continued presence of the Carmelites in Auschwitz.

Passed unanimously in Plenum on Tuesday, May 30 1989.

Mgr Muszynski : Auschwitz et la croix

Les juifs sont très minoritaires aujourd'hui, en Pologne, Mgr Muszynski. Quelles sont les relations entre eux et les catholiques ?

— Avant la guerre, il y avait en Pologne plus de 3,3 millions de juifs. Ils avaient adopté la Pologne comme leur deuxième patrie — après Israël —, la mère-patrie pour y attendre la fin du monde et la venue du Messie. Beaucoup de juifs du monde ont ici leurs racines. Et c'est précisément en Pologne que s'est produite la Shoah, l'holocauste, l'extermination. Nous vivons donc ce double héritage : une culture juive qui imprègne tout notre pays et l'héritage tragique de la Shoah.

Les contacts entre Polonais catholiques et juifs ont été, après la guerre, très sporadiques. Les uns et les autres ont vécu des vies très distinctes, des valeurs très différentes. Peut-être parce que ceux qui étaient revenus des camps, longtemps, n'ont pas voulu — ou pas pu — parler de ce qu'ils avaient vécu. A la différence des Français qui ont su développer, du moins théoriquement, un discours sur la Shoah.

Maintenant, nous commençons à avoir des relations, notamment avec les 2000 juifs croyants polonais. L'expression de ces nouveaux rapports, c'est la visite des juifs polonais au Pape, lors de sa dernière visite ici. Et puis nous avons, au niveau international, des discussions théologiques avec des autorités juives.

— Pourtant, une vive polémique s'est développée autour du carmel d'Auschwitz...

— Nous vivons en effet une situation paradoxale. Alors qu'il y a très peu de juifs en Pologne, nous avons un problème juif : il s'agit du carmel d'Auschwitz. Situation



Du premier étage du bloc 11, le « bloc de la mort » à Auschwitz, on ne voit qu'elle, la grande croix du carmel installée contre le mur d'enceinte du camp, plantée là en signe de prière et de repentance, Mais combien provocante pour les juifs du monde entier : à leurs yeux, installer ce couvent, c'est se réapproprier — et effacer d'une certaine façon — ce qu'Auschwitz symbolise, l'Holocauste, la volonté nazie de détruire le peuple juif. Eux ont préféré le vide et le silence. Mgr Henryk Muszynski (ici avec D. Quinio/Photo Claude Raison), évêque de Włocławek, 56 ans, président de la commission épiscopale polonaise des relations avec les juifs s'explique sur la « question juive » en Pologne.

que vous connaissez bien, puisque les cardinaux Decourtray et Lustiger participent aux discussions.

Pour les juifs, Auschwitz-Birkenau, c'est le symbole de la Shoah. Pour les Polonais, le symbole du martyre — des leurs, car beaucoup de chrétiens ont souffert et sont morts à Auschwitz. Quand ont commencé les travaux du carmel, nous avons écrit une lettre aux juifs de Pologne pour expliquer le sens de cette prière des carmélites. La première réaction fut positive : c'était la réaction de juifs polonais minoritaires dans une société catholique. Des protestations — vives et même agressives — sont alors parties de Belgique et de France.

Pour nous, prier à Auschwitz, ce n'est ni de la politique ni de la tactique. Mais un signe religieux parce qu'Auschwitz est un signe d'athéisme. C'est pour cela que naquit l'idée d'y installer un carmel, symbole de l'acceptation de Dieu dans notre vie humaine. Pour les catholiques polonais, il est donc très difficile de comprendre comment la prière pourrait être un danger pour les juifs.

— Quelle peut être la solution, acceptable par tous ?

— La seule solution possible a été proposée à Genève et un accord signé, en février 1987. Elle est le fruit d'un compromis. Les autorités juives acceptent la présence d'un

L'INVITE DE LA SEMAINE

carmel à Auschwitz et le cardinal Macharski (1) a accepté de le transférer dans un autre lieu. Mais il faut savoir que si l'épiscopat a accepté, ce n'est pas le cas des catholiques de base. En Pologne, la croix est le symbole de la foi. S'opposer à la croix, pour eux, c'est s'opposer à la foi. À nous d'expliquer que la croix et le lieu de la croix, ce n'est pas la même chose.

— Peut-on parler d'un antisémitisme polonais ?

— C'est une question très importante. Parce que dans l'opinion mondiale, avec beaucoup de simplifications et d'exagérations, s'exprime la conviction que nous sommes très antisémites. Et l'on a pensé que ce qui s'est passé chez nous, dans les camps de concentration, était la conséquence de cet antisémitisme. Ce n'est pas vrai. L'antisémitisme polonais avait des raisons politiques, religieuses, économiques, sociales mais jamais raciales, à la différence du nazisme. Et les Polonais ont souffert de la même idéologie hitlérienne.

Nous espérons régler cette douloureuse question du carmel, qui soulève tant d'émotion et de discussions, dans une perspective typiquement polonaise. Que chacun — juif ou catholique — accepte d'entrer dans la perspective de l'autre.

Recueilli par
Dominique QUINIO

(1) C'est sur le territoire du diocèse de Cracovie que se trouve Auschwitz. Selon les accords de Genève, les carmélites devaient quitter, avant février 1989, le carmel installé dans le vieux théâtre, qui servit de lieu de dépôt pour le gaz ryklon B, pour s'installer dans un nouveau couvent, à l'intérieur d'un centre d'information, d'éducation, de rencontre et de prière, situé hors des limites des camps.

Dr. Donald D. HOOK
Wildwechsel
205 Talcott Notch Road
Farmington, Connecticut 06032-1620

June 29, 1989

Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum
45 East 89th Street, Apt. 18F
New York, NY 10128

Dear Dr. Tanenbaum:

I want to thank you for your kind note and your willingness to look over Lothar Kahn's and my book Death in the Balance with a view to endorsing it. I have been in frequent telephone contact with the company—the last time, in fact, today—and the production editor felt quite frankly there was not sufficient time to get the material to you and receive your reaction. We all regret the close time frame. Although the book is short, it did not seem courteous to impose on you on such short notice.

Thank you for the copy of your interesting article in The Jewish Ledger. To my distress I have watched the deterioration of black-Jewish relations in the last decade among my Trinity students. Your efforts to reverse this trend—if indeed that is what it is—are to be applauded.

I look forward to seeing your new book on Vatican foreign policy. The church has held a profound personal and scholarly interest for me all my life. Among other issues, I hope you examine Rome's attitude toward the dissemination of artificial birth control information in an effort to stem massive population growth, especially in hunger-ridden countries. Probably of only marginal concern to you in your study, but of particular interest to me, would be the Roman Church's changing ecumenical relations with other Christian denominations in light of growing feminist insistence on admission to Holy Orders. Since 1976, when the Episcopal Church broke with tradition and began to ordain women to the priesthood, and since this past February, when Barbara Harris was consecrated Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, splits with the worldwide Anglican Communion have loomed large, and cooperative efforts with Rome on various levels and for various purposes will surely be threatened.

A footnote: My friend Lothar Kahn informed me yesterday that he is being awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Frankfurt/Main in appreciation of his writings on behalf of exiled German-Jewish writers, Jewish-Christian, and German-American relations.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Hook

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

June 27, 1989 (7:45 A.M.)

Sir Sigmund Sternberg

FAX # - 01-485-4512

Dear Sigmund,

Last night I received an overseas telephone call from Cardinal Lustiger's personal secretary. The Cardinal is attending a meeting of French bishops and asked his aide, Father Pierre d'Ornelles, to give me this message:

Father d'Ornelles was in Cracow and Auschwitz on June 17 where the decision was made to purchase the land for the new center and the convent. On June 18, the land was purchased and the deed was handed over to Cardinal Macharski.

In Cracow, Father d'Ornelles saw and reviewed the actual architectural plans for the center and convent. It was agreed with Cardinal Macharski and Bishop Muszynski that building will start "at the end of this year, 1989."

I told Lustiger's secretary that you and I have been speaking confidentially, and that both of us welcome this information. It is vital to move forward with this schedule, but the interim problem still remains. He is confident the time plan will be implemented, but he had no view about what to do for the interim.

He said Cardinal Lustiger will call me on his return to Paris.

Also, this morning I received a FAX from Cardinal Willebrands asking me to call him this evening, at six p.m., Rome time. I will do so, and will keep you informed.

With warm personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,



Sir Sigmund Sternberg O St J KCSG JP

Star House Grafton Road
London NW5 4BD
Telephone 01-485 2538
Facsimile 01-485 4512

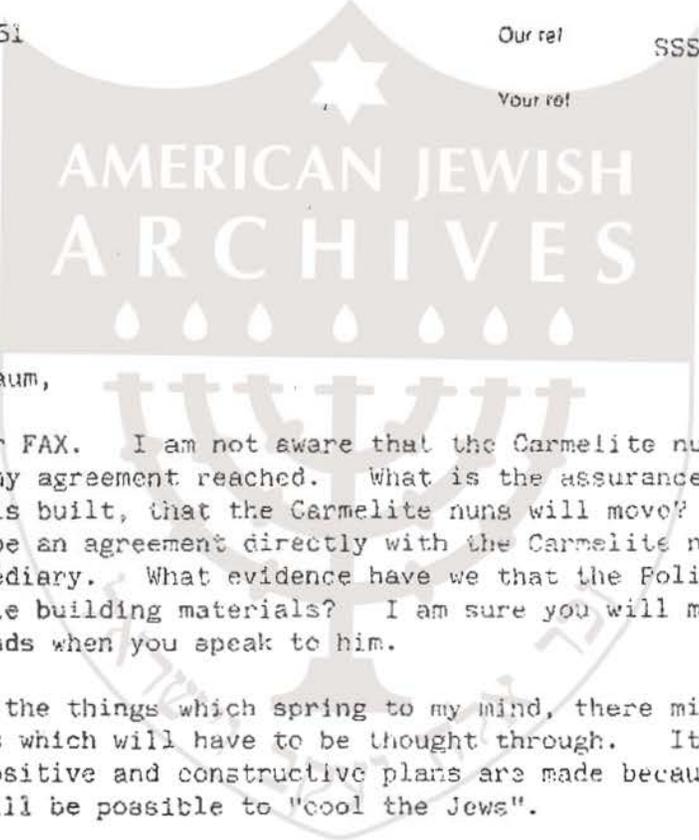
To: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum,
American Jewish Committee

Date 27 June 1989

FAX: 212-876-8351

Our ref SSS/va

Your ref



AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

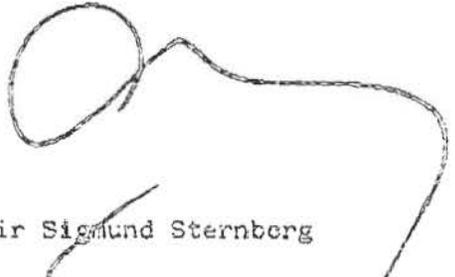
Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

Thank you for your FAX. I am not aware that the Carmelite nuns have been a party to any agreement reached. What is the assurance, assuming that the convent is built, that the Carmelite nuns will move? To that end there should be an agreement directly with the Carmelite nuns and not through an intermediary. What evidence have we that the Polish Government will make available building materials? I am sure you will mention this Cardinal Willebrands when you speak to him.

These are some of the things which spring to my mind, there might well be some other matters which will have to be thought through. It is for us to achieve that positive and constructive plans are made because this is the only way it will be possible to "cool the Jews".

With kindest wishes to you,

Yours sincerely,



Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir Sigmund Sternberg O.S.J. KCSG JP

Star House Grafton Road
London NW5 4BD
Telephone 01-485 2538
Facsimile 01-485 4512

To: Rabbi Marc H Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee

Date 27 June 1989

FAX: 212-876-8351

Our ref 555/va

Your ref

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

I have spoken this morning to Cardinal Willebrands about our plans. He told me he will reflect on it. He will speak to you later, of course you could try to ring him. He told me that he will contact the Carmelite Order in Rome to see what the situation is, but the key is Cardinal Macharski and Bishop Muszynski.

My understanding is that there are people in in Cardinal Macharski's office who are against any move. Might I suggest that you speak to Cardinal Macharski and Bishop Muszynski and I will speak to the representative of the Polish Government.

My understanding from Cardinal Willebrands is that the land where the convent should be re-located is not conveyed yet. I may be wrong.

Cardinal Willebrands told me that the Belgium Jews are sending telegrams every day to the Vatican telling them how many days they have left. I understood that today is day 24. as you know this pressure goes down very badly with the Vatican.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sir Sigmund Sternberg
(dictated by Sir Sigmund and signed in his absence)

SENT BY: CONSEIL PONT. UNITE' ; 27- 6-89 ; 13:13 ;

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698-5378

June 27, 1989

To:
Marc H. Tanenbaum
International Consultant
American Jewish Committee
45 East 89th Street
New York, New York 10128 USA

From:
Father Pierre Duprey
Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity
00120 Vatican City State

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

We have received your PM message of June 20.

Cardinal Willibrands will be available for a telephone call from you tomorrow, June 28, at 6:00 pm Rome time (12:00 Noon in New York). You will be able to reach him at this number: 011-390-288-8661.

396-656-5061

Sincerely Yours,

Pierre Duprey
Pierre Duprey

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

June 28, 1989 (6 P.M., N.Y.)

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir Sigmund Sternberg

FAX# - 01-485-4512

Dear Sigmund,

While we have spoken earlier today, I thought it would be useful to write for our shared record the highlights of my two conversations with Cardinal Willebrands today (12 noon, U.S. time).

1) The Holy See is receiving every day a cable from Belgian or French Jews stating that "today is the 25th day; you have only 24 more days to remove the convent from Auschwitz." While Cardinal Willebrands downplayed the importance of these daily messages, it is clear that the Vatican is troubled by them. "We don't know what to do about it," the cardinal said.

2) He said that Cardinal Macharsky is "more desperate than the Jews" about the convent situation, and feels deeply frustrated. He added that the placards and demonstrations are provoking increasing "anti-attitudes" in the Polish population.

3) When I informed him about the information I had received the day before from Cardinal Lustiger's private secretary; namely, that the land for convent and center was purchased on June 17-18, he said that "if the land was really purchased, that would mean that we are seriously on the real way toward a solution."

4) As for the proposal to invite the nuns to Israel, the U.S., or Germany, he felt that Polish Catholic nuns - given their traditions and discipline - would not "break up their community, even temporarily." For them, he added, "it would be like going to the moon."

5) Nevertheless, he felt that it would be worthwhile undertaking the mission you propose, provided it is understood as "a serious, religious cause" of healing and reconciliation. He believed that Cardinal Macharsky and Bishop Muszynski would welcome "a quiet effort from both of you." It would be important, he added, that they arrange for the meeting between us and the Carmelite nuns.

6) He (Willebrands) has proposed to Macharsky earlier that he was prepared to come to Auschwitz for "a pastoral visit" with the nuns, but Macharsky felt the time was then too agitated for a useful meeting. Cardinal Willebrands then said to me, "if Cardinal Macharsky would want me to come now, I would be glad to do so."

7) As agreed, I will try to telephone Cardinal Macharsky and Bishop Muszynski tomorrow, either from New York or Kent State University (where I will be lecturing through Friday morning.)

I will keep in touch with you.

All the best!

Marc

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

July 5, 1989

Sir Sigmund Sternberg

CONFIDENTIAL - FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

FAX# 01-485-4512

Dear Siggie,

I spoke yesterday and again today with Father Musial, personal aide to Cardinal Macharsky. He is deeply involved in the convent issue with Bishop Henryk Muszynski.

This is what he told me: (1) Between July 13 and "absolutely" by July 22, a public notice will be placed on the plot of land purchased for the new convent and interreligious center. The notice will indicate that the land has been purchased by the Archdiocese of Cracow, and that the center and convent will begin to be built by the end of 1989.

(2) On July 24, the Israeli Minister of Religion, Zevulun Hammer, will meet in Warsaw with the Polish Minister of Religion, Lorencz. The convent will be discussed.

(3) On July 24, a pilgrimage of French Jews will be coming to Auschwitz. They will probably meet with Cardinal Macharsky then. (Macharsky remains in regular communication with Theo Klein.)

(4) I asked him directly what plans are there for moving the Carmelite sisters to "an interim convent". He forthrightly said, "It is impossible to move them elsewhere before the new convent is built." He said there is a "danger of a big wave of anti-Semitism in Poland" if the nuns are moved to an interim place. The population will not understand it and will not allow it.

I told him I thought that if the sisters remain in the convent a year or more, there will be great difficulty with elements in the Jewish community. He said that he understands that and knows "it is extremely difficult." He added that much speed will be used to build the convent as the first structure in the center. The nuns might be able to move in one and a half years, rather than two years. The only alternative might be if the Carmelites in Rome make another decision about an interim move, but the danger of anti-Semitism being aroused is great.

(5) Father Musial spoke with Bishop Muszynski who said he would be pleased to meet us either in Cracow or Warsaw, if we decide to come.

My feeling is that the only "positive" thing that could come out of such a visit would be a "photo opportunity" showing the sign over the land purchased for the convent and center. I do not believe the Jewish community, especially our extreme elements, will see that other than an apologetic cover for the Carmelites. Unless something changes, which I don't see at this time, we probably should not go. (If for some reason, we should go, I forgot to mention that Cardinal Macharsky would be in Cracow on July 22, 23, 24, and would be glad to meet with us. But such a meeting would not change the situation.)

I would welcome your thoughts. Best regards!

INTERNATIONAL JEWISH COMMITTEE
ON INTERRELIGIOUS CONSULTATIONS

July 6, 1989

RABBI A. JAMES RUDIN
Chairman

DR. LEON A. FELDMAN
Consultant

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Synagogue Council of America
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World Jewish Congress
501 Madison Avenue
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(212) 755-5770

Dear IJCIC Member:

We wish to apologize that a mailing, dated June 14, 1989, was not delivered because of postal difficulties. We are thus sending these items to you, a little late, but you will appreciate their relevance and importance. You have received, however, our material, mailed June 26, 1989; we suggest that you read the news items in sequence of their respective dates.

Another apology pertains to the smudging of the last two pages in the last mailing, dated June 26, and were, for the most part, illegible. Because of their importance, are enclosing clean copies herewith.

REMINDER

The next IJCIC MEETING will take place on **TUESDAY,**
JULY 25, 1989, 9:30 a.m.
in the offices of the Synagogue Council.

Please make every effort to attend.

In the meantime, we wish you a pleasant and rewarding summer vacation.

[start]

Original documents
faded and/or illegible



Carmelite Monastery, Linton, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS22 4HZ
Telephone (0937) 65734

Sir Sigmund Sternberg
Star House
Crafton Road
London NW5 4BD

7th July, 1989

Dear Sir Sigmund,

Thank you for your letter. The situation concerning the Carmel of Auschwitz continues to be a matter of real distress to us. We are indeed saddened that a community of our Carmelite Order should be presenting such a stumbling block to relationships with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

From what you write, it is clear that the nuns will not be moving out this month as promised, which means a second promise broken (the previous one being for February 23rd, as you know). This breaking of an honoured word is totally incomprehensible to us and I have written to the Prioress of the Carmel at Auschwitz to let her know that it is a further cause of scandal to many in this country.

You ask what can be done to persuade the nuns to move elsewhere until their new buildings are ready. In this community we can think of nothing that will help, except prayer for their change of heart. We have no information other than what we read in the religious and secular press, from which we can well understand that the nuns at Auschwitz are entrenched within complex influences. Being of Polish nationality they are characteristically very conservative and therefore maybe lacking in openness to the ways in which the Spirit is moving in our times towards the unity of all peoples and religions. As each Carmelite convent is autonomous and we have no central authority amongst the nuns, there is little we can do to influence each others' communities other than by prayer and correspondence.

I repeat, in this community there is genuine sorrow that from our Carmelite Order such a barrier to Christian-Jewish relations has emerged. The Sisters here have a deep awareness and appreciation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. We pray that the nuns will leave Auschwitz and that we may all grow in mutual understanding as we strive to serve the same Lord and God.

With all good wishes.

Yours very sincerely,

Sr. Catherine.

Sister Catherine,
Prioress



Sir Sigmund Sternberg O St.J KCSG JP

Star House Grafton Road
London NW5 4BD
Telephone 01-485 2538
Facsimile 01-485 4512

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum,
International Consultant,
American Jewish Committee

Date 7 July 1989

Our ref SSS/va

Your ref

FAX 212 876 8351

Two pages.

My Dear Marc,

I have just got back from Lille and am off to another engagement, so I can only give you my random thoughts in response to your confidential Fax. In response to your numbered points:-

1. The public notice which will be placed on the plot of land purchased for the new convent has very little significance because Gerhart Riegner told me in Lille that three of the owners of the pieces of land are not clear about the ownership. If that is so, the convent is unlikely to begin being built by the end of 1989.
2. This has no relevance at all because they have been having discussions for several years.
3. This cannot have any significance.
4. Let us draw them out on the exact reason why it is impossible to move the Carmelites before the new convent is built. It is absurd that 18 women can cause so many problems all over the world. We should really hammer this point home. Isn't it the teaching of the Carmelites to make sacrifices and isn't this a time that sacrifices are called for? There are hardly any Jews in Poland and therefore, what does it mean that there is a "danger of a big wave of anti-Semitism in Poland"? The population should be told that if agreements made in the name of the Church have not been honoured, the integrity and trustworthiness of the Church are at stake in ensuring that they are honoured. If Jews cannot be confident that the Church honours its word, they will rightly be suspicious of the Church's dialogue initiatives, which the present Pope has himself encouraged in no small measure.

We cannot accept that "it is extremely difficult". I don't believe that there will be any "speed used to build the convent as the first structure of the centre." The whole building will be sabotaged. At some stage we will be told that it is far more important to build houses for the homeless than to build a convent, therefore it is unrealistic that the nuns will be able to move into a newly-built convent.

Our hope can only lie in contacting the Carmelites in Rome. Who should do this?

5. We are not legitimising their position and unless they are willing to negotiate about an interim move, we have no reason to come to meet them.

We do not need "photo-opportunity". The situation is getting out of control and unless the situation is resolved we shall be forced into another Salomon Rushdie affair. In England a call for prayers to be recited in British synagogues on July 20th, "as part of the campaign to force the removal of a Carmelite convent from the site of Auschwitz" has been issued by the Board of Deputies.

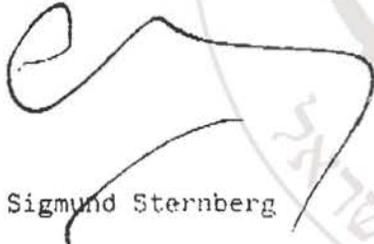
Part of my Conference in Lille was taken up by the Auschwitz convent issue.

Thank you for all you are doing we shall get there eventually.

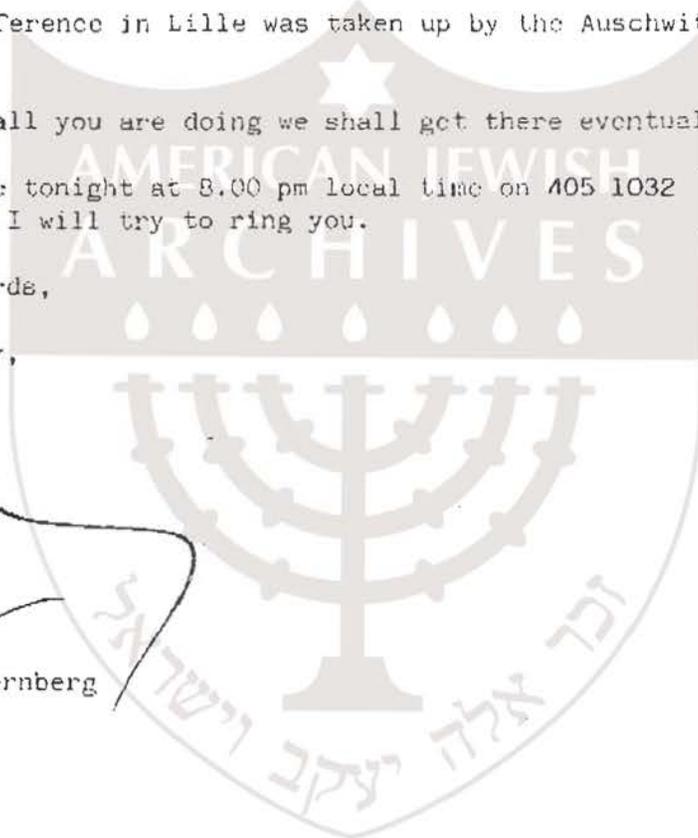
You can ring me tonight at 8.00 pm local time on 405 1032
Alternatively, I will try to ring you.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Sir Sigmund Sternberg



Sir Sigmund Sternberg O.St.J. KCSG JP

Star House Grafton Road
London NW5 4BD
Telephone 01-485 2538
Facsimile 01-485 4512

Sister Catherine,
Prioress,
Carmelite Monastery,
Linton,
Wetherby,
West Yorkshire,
LS22 4HZ

Date 13 July 1989

Our ref SSS/va

Your ref

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Dear Sister Catherine,

Thank you for your considered, thoughtful and concerned letter of 7th July with regard to the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz.

I note that you have written to the Prioress of the Carmel at Auschwitz and I wonder if you have received any reply yet and if so, what was said. It is indeed true that, agreements made in the name of the Church if not honoured, the integrity and trustworthiness of the Church are at stake in ensuring that it is honoured. If Jews cannot be confident that the Church honours its word, they will rightly be wary and suspicious of the Church's dialogue initiatives, which the Holy Father has himself encouraged in no small measure.

I accept and appreciate your sentiments with regard to the power of prayer but would respectfully suggest that so far this has been to no avail. In fact in an unprecedented move the Board of Deputies of British Jews called for prayers to be recited in British synagogues on July 20th, as part of 'a campaign to force the removal of the Carmelite convent from the site of Auschwitz'. It is most unusual for Jews to pray for any 'special intention'. I feel that now is the time for action and as you say, the way for this to take form is through correspondence. Could I suggest that you draft a telegram no matter how long expressing the very thoughts that you have written to me, and I will willingly send it on your behalf. I am sure that the nuns will listen to you.

I cannot help feeling that the very fact that the nuns are of Polish origin might well mean that they would be more easily influenced to follow orders, or alternatively, if they really want to move I am sure that they would do so. In fact, if they do either decide or are influenced to move, temporary accommodation can be found for them.

I very much appreciate the sentiments of your letter and in particular, your last paragraph. I am sure I speak on behalf of the whole Jewish Community when I voice my fears that if there is no move from the nuns at Auschwitz there is a very great fear that fundamentalist forces might activate violence which could greatly damage Christian/Jewish relations so carefully created. I feel sure that you can help us to make this move come about. It is in your hands now more than in ours.

I am sending you a copy of a Press Release with regard to last week's International Council of Christians and Jews Colloquium in Lille. A great part of the discussions at the Colloquium centred around the issue of the Auschwitz convent.

I would very much like to invite you to come to London to meet my friends and to give you an idea of some of the work we are doing I enclose a brochure of my Centre in North London, which is the largest Centre of Jewish Culture in Europe.

I am also enclosing Christian Jewish Relations Documentation, 'The Carmelite Convent at Auschwitz. Statements January-May 1989' which will give you the complete picture of the situation.

Once again I thank you for your kind and sincere letter and very much hope that you will find it possible to help us by drafting a telegram for us to send to the Carmel at Auschwitz. As I said, I would very much like to meet you in London.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sir Sigmund Sternberg

[end]

Original documents
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הסדרה לעולם

שבועון קתולי: למרות ההסכמים - המינור באוטשוויץ לא יועבר

- נטאת ז'ולי באר, כתבתנו ברומא -

ספקל מקטו של המינור נקבע ב-21
נו ל-21 בפברואר.

ההסכם לא נוכח, ובתיווכו של
הוועד הבריטי אלכס רפורטארי,
שביקש ארכת, תסכם על פינוי ב-
22 ביולי.

הוועד הבריטי אמר, כי גם אם
לא ייבנה עד או מינור חדש מתוך
לוחמות המועד, יצטרפו הנודות לני-
חש את ארסחיץ ולמצוא מקום מגור
ריח ארעי.

לדברי השכונת הקטלי, ההסכם
אינו מוצא חן בעיני שלטונת הכני-
סיה האולינית, שאינם מתכוונים לכי-
בר אותו - רחיינו לסגור את המינור
ולתקבר את תודות למסס אוד.

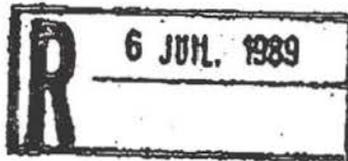
והסכם לתחנת מקטו של
המינור הבריטית, שניכנה כלב מוד
נת התסמור, אושוויץ - לא יוכר.
כך כתב הירדון הקטלי של הישר
קול, 26 ימים.

הירדון, המצטט גורמים בחוגי
הכנסית הקטלית של פולין, כותב
כי כבר בשנת 1964, כאשר נקסס
המינור, הוא עמד את נקסס של הי-
הורים, אשר יאו כבר ניסיון
ל-קטליוציה של השואת.

החשמן המולני מטרסקי, תחם
לפני כשנתיים והסכם עם ראשי קורי
לת יודיות באירופת לתעברו של
המינור מתוך לחמת מצח והוסמ
וח ובניית מכו תיסוד, התאריך לה.

LE CARDINAL ARCHEVÊQUE DE LYON

Lyon, le 30 juin 1989



Docteur Gérard RIEGNER
Comité International Juif pour les
Consultations Inter-Religieuses

Docteur,

Monseigneur MUSZYNSKI, Président de la Commission Episcopale Polonaise pour le Dialogue avec le Judaïsme, m'écrit une lettre que je viens de recevoir pour m'informer d'un communiqué de la dite commission et d'un article du Père MUSIAL intitulé "Est-ce que les Soeurs Carmélites peuvent prier à Auschwitz ?". Il me semble opportun de vous faire part du contenu de sa lettre :

"La commission s'engage à promouvoir dans le milieu polonais l'idée du "Centre d'Information, d'Education, de Rencontre et de Prière" selon l'esprit des accords de Genève du 22 février et compte sur la même popularisation de cette idée dans le milieu français. Notre commission est persuadée que le Centre sera un lieu particulièrement fécond pour le dialogue entre Catholiques et les Juifs en Pologne et dans le monde".

Je tenais à vous informer du travail en profondeur que cette commission est amenée à faire en Pologne. Cela est une part importante pour la réalisation des accords de Genève du 22 février 1987.

J'en profite pour vous envoyer copie de la lettre que le Cardinal MACHARSKI m'a adressée le 7 juin dernier.

Je vous prie de croire, Docteur, à l'assurance de mes sentiments respectueux.

Albert Cardinal DECOURTRAY
Archevêque de Lyon

COPIE

Son Eminence le Cardinal DECOURTRAY
Archevêque de Lyon

1, place de Fourvière

69321 LYON CEDEX 05

FRANCE

Krakow,
Le 7 juin 1989

Monsieur le Cardinal,

Le Père Jean DUJARDIN, venu de votre part à Cracovie le 5 juin dernier, m'a fait part, en présence du Père St. Musial, des graves questions dues au retard apporté à la réalisation de l'Accord de Genève.

Je veux tout d'abord redire une fois encore à quel point je suis attaché au respect de la parole que nous avons donnée à Genève et combien je désire que l'Accord soit réalisé dans son esprit et de façon concrète, quelles que soient par ailleurs les intentions qu'on a pu prêter à l'Eglise.

Voici les dispositions pratiques déjà prises ou sur le point de l'être concernant la construction du nouveau couvent des carmélites et du Centre, prévus par l'Accord. Je vous demande de les transmettre à Maître Théo KLEIN.

1. Le choix du terrain.

Le terrain numéro deux, situé à cinq cents mètres environ du camp de concentration d'Auschwitz, a été finalement retenu. Le Docteur RIEGNER et le Docteur SCHNECK l'avaient visité et accepté lors de leur passage à Cracovie en juin 1988. Ce terrain a une superficie de quatre hectares et demi.

Le camp est séparé du terrain choisi par plusieurs ensembles de constructions et un rideau d'arbres. Le nouveau Carmel sera construit dans la partie du terrain la plus éloignée du camp. Il n'y aura donc aucune ambiguïté dans sa localisation par rapport au "Theatergebäude" et au camp. Les plans ci-joints donnent une idée exacte des différents emplacements.

2. Formalités administratives remplies.

La voïvodie de Biesko-Wiala et la ville d'Oswiecim ont donné leur accord définitif sur le choix de ce terrain numéro 2 pour la construction du monastère du Carmel comme pour celle du "Centre d'information, d'éducation, de rencontre et de prière" composé lui-même de deux bâtiments.

Toutes les conditions de viabilité (onze pour le cas de notre projet, selon la législation polonaise) ont été acceptées officiellement.

Les plans de conception du Centre et du Couvent ont été déposés au bureau d'urbanisme et d'architecture de la ville d'Oswiecim, le 23 mai 1989. Ils y sont actuellement exposés avec le plan d'aménagement global de Oswiecim jusqu'au 17 juin 1989. Après cette date, ils devraient être théoriquement approuvés.

Le terrain pourra alors être provisoirement clôturé avant même son achat définitif car les propriétaires ont en effet promis de nous le vendre.

3. Achat du terrain.

Il restera à négocier l'achat du terrain auprès des quatorze petits propriétaires qui en possèdent chacun une parcelle. Actuellement, un seul hésite à vendre la totalité de la sienne. Les treize autres ont exprimé leur accord.

Ce terrain ne peut être acheté avec l'argent du diocèse. Aussi, je remercie déjà vivement ceux qui ont déjà apporté leur aide financière. J'espère que nous n'aurons pas de problème de ce côté-là.

4. Début des travaux.

Si rien ne vient entraver cette étape mentionnée ci-dessus, le terrain pourrait être acquis au cours de l'été.

Pendant ces différentes démarches administratives, les plans techniques des différents bâtiments étaient à l'étude. L'achat du terrain terminé, nous devons les présenter dans leur phase définitive pour approbation. Celle-ci constituera la permission officielle pour entreprendre les travaux.

Nous pourrions vraisemblablement commencer la construction d'au moins un bâtiment au début du premier semestre 1990.

A la date du 22 juillet 1989, toutes les formalités administratives nécessaires seront très certainement réglées pour nous permettre de poser un geste significatif sur le terrain lui-même. Ce geste symbolique devra exprimer notre adhésion complète aux motifs exprimés à Genève et qui ont provoqué l'accord du 22 février 1987. Il devra aussi témoigner de la vocation particulière du Centre d'information, d'éducation, de rencontre et de prière.

En terminant cette lettre, je ne dois pas vous cacher l'existence d'obstacles que nous continuons de rencontrer dans la réalisation de ce projet. Ils proviennent de l'incompréhension de trop nombreux chrétiens à la perspective d'un déplacement du Carmel. La commission épiscopale pour le dialogue avec le judaïsme qui vient d'être créée, accomplit un très utile travail de formation et d'information.

Je voudrais enfin exprimer un souhait. L'impatience et la souffrance juives sont tout à fait compréhensibles. J'aimerais pourtant dire à nos frères juifs que toutes les manifestations ou les démarches qu'ils ont entreprises ou envisagent d'entreprendre devant le "Theatergebäude" lui-même, contre la présence des carmélites en ce lieu, provoquent des réactions contraires de la population et la renforcent dans la défense aveugle des soeurs. Il serait dramatique que cela creuse un fossé entre les catholiques et les juifs, en Pologne. Ce serait un grand malheur. Nous n'en avons pas besoin.

En transmettant ces informations à Maître Théo KLEIN, pouvez-vous lui dire toute mon amitié et ma reconnaissance pour l'oeuvre de paix qu'il n'a cessé de mener depuis le début de ce long dialogue qui portera ses fruits.

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

† Franciszek Kard. MACHARSKI,
Archevêque de Cracovie.



LA LETTRE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE JUIVE

JOUR J

2^eème année

Lundi 10 juin 1990

Vers le transfert du Carmel

"Un geste nécessaire mais pas suffisant"

«C'est un élément positif, mais c'est loin de nous donner entièrement satisfaction» C'est en ces termes, que Maître Théo Klein, qui dirige la délégation juive chargée de la négociation sur le déplacement du Carmel d'Auschwitz, a accueilli l'annonce faite par Mgr. Albert Decourtray, président des Evêques de France, que les autorités polonaises venaient de délivrer un permis de construire pour l'édification d'un nouveau couvent à quelques centaines de mètres à l'extérieur des limites du camp d'extermination d'Auschwitz-Birkenau. «Si une telle décision avait été prise voilà un an et demi ou deux ans, nous l'aurions accueilli avec beaucoup de satisfaction,» souligne Me Klein, qui ajoute qu'il était plus que temps qu'une telle mesure soit prise.

Selon les accords signés à Genève, par la délégation catholique et la délégation juive

(et non pas le CJM comme nous l'écrivions de façon erronée dans un numéro récent sur la foi d'une dépêche JTA), les socurs auraient dû quitter le Carmel le 22 février 1989. A cette date cependant, aucun signe ne permettait d'envisager un déménagement prochain des religieuses, bien au contraire. Devant cette situation, la partie catholique a fait savoir que si une solution n'était pas trouvée avant le 22 juillet, le relogement provisoire serait envisagé. Il est à noter que cette

suite p.3

suite de la p.1

date du 22 juillet n'a jamais été reconnue par la partie juive comme une échéance contractuelle mais comme un engagement unilatéral de la part de l'Eglise. Aujourd'hui, l'Eglise, par la voix de Mgr. Decourtray, annonce que les travaux commenceront au premier trimestre 1990. Plusieurs questions demeurent cependant: la partie catholique ne semble guère pressée d'entamer les travaux, puisqu'on parle d'une première pierre, au cours du premier trimestre 1990. On voit mal pourquoi attendre au moins 9 mois, si de l'avis général trop de temps a été perdu. D'autre part, si une date a été fixée pour la première pierre, aucune ne l'a été pour la dernière et rien n'empêche les Polonais de faire traîner indéfiniment les travaux sous toutes sortes de prétextes. Enfin, la partie catholique ne précise pas si, selon elle, l'annonce du début des travaux

le cas, cela reviendrait à dire que les Carmélites sont installées encore pour longtemps sur ce lieu, aussi longtemps

tholiques des «geste d'apaisement» et des actes concrets (comme par exemple le retrait de la croix qui, érigé

Carmel: un geste insuffisant

«La lutte contre l'oubli»...

«Votre présence à Auschwitz nous renforce dans notre lutte contre l'oubli et les négateurs». C'est par ces propos qu'Henri Bulawko, président de l'Amicale des Anciens Déportés juifs de France, a tenu à remercier le président Mitterrand des égards dont ce dernier l'avait entouré tout au long de sa visite en Pologne. A plusieurs reprises, le chef de l'Etat avait, pendant ces trois jours, tenu à marquer l'importance que revêtait «l'aspect juif» de sa visite. Tout d'abord en présentant personnellement H. Bulawko à ses hôtes lors du dîner donné en l'honneur du président français par le général Jaruzelsky, ensuite lors de la visite vendredi matin des camps d'Auschwitz et de Birkenau, au cours de laquelle le chef de l'Etat a prêté une oreille particulièrement attentive aux éléments d'information complémentaires apportés par H. Bulawko.

que les travaux dureront, ou qu'on voudra les faire durer. Dans son édition de vendredi, le journal Le Monde annonçait «Rien ne s'oppose plus au déménagement du Carmel». Ce qui est vrai, mais l'était également voilà deux ans... On comprend mieux dans ces con-

dans le jardin du Carmel, surplombe le camp) et non plus simplement de déclaration d'intention. T. Klein rappelle d'ailleurs, qu'une délégation d'anciens déportés sera sur place le 24 juillet prochain, et que ce serait probablement une excellente occasion de mon-

Carmel

Les anciens déportés juifs à Auschwitz

Après la Wizo, c'est au tour des Associations d'Anciens Déportés Juifs et des Fils et Filles de Déportés Juifs, avec le B'nai B'rith, de se rendre en Pologne à partir du 23 juillet prochain pour veiller au respect par l'Eglise des accords de transfert du Carmel d'Auschwitz (qui doit avoir lieu au plus tard le 22). Ces associations, qui se disent prêtes «*à marquer ce jour leur satisfaction envers la dite hiérarchie catholique qui aura tenu ses engagements*», manifesteront dans le cas contraire, «*leur mécontentement et exprimeront combien elles sont indignées par le maintien de ce carmel qui, avec une croix monumentale, marque le désir des Carmélites de «récupérer» toutes les victimes de la Shoah*». «*Il n'est pas dans les traditions juives d'élever des synagogues sur les pas ou les cendres des martyrs; le judaïsme en deuil vient uniquement se recueillir sur les lieux des drames et es-*

saye, en recommandant à tous de se joindre à ce pèlerinage, de maintenir la «mémoire» de ces crimes, afin qu'à l'avenir, à travers la tolérance réciproque, l'humanité puisse vivre dans la paix annoncée par nos prophètes», expliquent ces associations. Au cours du voyage, qui durera jusqu'au 30 juillet, sont également prévues les visites des ghettos de Lodz, Cracovie et Varsovie, des camps de Maidanek et de Treblinka. (Pour s'inscrire, téléphoner au 47 42 27 55. Date limite d'inscription: 30 juin). □

DIASPORA DIASPORA DIASPORA DIAS-

Carmel

Les Juifs Polonais pour la rupture du dialogue avec l'Eglise

La Fédération des Juifs Polonais aux Etats-Unis s'apprête à demander la suspension du dialogue inter-confessionnel judéo-catholique et la rupture des relations entre les deux religions dans le monde si le Carmel d'Auschwitz n'est pas rapidement transféré. «*Nous condamnons l'attitude de la hiérarchie catholique polonaise, ainsi que le comportement du Vatican, qui viole la lettre et l'esprit de l'accord signé en 1987 par quatre cardinaux (aux termes duquel l'Eglise s'engageait à procéder sous deux ans au déplacement du Carmel)*». La Fédération a également dénoncé les plans de l'ordre des Capucins qui projetait de bâtir une chapelle sur le site du camp d'extermination de Sobibor. «*Si nous n'avions pas découvert cette manoeuvre, ont déclaré dans un com-*

munié Yechiel Dobekirer et et Léon Ilutovitch, on aurait bientôt vu fleurir les couvents, églises et chapelles sur les sites de Treblinka, Maïdanek et les autres camps où des millions de juifs ont été exterminés par les Nazis».

Ces deux responsables ont encore mis en cause la «*responsabilité*» du gouvernement polonais sous la juridiction duquel est placé le Carmel d'Auschwitz. La Fédération s'en est plus particulièrement pris au cardinal de Cracovie Franciszek Macharski, dont l'archidiocèse comprend le site d'Auschwitz. Pour la Fédération, il est le principal responsable du non-transfert du Carmel. F. macharski est en outre l'un des cardinaux européens signataires de l'accord conclu avec le Congrès Juif Mondial en février 1987 à Genève. □

• CARMEL D'AUSCHWITZ •

Vous aussi, vous êtes indignés par le refus de l'Eglise catholique d'honorer sa signature? Alors rejoignez-nous!

Venez manifester avec nous, dans le silence et la dignité:

CHAQUE MERCREDI, DE 13 A 14 H,

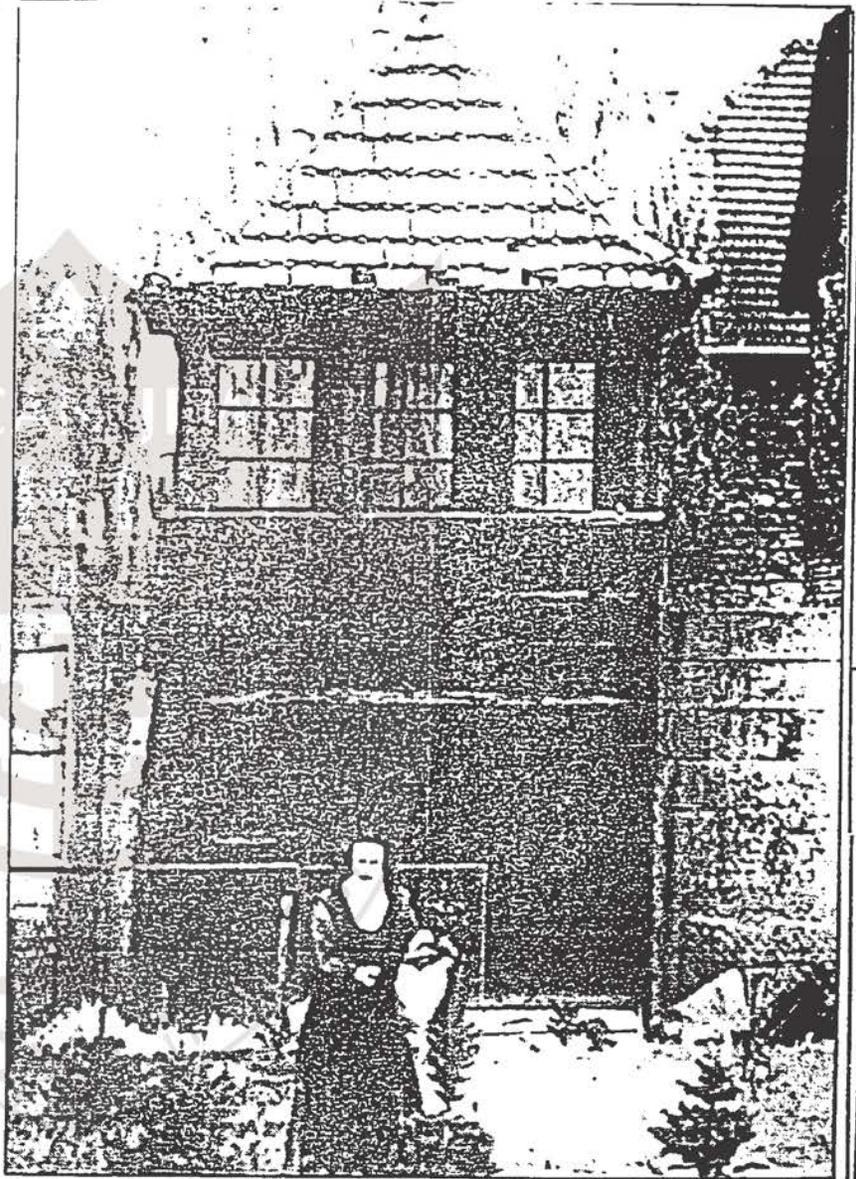
près de la Nonciature Apostolique,
5-9 rue des Franciscains, 1150 Bruxelles, pour exiger:

**QUE L'EGLISE RESPECTE
SA PAROLE!**

(Départ en voiture au Cclj chaque mercredi à 12 h 30 précises)

Brith Hairgounim Mahaloutzim
Tikva
Union des Etudiants Juifs de
Belgique
Union européenne des
Etudiants juifs

Le 22 février 1989, les Carmélites auraient dû avoir quitté le site d'Auschwitz-Birkenau. Le 22 juillet, elles ne seront vraisemblablement pas encore parties. Pour affirmer sa désapprobation, la Jeunesse juive, représentée par la Brith Hairgounim Mahaloutzim, Tikva, l'Union des Etudiants juifs de Belgique et l'Union européenne des Etudiants juifs, organisent une manifestation devant les grilles du Carmel d'Auschwitz-Birkenau. Ce voyage se déroulera le 23 juillet. Le respect de la mémoire de nos parents dépend de nous. Partons ensemble réclamer le départ des Carmélites. Pour tous renseignements, contactez le 648.18.59 - 647.72.79. Si vous ne pouvez vous joindre à nous, aidez-nous financièrement en parainant le voyage d'un jeune en versant votre don au n° de compte suivant: 210-0049006-73. Aidez-nous à combattre l'oubli.



One member of a community of Carmelite nuns tends the convent's shrubs outside the walls of the former Auschwitz death camp. The convent, which was supposed to be moved off the premises of Auschwitz, has become a focus of protest by Holocaust survivors and other groups which believe the site should be preserved as a memorial to Jewish victims of the Nazis. *RNS photo/Wide World*

INFORMATIONS GÉNÉRALES

In comité international s'organise contre le carmel contesté d'Auschwitz

Un accord, signé à Genève en 1957, prévoyait que les carmelites qui se sont établies, en 1934, l'ancien théâtre d'Auschwitz seraient quittes les lieux au plus tard le 22 février 1989.

Il n'a pas été respecté malgré qu'il ait été signé par quatre cardinaux, dont M^r Donceels, primate de Belgique. Un nouveau fut alors fixé : le 22 juillet prochain. Il est déjà certain que le déplacement des carmelites ne pourra intervenir à cette date. Pourquoi, à l'initiative de quelques notables de la communauté juive de Belgique, un « comité international provisoire pour l'évacuation du couvent » d'être créé.

En septembre prochain, une assemblée générale décidera de la composition d'un comité définitif où siègeront aussi bien des non-Juifs que des Juifs. Le prési-

dent du comité provisoire est M. David Suskind, président d'honneur du Centre laïc juif de Belgique. Plusieurs ministres — Philippe Moureaux, Robert Urbain, Ph. Busquin, A. Van der Biele et M. Colla —, de nombreux sénateurs et députés — le plus souvent européens —, ont donné leur adhésion à ce comité. Des parlementaires européens de France, d'Italie, des Pays-Bas et de Grande-Bretagne ont également fait connaître leur appui.

Une responsabilité spéciale de la Belgique

Lors d'une réunion d'information, M. Suskind a exposé qu'il est normal que l'initiative de créer un comité soit venue de Belgique dès lors que tous les déportés juifs venus de notre pays ont été envoyés à Auschwitz et non dans quelque autre camp

de concentration. Auschwitz, remarqua-t-il, est désormais un symbole de la Shoah (extermination des Juifs), reconnu par les cardinaux, signataires de l'accord de Genève. Et pourtant, une grande croix catholique continue de dominer, dans l'enceinte du carmel, l'immense cimetière qui conserve les restes de plusieurs millions de Juifs dont la plupart avaient des convictions religieuses.

Un soutien a été également accordé au comité international naissant par la Confédération nationale des prisonniers politiques, par la section des relations judéo-chrétiennes de la Commission nationale catholique, par le Front de l'indépendance, par le Consistoire israélite de Belgique (M. Georges Schnek), le Comité international Auschwitz (Dr M. Goldstein), par les Déportés juifs de Belgique (M. M. Piore).

Le consentement des sympa-

thisans est général quant à la mise sous le boisseau d'interminables querelles sur la justification ou la condamnation de la présence des carmelites sur le site du camp d'extermination. L'essentiel est aujourd'hui qu'un accord a été passé entre Juifs et catholiques. Celui-ci doit être respecté.

Imbroglie

Actuellement, à un mois de l'expiration du nouveau délai pour l'évacuation, la clarté n'est pas faite sur l'état d'avancement des procédures administratives, préalables à la construction, à quelque distance du camp d'extermination, d'un centre spirituel où les carmelites seraient transplantées. Le terrain, sur lequel règnent quatorze propriétaires, est-il disponible alors que la pose de la première pierre du bâtiment est annoncée pour l'an pro-

chain? Les carmelites accepteraient-elles de s'éloigner provisoirement, comme l'hypothèse en a été évoquée, voici quelques mois? Non, car la prière dans des particularités d'environnement et de logement, a dit, en avril dernier, leur supérieure au Dr Wybran, président du Comité de coordination des organisations juives de Belgique. Enfin, un prêtre catholique nous a dit que les carmelites d'Auschwitz dépendent d'une communauté particulière qui ne relève pas de la direction générale des carmes. Celle-ci assurait, naguère, à un délégué juif avoir obtenu l'accord des carmelites d'Auschwitz pour un prochain départ...

« L'Eglise est, dans ses structures, aussi vaste et complexe que le monde », a remarqué l'abbé Schoefs, membre de la Commission catholique des relations avec les Juifs.

MICHEL BAILLY.

Carmel d'Auschwitz : une nouvelle initiative lancée à Bruxelles

Un Comité international pour l'évacuation du couvent reçoit l'adhésion de plus de deux cents personnalités

« La présence d'un carmel à Auschwitz pose un problème moral et il est difficile, aujourd'hui, d'essayer de mobiliser l'opinion publique pour un problème moral. Même s'il mesure bien les difficultés, David Suskind, le président d'honneur du Centre communautaire juif, n'est pas moins présente, vendredi à Bruxelles, une nouvelle initiative de la communauté juive de Belgique pour le départ du Carmel d'Auschwitz : la création d'un « Comité international pour l'évacuation du couvent des carmélites d'Auschwitz-Birkenau ». Un petit groupe de responsables juifs avec à leur tête le rabbin Albert Gulgi, a recueilli, en quelques semaines, plus de deux cents lettres d'adhésion parmi lesquelles une quinzaine de ministres en exercice, plus de cent vingt parlementaires belges et européens, des dirigeants de partis et les principales autorités académiques.

LA MÉMOIRE JUIVE. Un résultat qui dépasse toutes les espérances des organisateurs et qui les renforce dans leur conviction de se battre pour une

juste cause. Et David Suskind, paraphrasant une récente déclaration de François Mitterrand, d'affirmer qu'une attente à la mémoire juive est une at-

teinte au peuple juif. Et d'expliquer que, lors de son premier contact avec lui à propos du carmel, le cardinal Macharski de Cracovie lui avait déclaré :

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Nouvelle initiative lancée à Bruxelles

(Voir début en page 1)

mais cette présence a été renforcée, en particulier par l'érection d'une grande croix, à-t-il fait remarquer.

Le cardinal Decourtray, l'un des signataires des accords conclus avec la communauté juive, a promis un geste pour le 22 juillet prochain, troisième anniversaire du premier de ces accords. On parle de l'enlèvement de la fameuse croix et même de la pose de la première

pièce du centre de rencontre et de prière qui doit, non loin du camp d'Auschwitz, accueillir les carmélites. Mais les responsables juifs ne sont pas prêts à attendre indéfiniment. Selon Maurice Goldstein, président du Comité international Auschwitz, il ne faut pas confondre déménagement et réinstallation : la construction du centre peut prendre des années mais le départ des carmélites, lui, ne peut attendre.

Selon notre correspondant (voir ci-contre), l'épiscopat polonais n'est pourtant pas prêt à envisager un transfert provisoire. Le nouveau Comité international réunira ses membres en septembre, se donnera un comité exécutif et entreprendra toutes les démarches légales possibles, a affirmé David Suskind.

« Peut-être le couvent a-t-il été installé dix ans trop tôt. »

Un propos qui n'a pas été oublié du côté juif. Dans dix ans, dans vingt ans, existera-t-il encore des rescapés pour témoigner du drame d'Auschwitz ? Le monde ne risque-t-il pas alors d'oublier que la plupart des malheureux exterminés dans ce camp étaient juifs, et qu'ils l'ont été, eux, parce qu'ils étaient juifs ? Tel est le sens profond du combat engagé par la communauté juive de Belgique dont les membres gazés par les nazis l'ont été, pour la plupart, précisément à Auschwitz devenu ainsi un symbole on ne peut plus précieux.

COLÈRE. « Nous nous sommes tus pendant des années parce que nous faisons confiance à la diplomatie ; à présent, nous clamons notre colère, a affirmé pour sa part Georges Schnek, président du Consistoire central de Belgique. Non seulement l'engagement de l'Eglise catholique à déplacer le carmel pour le 22 février dernier n'a pas été respecté

Robert VERDUSSEN.

(Voir suite en page 9)

Les carmélites ne sont pas près de quitter Auschwitz

L'épiscopat polonais annonce les travaux « au mieux à l'automne » et « exclut » un déménagement provisoire

(Correspondance particulière)

La construction d'un Centre judéo-chrétien où seraient accueillies les religieuses polonaises qui vivent actuellement dans le carmel jouxtant l'ancien camp nazi d'Auschwitz pourra débuter « au mieux en automne prochain », selon un porte-parole de l'archevêché de Cracovie.

C'est le 17 juin dernier, a indiqué le père Stanislaw Musial, que la municipalité d'Oswiecim (Auschwitz, 50.000 habitants), a formellement attribué à l'Eglise un terrain pour la construction du nouveau centre. Ce terrain de 4 hectares, éloigné de l'ex-camp de la mort et situé à mi-chemin entre Oswiecim et Brzezinka (Birkenau), appartient toutefois à 14 propriétaires différents et doit être racheté par l'Eglise, avant toute construction. Au-

jourd'hui, c'est un champ de blé qu'on ne saurait détruire avant les moissons et toute l'infrastructure reste à y créer, a indiqué le père Musial.

« IRREALISTE ». Il reconnaît que l'accord de Genève, signé en février 1987 entre l'Eglise catholique et les Communautés juives, « n'a pas été respecté ». Cet accord prévoyait la construction, dans un délai de 24 mois, d'un « centre de méditation et de prière » où seraient relogées les sœurs du carmel. Selon le père Musial, ce délai était « irréaliste et impossible à respecter », dans les conditions administratives et économiques polonaises. Le représentant de l'Eglise souligne en même temps que l'administration « fait plutôt l'effort pour accélérer les choses ».

Il est cependant « exclu » pour l'épiscopat polonais de dé-

loger provisoirement les carmélites, avant l'achèvement du nouveau Centre, les deux choses étant liées par l'accord de Genève, fait-il valoir. Et il est impossible à l'heure actuelle, ajoute-t-on, de prévoir une date à laquelle le Centre pourrait être achevé.

DES AVRIL. De son côté, le ministère des Cultes polonais indique que c'est au printemps 1988 que le cardinal Franciszek Macharski, archevêque de Cracovie, avait introduit auprès de la municipalité d'Oswiecim une première demande d'obtention de terrain de construction. On lui en a proposé trois, dès le mois d'avril. Mais ce n'est qu'en automne qu'il en a choisi un, juste en face du carmel actuel. La communauté juive l'a toutefois rejeté, en décembre 88, comme étant encore situé trop près du camp.

Enfin, le 10 mars 1989, précise-t-on au même ministère, Mgr Macharski a demandé le permis de construire sur un autre des trois terrains initialement proposés (celui dont il est question actuellement) et il se l'est vu accorder cinq jours plus tard. « Nous faisons tout pour que l'administration ne bloque aucune des idées acceptées par les deux parties », a déclaré M. Rydlewski, directeur au ministère des Cultes.

Quant à la vingtaine de carmélites directement concernées, elles ne veulent pas entendre parler de quitter les lieux et affirment « ne pas comprendre » les revendications des Juifs. Elles poursuivent les travaux d'adaptation de leur carmel.

Il y a deux mois, elles ont reçu un soutien ferme de quelque 1.300 habitants d'Oswiecim qui ont, dans une lettre ouverte à la presse catholique, appuyé « le bon droit » des religieuses de demeurer sur place, tout en stigmatisant les « pressions intolérables » et les « actes de violence » dont les carmélites d'Auschwitz sont l'objet, selon eux, de la part de la communauté juive internationale.

Jean ORVAL.

D'UN JOUR L'AUTRE

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RADIO

“Le droit des morts d'Auschwitz”

L'affaire du camel d'Auschwitz semble obscure, voire incompréhensible. Inscrit dans le patrimoine mondial par l'Unesco

en 1979, le camp d'Auschwitz est occupé en partie par les carmélites depuis 1984. Les carmélites prient pour expier le mal. Seulement, les familles des victimes juives qui représentent l'immense majorité de ceux qui furent assassinés à Auschwitz protestent contre ce qui leur apparaît comme une récupération catholique d'une mémoire qu'il faudrait laisser intacte. En enquêtant auprès des carmélites, polonaises ou non, mais aussi auprès des juifs, “Voix du Silence” a voulu donner les pièces d'un dossier explosif.

Avec : Michel de Goedt, aumônier des carmélites de Paris - le père Bernard Dupuy - Théo Klein, ancien président du Conseil représentatif des institutions juives de France - Michel Musial, jésuite, chargé des relations de l'Episcopat de Cracovie avec la communauté juive - le père Riquet, Bernard Sucheky, historien - David Suskind, rédacteur en chef de “Regard”.

France-Culture, “Voix du Silence”, le 24 juin à 10 h.

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

OF B'NAI B'RITH

823 United Nations Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017

MEMORANDUM

To: Abraham H. Foxman
From: Leon Klenicki and David Rosen
Date: June 5, 1989
Subject: ADL Delegation in Rome, May 8-12, 1989. Meetings of the Liaison Representatives

The first meeting upon our arrival in Rome was with Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff by which we sought to demonstrate our good-will to the local community and our desire to work together with its local leadership (later in the week we met with Tullia Zevi, the President of the Union of Italian communities). Rabbi Toaff provided us with a number of interesting tidbits concerning the Vatican and the Catholic Church on matters pertaining to Jews, Judaism and Israel. On the matter of the Carmelite monastery he told us (as it turned out rather prophetically) "the Pope is not prepared to discuss it!" - words subsequently reiterated by Tullia Zevi. That Monday we attended a B'nai B'rith reception at the Hilton Hotel where we met many of the local Jewish communal leaders.

First Vatican Meeting

On Tuesday morning we met with the directing personnel of the "Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue" specifically the "Commission for Dialogue with Islam," in an effort to examine the potential for both tripartite dialogue, Catholic-Jewish-Muslim, as well as the utilisation of Catholic contacts for the pursuit of Jewish-Muslim dialogue. David suggested a triologue colloquium in Italy to commemorate twenty five years of dialogue after Nostra Aetate. Father Michael Fitzgerald the Secretary of the Council seemed very interested in pursuing these ideas and asked us to broach them with the "Commission for Relations with the Jews" in the "Secretariat for Christian Unity" (which we naturally had intended doing) and that he would follow up on our suggestions accordingly.

We then were received by Cardinal Simon Lourdusamy who is the Prefect of the "Congregation for the Oriental Churches" which includes the Middle East. David expounded on "inter-faith relations in Israel and how they have been affected by the intifada and Leon gave the Cardinal an introduction to ADL work in the field of religious and inter-religious education.

Meeting with Israeli and American Diplomats

The morning concluded with a meeting at the Israeli Embassy with Ambassador Mordechai Drori and Miron Gordon who is responsible for relations with the Vatican. The Ambassador emphasised his desire that spokespersons for Israel and spokespersons for international Jewish organizations should try their best each one not to tread on the toes of the other! Interestingly he did not feel that the question of de jure recognition was something that non-Israeli Jewish

organizations needed to harp on and he indicated that he felt that the last thing Israel needed under the present political circumstances was a visit from the Pope! We discussed personalities in the local community who have their "special" contacts with the Pope and his entourage and Drori feels that they are by no means as consequential as they hold themselves to be.

In the afternoon we were graciously received by Ambassador Frank Shakespeare, U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See who was eager to learn as much as possible of ADL's activities world-wide. As with most of our meetings people were fascinated not only to learn more about ADL's work but also to receive Leon's insights into religious and political life in the USA as well as South America, and similarly obtain better understanding regarding Israel from David. The fact that we came from New York and Jerusalem with our diverse experiences across the Jewish world including major political flashpoints clearly impressed our various interlocutors and confirmed the logic of our joint liaison. Ambassador Shakespeare told us of his concern regarding the WJC's conduct and statements over the Carmelite monastery at Auschwitz and was very happy to learn of the ADL position. He revealed off the record the name of his successor (whom Leon knows well) and introduced us to the major staff of the Embassy who will be continuing under the new Ambassador.

The Commission for Justice and Peace

From there we went to the Commission for Justice and Peace to meet with Cardinal Roger Etchegaray and Bishop Jorge Mejia. We complimented them on the document - The Church and Racism - for which they were primarily responsible. Leon introduced the Cardinal to a number of publications either produced by the ADL or to which the ADL had contributed. He also informed him that ADL and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops are presently preparing a study guide of the document on Racism for teachers to be used in Catholic schools. The Cardinal inquired from David as to political developments in Israel and in discussing the issues involved, the prelates displayed a broad grasp of the complexities that Israel faces.

In the evening we attended Yom Haatzmaut services at the Great Synagogue which were held with a packed congregation in the presence of the Israeli Ambassador at which Rabbi Toaff gave a rousing Zionist speech.

The press interviews we held on Wednesday morning were subsequently eclipsed by events, and during the latter part of the morning we met with Tullia Zevi and received an up to date briefing on the local community and its involvement with Vatican agencies.

In the afternoon we met with Burton and Anita Levinson to go to the American Embassy for a courtesy call upon Max Raab who was effusive, up-beat, getting ready to return after his unusually long stint of duty. In the evening all of us were guests of the Israeli Embassy's Yom Haatzmaut reception.

At the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews

On Thursday morning the five of us (the Levinsons, Lisa Palmieri, Leon and David) arrived at the "Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews," for our meetings with Fathers Pierre Duprey and Pier Francesco Fumagalli (having received Cardinal Willebrands' apologies for his absence as he was meant to be flying that day to the States). This meeting was to precede our scheduled audience with the Pope.

Leon gave a survey of ADL's inter-religious activities in North and South America and presented them with relevant ADL publications and those to which ADL had contributed its expertise.

David presented the gamut of inter-group and ecumenical activities in which ADL is involved in Israel and presented the aforementioned ideas regarding dialogue encounters that had been raised with the "Commission for Relations with Islam" both in terms of ongoing dialogue but above all initially in terms of an event to commemorate 25 years after Nostra Astate.

Our presentations and discussions having taken some two hours we enquired as to what was happening regarding the audience. Duprey said that it looked as if it was now too late for an audience that day at which we expressed more than surprise, so he ran out "to see what is happening." After a while in came Cardinal Willebrands, who had been kept in Rome for another day by the Italian national passtime - a strike!

After speaking to us on general matters for ten or fifteen minutes he told us that he had unfortunate news "from the Pope's Secretary" that "the Holy Father is so tired from his African tour that he is not having any private audiences." This lame duck excuse was actually given despite the fact that the Pope held an open air audience the day before and had other private audiences scheduled that day! We impressed upon Cardinal Willebrands the fact that not only would we have to react to such a cancellation, but that it would be interpreted very negatively in terms of Jewish Catholic relations. After leaving us for two conversations -- apparently with the Pope's Secretary or possibly with the Secretariat of State - Willebrands returned to say that "The Holy Father cannot receive you today, but he will receive you privately tomorrow on the understanding that the issue of Auschwitz is not mentioned."

The cat was out of the bag! Despite the fact that the issue of the Carmelite convent had not been the major subject of the ADL text for the audience that had been submitted in advance, the issue could not be ignored. The ADL text however, had essentially referred to the Catholic commitments themselves (including that of the Pope) requesting the removal of the convent to another site and had urged the speedy resolution of the imbroglio, indicating that aside from everything else, the footdragging exacerbated prejudice and anti-Semitic attitudes. In fact the intention had been to reduce the profile that the convent had acquired in Jewish-Catholic relations by placing it in the context of major achievements and tasks ahead in Jewish-Catholic relations. However, the Vatican decision in effect caused the reverse to happen, as the ultimate ADL decision not to accept the terms of this rescheduled audience inevitably led to greater public focus on the issue of the convent.

In retrospect it appears that Vatican nervousness concerning the pending establishment of diplomatic relations with Poland, and the internal Polish situation, were behind the hypersensitivity that led to the misguided handling of this event, either on the part of the Pope's Secretary or in the Secretariat of State. The fact that at our subsequent meeting with the Vatican Undersecretary of State Monsignor Jean-Louis Tauran we received the impression that he was not completely aware of what had happened and that he even seemed to be sympathetic to the ADL position, would seem to suggest a lack of departmental and overall Curia coordination.

Accordingly instead of holding a press conference as originally planned we released Burton Levinson and Abe Foxman's short statement announcing the postponement of the audience together with the text of the address that the former had been scheduled to deliver. See enclosed copy of the statement and Burt's speech.

More Meetings

Despite the turmoil, we went ahead that afternoon and evening with two important meetings.

The first was at SIDIC the major documentation and research center on Jewish-Christian relations run by the Sisters of our Lady of Zion mandated by the Vatican to pursue and promote the relationship.

We exchanged information both regarding activities and publications of mutual value for the development of our common interests.

David met with Professor Amborjio Sprejafico and the Focolari leadership. Professor Sprejafico was involved with the interfaith prayer meeting last year at which the Jerusalem Mufti launched an anti-Israel diatrib. He assured David that such an event will not occur again and invited ADL to participate at the September service in Poland. There was no commitment on our side. The Focolari movement is a lay organization working in Italy and all over the world. The Pope has a special affection for them and ask its leadership to start a chapter in Poland. David spoke about the Auschwitz convent and ask the Focolari movement for support to have the convent out of the limits of the former concentration camp. Ms. Dellapiccola, second in command in the movement, promised to galvanise the rank and file of their friends in Poland to persuade the nuns accordingly. Leon is presently developing an ADL - Focolari program for September in New York.

In the evening we were guests of the Camandoli monks at their very beautiful home at the Church of San Gregorio al Cielo. At this gathering a variety of leaders and activists in the field of inter-religious dialogue were present. There, even more than at our other meetings, the hospitality and warmth together with respect and understanding that we received were overwhelming and we were deeply conscious of the enormous wellsprings of good will that are available to be drawn from.

Discussion on Education

On Friday morning we met with Monsignor William Mullins at the "Council for Catholic Education" presided over by Cardinal Baum (who was receiving medical treatment in the States at the time). Baum is an American who has related for

many years to ADL and participated in many of our interfaith programs. Monsignor Mullins is the person responsible for policy planning that affect the orders' seminaries and colleges of education etc. Leon dwelt in detail on ADL publications that could be of enormous additional value and effect if disseminated through the Council. We dwelt upon the Universal Catechism primarily for the purpose of having our concerns and points communicated to Cardinal Baum who is one of the major hierarchical personalities involved in its development under the chair of Cardinal Ratzinger. Monsignor Mullins gave us additional advise as to who should be approached on this subject.

We then returned to the "Commission for Relations with the Jews" to a warm and somewhat contrite Father Fumagalli. We were joined by Monsignor Jean-Louis Tauran, Vatican Undersecretary of State, to whom we expressed our distress over the episode of the Papal audience and with whom we discussed our statement. While he was formal he appeared to be very understanding. He indicated that the Vatican would not see the release of the Chairman's text favourably and that they would in all likelihood release their own communique. As mentioned, this was not done in the end.

The Media Interest

Thereafter we encountered an onslaught of media persons with whom we faced the tasks of explaining our statement and action in a way that would not appear disrespectful and to affirm the good will and commitment to the dialogue that was evident in the Chairman's text.

Their reaction was immediate. It was the first time in a long time that a Jewish organization "postponed" a papal audience. Vatican Radio interviewed Leon in English and Italian and the message was aired the next morning. Both versions were "edited." An assessment of the press coverage reveals a general fairness and even sympathy for the ADL position.

Undoubtedly within the context of our visit the issue of the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz acquired far more significance than we intended or desired. However our feeling was that if anything the "misunderstanding" had highlighted the need to speed up its resolution and we appear to have made some contribution in this regard.

Some Final Thoughts

It was our first visit as liaison representatives to the Vatican. We feel that we have^o achieved two goals: One is the goodness of our joint cooperative work. We act as a team and our creative manner of relating was felt and understood by the Catholic leadership as well as the leaders of the Jewish community. ED

The second one was the work done at the Vatican. The meetings with Catholic officials were highly productive and will result in continuous efforts concerning education, dialogue, and the fight against anti-Semitism. The renewal of past

past contacts and the establishment of new ones was most successful. The week of meetings and discussions competently set up by ADL's representative in Italy Lisa Palmieri, facilitated the continuation and development of the special role that the ADL plays in Jewish-Catholic relations.

We look forward to continuing working together and maintaining our Vatican relations through the mail and periodical visits.

LK/DR:yw

cc: Alan Bayer
Harry Wall
Robert Goldmann



Rome, May 12, 1989

Burton S. Levinson, National Chairman and Abraham H. Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith have released the following statement.

"Concerning the scheduled audience of an ADL delegation with Pope John Paul II, it was mutually understood that some items on the ADL agenda had the potential for exacerbating tensions, and it was considered more productive to reschedule the meeting for a later time."

The following text is the statement that had been prepared for today's meeting.

(italiano)

En merito alla prevista udienza di una delegazione della Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith col papa Giovanni Paolo II si e convenuto che alcuni temi inseriti nell'agenda dell'udienza avrebbero potuto potenzialmente esasperare delle tensioni per cui si e ritenuto piu utile rinviare tal'incontro ad un'altra occasione.

Burton S. Levinson, Presidente Nazionale
Abraham H. Foxman, Direttore Nazionale

Segue il testo del discorso che avrebbero dovuto pronunciare.

WE LIVE IN A MOMENT OF SUPREME CONTRADICTIONS. AT NO OTHER TIME IN HISTORY HAS MAN POSSESSED SO MUCH POTENTIAL FOR BOTH GOOD AND EVIL, SO MUCH GLOBAL POWER TO USE OUR ENORMOUSLY DEVELOPED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVANCES TO TRANSFORM SOCIETY FOR THE BETTER OR TO CATALYZE SELF-DESTRUCTION. THIS IS THE HUMAN CONDITION OF OUR TIMES: POWERS OF LOVE AND CREATIVITY VIE WITH THE FORCES OF DESTRUCTION THAT PERVERT RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL VALUES INTO THE FALSE IDOLS OF THE MARKET PLACE AND FANATICISMS OF VARIOUS ORIGIN, LEADING AT THE VERY LEAST, TO INDIFFERENCE, AT MOST, TO HATRED AND VIOLENCE. MORE THAN EVER BEFORE MUST WE COME TO TERMS WITH THE TRUTH THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING, EVERY LIVING CREATURE ON THIS PLANET IS LINKED TOGETHER IN ONE INVISIBLE AND INDESTRUCTIBLE CHAIN OF CREATION, EACH CREATED IN THE DIVINE IMAGE.

THESE ARE TIMES FOR COMMITMENT, FOR EXPRESSING THOSE MORAL AND ETHICAL VALUES THAT LIE AT THE ROOTS OF OUR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS. WE - JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN DIALOGUE - HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER BY DRAWING ON OUR COMMON BIBLICAL SOURCES TO GIVE VOICE TO OUR PROFOUND, MUTUAL BELIEFS IN THE SANCTITY OF LIFE AND HUMAN DIGNITY. BY JOINING FORCES, MEN AND WOMEN OF SPIRITUALITY STAND A CHANCE OF INFLUENCING POSITIVELY, THE COURSE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE EDUCATIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SPHERES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR.

A RECENT VATICAN DOCUMENT CALLED "THE CHURCH AND RACISM: TOWARDS A MORE FRATERNAL SOCIETY" DENOUNCES RACISM AS A TRANSGRESSION OF GOD'S CREATION AND COVENANT WITH HUMANITY. AND INDEED, DENUNCIATION IS STILL NEEDED IN A WORLD YET PLAGUED WITH RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RACISM OF ALL SORTS. AND "ANTISEMITISM", THE DOCUMENT STATES, "HAS BEEN THE MOST TRAGIC FORM THAT RACIST IDEOLOGY HAS ASSUMED IN OUR CENTURY. WITH THE HORRORS OF THE JEWISH 'HOLOCAUST'. " IT "HAS UNFORTUNATELY NOT YET ENTIRELY DISAPPEARED", THE DOCUMENT ADDS.

THE GENOCIDE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, "ONE OF THE GREATEST GENOCIDES IN HISTORY", OF UNSPEAKABLE HORROR, HAS LEFT AN INDELIBLE MEMORY IN OUR HEARTS AND AN EVER PRESENT ANXIETY ABOUT THE FUTURE. FOR, AS THE DOCUMENT STATES, IT IS "AS IF SOME HAD NOTHING TO LEARN FROM THE CRIMES OF THE PAST". IF WE DO NOT TEACH OUR YOUTH TO REMEMBER, THIS HORROR COULD BE REPEATED IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR LATIN AMERICA OR... ANYWHERE.

WE ARE AWARE, YOUR HOLINESS, FROM YOUR MANY STATEMENTS, OF YOUR TOTAL ABHORRENCE OF THE SHOAH. ONLY THREE DAYS AGO A WARM MESSAGE FROM YOU WAS READ IN PUBLIC IN WADOWICE, YOUR HOMETOWN, WHEN A PLAQUE COMMEMORATING THE JEWISH VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION IN THE AREA WAS UNVEILED AT THE SITE WHERE THE SYNAGOGUE ONCE STOOD.

IN WARSAW, IN JUNE, 1987 YOU SAID TO A PITIFUL GATHERING OF POLISH JEWISH SURVIVORS, "IN YOUR NAME, THE POPE TOO LIFTS UP HIS VOICE IN WARNING. THE POLISH POPE HAS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL THIS, BECAUSE ALONG WITH YOU, HE HAS, IN A CERTAIN SENSE, LIVED ALL THIS HERE, IN THIS LAND."

YOUR WORDS TOUCHED A DEEP CHORD IN JEWISH SENSITIVITY, FOR IT IS PRECISELY YOUR INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF BOTH THE SUFFERING OF JEWS IN POLAND - AND AT THE SAME TIME OF THE POLISH NATION - THAT RAISES OUR HOPES THAT YOUR VOICE MAY FIND AN EFFECTIVE REPLY TO TRAGIC MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN CATHOLICS AND JEWS OVER THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF A CARMELITE CONVENT WITHIN THE EX-CONCENTRATION CAMP OF AUSCHWITZ.

FOR THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS CONSCIENCE, THIS DEFILED PLOT OF LAND WHERE NEARLY HALF OF THE SIX MILLION WERE MURDERED, IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE SHOAH AND MUST CRY OUT IN STARK SILENCE TO ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS, INHABITED ONLY BY MEMORIES.

THE DOCUMENT ON "THE CHURCH AND RACISM" JUSTLY STATES, "THE MEMORY OF SUCH CRIMES MUST NEVER BE ERASED. THE YOUNG GENERATIONS AND THOSE YET TO COME MUST KNOW TO WHAT EXTREMES PERSONS AND SOCIETY ARE CAPABLE OF GOING WHEN THEY YIELD TO THE POWER OF SCORN AND HATRED--"

YOUR HOLINESS, WE RECALL YOUR JUNE 1988 ADDRESS TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AUSTRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY IN VIENNA, WHEN YOU MENTIONED THAT "THE SPIRIT OF THE (SECOND VATICAN) COUNCIL REGARDING JEWISH-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE" WOULD BE SERVED BY THE BUILDING OF A "CENTER FOR INFORMATION, EDUCATION, MEETINGS AND PRAYER IN POLAND." ACCORDING TO AGREEMENTS WITH AND STATEMENTS MADE BY HIGH CHURCH AUTHORITIES, THIS CENTER WOULD PROVIDE A NEW HOME FOR THE CARMELITE NUNS NEARBY, BUT NOT WITHIN, THE SITE OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMP, WHERE THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR DEDICATED TESTIMONY OF PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY.

WE REGRET THAT THE DELAY IN FULFILLING THIS PROMISE HAS CAUSED SUCH ANGUISH ON BOTH SIDES. BRINGING THIS UNFORTUNATE EPISODE TO A SPEEDY RESOLUTION WOULD AVOID MUCH PAIN, WOULD QUELL THOSE RESURGENT, OMINOUS OUTBURSTS OF PREJUDICE THAT YOU AND CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SO CONTINUOUSLY AND ELOQUENTLY CONDEMNED OVER THE PAST DECADES AND WOULD RESULT IN ANOTHER MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN BETTER CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS.

THESE RELATIONS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS SINCE THE HISTORICAL "NOSTRA AETATE" DOCUMENT ELIMINATED ALL THEOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR ANTISEMITISM. SINCE THEN, TWO OTHER DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE PONTIFICAL COMMISSION FOR RELIGIOUS RELATIONS WITH JUDAISM AIMED AT FURTHER COMBATING REMAINING PREJUDICE, HAVE ENRICHED THE DIALOGUE.

MAY WE EXPRESS OUR HOPES THAT IN DRAFTING THE FORTHCOMING "UNIVERSAL CATECHISM", THESE THREE DOCUMENTS WILL BE RECALLED.

WE ALSO DEEPLY APPRECIATED THE WARNING EXPRESSED IN "THE CHURCH AND RACISM" THAT "ANTIZIONISM...SERVES AT TIMES AS A SCREEN FOR ANTISEMITISM, FEEDING ON IT AND LEADING TO IT."

LET US ADD THAT IN OUR FERVENT HOPES THAT BROTHERHOOD WILL FINALLY COME TO PREVAIL BETWEEN ALL SIDES IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, WE LOOK TO THE CHURCH TO SERVE AS A SOURCE OF RECONCILIATION AND PEACE IN THE REGION THROUGH THE FULL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS THAT ARE A PREREQUISITE TO THE REALIZATION OF THAT CHERISHED GOAL.

THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH, AN ORGANIZATION THAT SINCE 1913 HAS FOUGHT NOT ONLY ANTISEMITISM, BUT ALSO ANTI-CATHOLICISM, DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BLACKS AND OTHER GROUPS, AGAINST RACISM OF ANY SORT, GREETS THE SPIRIT OF THE DOCUMENT, "THE CHURCH AND RACISM" AS FRATERNAL TO OUR OWN. ADL HAS DEVELOPED A WEALTH OF RESEARCH AND PREJUDICE-REDUCTION PROGRAMS FOR USE IN SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY CENTERS, BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE, ALL DEALING WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECTING DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND CULTURES, OR, AS "THE CHURCH AND RACISM" CALLS IT, "THE COMPLEMENTARY DIVERSITY OF PEOPLES" IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AND IN THE WORLD. A RECENT EXAMPLE IS "A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE", A PROJECT WIDELY USED AND RESPECTED IN INTERGROUP RELATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES.

ADL ALSO HOPES TO CONTINUE IN THE PIONEERING PATH OF CATHOLIC-JEWISH DIALOGUE FORGED THROUGH ALL THE YEARS SINCE VATICAN II BY ITS PAST REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME AND THE VATICAN, THE LATE DR. JOSEPH LICHTEN AND THEODORE FREEDMAN, IN A LONG HISTORY OF FRUITFUL COOPERATION WITH THE VATICAN'S COMMISSION FOR RELIGIOUS RELATIONS WITH JUDAISM.

AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ONGOING RELATIONSHIP WERE THE 1985 AND 1986 CATHOLIC-JEWISH THEOLOGICAL COLLOQUIA HELD IN ROME AND CO-SPONSORED BY ADL, THE PONTIFICAL COMMISSION, AND OTHER CATHOLIC ECUMENICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING.

WE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSE THE FINAL SENTENCE OF "THE CHURCH AND RACISM" AS SYMBOLIC OF OUR GROWING DIALOGUE: "EVERY PERSON IS MY BROTHER AND SISTER." LET US MOVE ON FROM THERE, IN RECIPROCAL UNDERSTANDING, WITH FEELINGS OF SOLIDARITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVERY HUMAN BEING IN THE UNIVERSE. FOR INDEED, WE ARE ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE FAMILY OF GOD.

BURTON S. LEVINSON
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN,
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH

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The Polish Ambassador

London, 14th July, 1989.

Dear Sigmund,

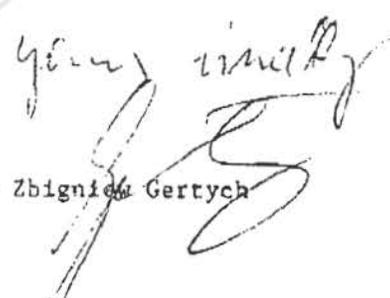
Thank you for your letter dated July 10th, 1989 regarding the removal of the Carmelite Convent from the former concentration camp Auschwitz.

All memorials, letters and protests concerning this matter are sent immediately to the Ministry of Denominations in Warsaw for the attention of Minister W. Loranc.

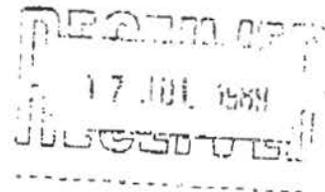
During my last visit to Poland I forwarded your letter to gen. Jaruzelski. On the 14th of this month I am going to Poland and I am planning to meet with cardinal Glemp and hope to discuss again the matter of implementing reached agreements.

Regarding the Order of Merit which you have been awarded I am awaiting your suggestions as to the form and place of presentation (Cafe Royal etc.).

Looking forward to seeing you after my return,

Yours sincerely

 Dr Zbigniew Gertych

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MARC H. TANENBAUM ESQ.,
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Date

18 July 1989

FAX. 212 876 8351

Our ref

Your ref

4 pages

AMERICAN JEWISH
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Just for information.



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URGENT
BY HAND

Counsellor Z. Bako,
Polish Embassy,
Polish Embassy,
47 Portland Place,
London W.1.

Date 17 July 1989

Our ref SSS/va

Your ref

Dear Dr. Bako,

It was announced yesterday at the Board of Deputies Meeting that H.E. Ambassador will be attending a Synagogue Service on July 20th when prayers will be recited for the removal of the Carmelite convent from the site of Auschwitz.

I understand that Cardinal Basil Hume has written to Cardinal Macharsky and to the Polish Government about the vital necessity of finding temporary accommodation for the nuns.

I am enclosing a cutting from Saturday's Times, which you have probably seen. Rabbi Avraham Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, New York is known to me. He has made similar protests; at the Vatican, protesting against the Pope meeting President Waldheim and has taken part in other similar demonstrations. He is a persistent man and will not go away.

The worrying part is that these demonstrations might be imitated by other groups and the situation will get out of hand. This would have an extremely damaging effect on what Poland wants to achieve at this time when she needs economic aid from the West. People will not understand that this is not the fault of the Polish Government. Therefore, I hope you don't mind if I suggest that the police put up a cordon or take other measures to prevent these contemplative nuns from being disturbed, which causes them an inordinate amount of stress.

The situation could be resolved immediately by a simple declaration by your Government that alternative premises be placed at the nuns' disposal until their new buildings are completed.

I would be grateful if you could send this letter by cable to whoever you think it appropriate.

I am enclosing copy correspondence I have had with Sister Catherine, the Prioress of the Carmelite Monastery at Linton in Yorkshire who is seriously concerned by this situation. I am also sending her a copy of my letter to you.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Sir Sigmund Sternberg

- Enc. 1. Letter Sister Catherine Prioress, Carmelite Monastery, Linton
2. Letter Sir Sigmund Sternberg to Sister Catherine.
3. Press Cutting Saturday July 15th Times.



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CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM
SHOULD BE PART OF U.S.-POLISH EXCHANGE

By Marc H. Tanenbaum

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--NEW YORK

President Bush's state visit to Poland last week may well mark a historic turning point in relations between that East European country and the United States.

No one interested in the advance of democracy and human liberties would want to inhibit such vital progress. But there is an aspect of President Bush's program that he outlined before the Sejm, Poland's parliament, that needs to become a matter of special concern to the U.S. Congress and to American Jewish leadership.

One of the president's proposals to the new Polish government calls for the setting up of "cultural and information centers," both in Poland and the United States.

It is essential for future "confidence-building" between both countries that those centers incorporate serious education and information programs for combatting the deep, residual anti-Semitism that continues to exist in Poland, especially among the older generation.

During the past weeks, I have spoken a number of times by overseas communications with Polish church and government leaders about the schedule for removing the Carmelite convent from Auschwitz to an interim place, preliminary to building a new convent.

I was told quite frankly and on several occasions that a force compromising the resolution of this painful issue is the strong manifestation of anti-Semitism among older Poles.

According to historians such as Leon Poliakov, author of "History of Anti-Semitism," anti-Semitism was more violent and vicious in Poland than in most other European countries.

Both government and church forces led the anti-Jewish campaigns that resulted in pogroms, riots, ritual blood libels, even campaigns of extermination.

There is a younger, more intellectual generation in Poland that is horrified by the malevolent history. Both Polish and American cultural programs could help inoculate that new Polish leadership from the political and religious pathologies of the past that helped destroy so many Jewish lives.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, international relations consultant to the American Jewish Committee, is immediate past chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations.
