

מדינת ישראל

משרד המשלה

מס' תיק

משרד

התחל

ב ריטליה

אנטי-סלאו-ר

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WAR CRIMES INQUIRY PRESS RELEASE

WAR CRIMES INQUIRY - CALL FOR EVIDENCE

Today Britain's War Crimes Inquiry announced a world-wide appeal for evidence about war crimes which may have been committed during the 2nd World War by people who are now British citizens or who are resident in this country.

The independent Inquiry, announced by the Home Secretary on 8 February, was set up to investigate allegations that persons who now have British nationality or are resident in the United Kingdom committed murder, manslaughter or genocide in Germany or German occupied territories during the 2nd World War. The full terms of reference of the Inquiry are attached.

Lists of suspected war criminals which have already been sent to the Home Office by the Simon Wiesenthal Center and others, are under examination by the Inquiry. The Inquiry also wish members of the public and interested organisations, both in the UK and abroad, to come forward with any evidence they may have.

The Inquiry team consists of Sir Thomas Hetherington, former Director of Public Prosecutions, and Mr William Chalmers, former Crown Agent in Scotland.

Speaking about the Inquiry Sir Thomas said :
"The allegations that have been made are very serious and cannot be ignored. We will be pursuing all possible lines of investigation and all possible sources of information to ensure that the Inquiry is thorough and complete."

Mr Chalmers added :
"We appeal to all those with relevant information to come forward now. We welcome the assistance of members of the public and interested organisations, at home and abroad, in carrying out the task with which we have been entrusted."

Anyone wishing to submit evidence should write to :

The Secretary
War Crimes Inquiry
c/o The Home Office
50 Queen Annes Gate
London SW1H 9AT.

324.805

INQUIRY INTO WAR CRIMES:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (1) To obtain and examine relevant material, including material held by Government Departments and documents which have been or may be submitted by the Simon Wiesenthal Center and others, relating to allegations that persons who are now British citizens or resident in the United Kingdom committed war crimes* during the Second World War;
- (2) To interview persons who appear to possess relevant information relating to such allegations;
- (3) To consider, in the light of the likely probative value in court proceedings in the UK of the relevant documentary material and of the evidence of potential witnesses, whether the law of the United Kingdom should be amended in order to make it possible to prosecute for war crimes persons who are now British citizens or resident in the United Kingdom;
- (4) And to advise Her Majesty's Government accordingly.

*For the purposes of this inquiry, the term "war crimes" extends only to crimes of murder, manslaughter or genocide committed in Germany and in territories occupied by German forces during the Second World War.

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
2 PALACE GREEN
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שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

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בברכה מאת מחלקת העיתונות

*With the Compliments of
The Press Department*

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Presenter

Douglas Hurd has set up an enquiry into claims that former Nazis living in Britain were involved in war crimes. The enquiry will be headed by the former Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Hetherington and the former Scotland Crown Agent, William Chalmers and they will establish whether there is enough evidence to prosecute in a British court and then it will be up to MPs to decide if there should be a change in the law to allow the suspects to be put on trial.

Mike Smart

Most of the alleged war crimes occurred in areas since administered by the Soviet Union, but not extradition agreement exists and British courts have no jurisdiction to try murder or manslaughter committed abroad. A delegation from the Nazi hunting Simon Wiesenthal centre has presented the Home Secretary with evidence against seventeen people they allege committed war crimes and now live here. They included a Gestapo informer in Latvia, two members of murder squads in Lithuania, a police chief in Lithuania and another in Latvia, a deputy police chief in Latvia and a finance minister in the Latvian government which collaborated with the Germans and whose last known address was London. Mr Hurd says that he needs to be advised by the men carrying out the new independent enquiry whether the law should be changed to allow prosecutions. Already there has been criticism that it will all take too long.

Greville Janner

I am glad that he has taken some action but I am very worried about the apparent lack of urgency. I am concerned that in such an urgent and anguished matter where witnesses may die that there is to be at least a year apparently before the committee is even going to report and more time after that before action is taken. I am worried in case this is a pigeon hole.

Douglas Hurd

Bound to be criticised by people who say I have gone too far too fast and people who say I have not gone far enough or fast enough. I don't think I have grounds now for asking Parliament to change the law. But there are very serious allegations, I really don't think we can just say, oh it's too difficult, we are bored with the subject and we are going to shut up. I think we do have to get further knowledge and that's what Sir Thomas Hetherington and Mr Chalmers will be able to provide.

KIRSTY WARK

There were more disturbances yesterday in Gaza and the Israeli occupied territories. Two young Palestinian refugees were shot and injured by Israeli soldiers in rioting that followed a funeral of a fifteen year old boy. The British head of the United Nations relief operation in Gaza, Mr Bernard Mills, was among those claiming that the youth had been beaten to death by Israeli soldiers. Our Middle East Correspondent, Keith Graves now reports:

KEITH GRAVES

The Israelis have denied murdering the latest victim of two months of protests. Neither the Palestinians nor any independent observers here put much credence on their denial and for that the Israelis have only themselves to blame. There are scores on instances witnessed by this reporter and others and frequently recorded on film and video where Israeli soldiers and police have brutally and quite unnecessarily beaten, kicked and punched Arabs, some of them demonstrators, some innocent eye-witnesses.

They have also turned on the media witnesses including, on more than one occasion, their own Israeli citizens. Thus they find themselves with the daily round of protests right on their doorstep in occupied East Jerusalem with little sympathy or credibility.

KIRSTY WARK

Well I'm joined now by the Minister at the Israeli Embassy, Mr Moshe Raviv. Good morning Mr Raviv.

Scenes like that plus the fact that it was declared policy by Yitzhak Rabin to beat Palestinians resisting at Israeli troops, do you feel that those allegations about the fifteen year old boy gained credibility from those very facts.

MOSHE RAVIV

There is an unfortunate escalation of violence and people who instigate violence must understand that it has its risks. We have not found a way - nobody has found a way how to calm violent disturbances with words and arguments alone.

KIRSTY WARK

But do you believe that it's quite possible that Israeli soldiers have beaten that boy to death?

MOSHE RAVIV

We are investigating every excess and we recoil from every excess but when you have violence you must use a reasonable amount of force in order to defend the soldiers in very dangerous situations.

KIRSTY WARK

You've got young conscripts, unco-ordinated activities, appalling conditions that they're working in - outside impressions are perhaps they're being provoked but the brutality is overwhelming and indiscriminate. How can you justify that?

MOSHE RAVIV

The brutality is not indiscriminate and we are using a great deal of restraint but our soldiers find themselves in very serious dangers and they have to react and defend themselves.

KIRSTY WARK

Now Israel's reputation's suffering and coming under worldwide condemnation; Israeli opinion in Tel Aviv, the American initiative to have some kind of State of Palestine now; you've also got problems with the European Community and in fact the Israeli Foreign Minister, Abba Eban, has said that in fact what you must do is withdrawal if you've to retain some kind of reputation as a nation yourselves, you've got to pull out.

MOSHE RAVIV

For twenty years we are trying to get negotiations going and for twenty years the Palestinians have rejected every opening for negotiations. We welcome the American initiative. We believe it is a very genuine attempt to solve a complex problem and we're expecting Ambassador Murphy to arrive in Israel today to start the process of negotiations.

KIRSTY WARK

So where do you go from there? Is it through Ambassador Murphy or is it through an international conference as others want?

MOSHE RAVIV

Every agreement that has been reached in the last forty years between Israel and an Arab country has been reached with deep profound American involvement. The Americans have now decided to get involved in the process and they're exploring in what way they could be helpful to get direct negotiations going.

KIRSTY WARK

Is it time for Israel to remove itself from the occupied territories?

MOSHE RAVIV

It is time to reach agreement. It is time to sit down seriously and negotiate the complex problems. We cannot do anything unilaterally and anything that will be done unilaterally will not solve the problem.

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BBC RADIO 4 - SUNDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY 1988

INTERVIEW WITH LORD IMMANUEL JAKOBOVITS - THE CHIEF RABBI - CONCERNING THE UNREST IN THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES.

CLIVE JACOBS

The unrest in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank has had repercussions within the international Jewish community, particularly in the United States and here in Britain. This week it prompted an exchange of letters from two of Britain's religious leaders - the Director General of the Islamic Centre at the Regents Park mosque, Dr Mughram al-Ghamdi protested to the Chief Rabbi of the recent treatment of the Palestinians. Lord Jakobovits replied and both letters were published in the Times. On Tuesday afternoon, Lord Jakobovits will be introduced in the House of Lords, the first Rabbi ever to become a Peer - a peerage which many believe has more than a little to do with his willingness to speak out on issues of faith and morality.

I went to see the Chief Rabbi last night and discussed that matter with him. But I began by asking if the unrest and bitterness in the occupied territories was creating division among Jews in Britain.

LORD JAKOBOVITS

I would not say there was a division, in contrast to previous occasions when there were major divisions of opinion. There is on the whole a consensus within the British Jewish community that reflects Jewish opinion the world over. On the one hand a feeling of considerable uneasiness over what currently goes on, to the point of perplexity as to how to find a realistic solution to a situation that clearly is untenable as it is at present. But the uneasiness extends also over the reaction of the media to what currently goes on in Israel, and the occupied territories in that there is a very strong feeling of disquiet over the so-called 'double standards' whereby anywhere else in the world, similar methods are used in the suppression of unrest, there are no headlines, the lenses, as it were, of the cameras don't zoom in on it as they do here.

CLIVE JACOBS

But surely, Chief Rabbi, just because there are worse conditions elsewhere, it doesn't in any way alleviate the situation in Israel?

LORD JAKOBOVITS

I'm not suggesting that. In fact in my correspondence, I have pointed this out that this is no justification whatever for Israeli actions which may be excessive. But you cannot pass judgment over a situation unless you see it in context, and unless you have a fair overall view in which you don't merely look at a narrow part of the whole problem, the Palestinian refugee problem goes beyond the borders of Israel, and even if the camps in Gaza were to be rehabilitated and economically made viable, you still wouldn't solve the problem of refugees living under intolerable conditions of squalor in Jordan and in other places, notably Lebanon of course.

CLIVE JACOBS

Where do you think the solution lies?

LORD JAKOBOVITS

I think it lies at two levels. Number one I think, we ought to do far more than is currently done at diplomatic level and at press level, to make people feel - yes, we will try and evoke echoes of sympathy and understanding by being moderates, and at the moment it is not so. It's the extremists that get the applause, that get the acclaim and that get the support. Secondly, of course we have to remove obstacles to a political settlement. Now for my part again, I can only deal with the religious aspect, I have publicly said time and again that I do not believe that my religious commitments as an heir to my Biblical heritage, force me at this moment to lay claim to territories that are divinely assigned to the Jewish people by the Biblical boundaries that are set to the land of Israel. That I would gladly see an adjustment of borders, provided security is guaranteed, that it will not increase the danger which after all in the case of the Jewish State does not mean a regression, it is of complete extinction of Jewish life, what the Arabs are threatening is to throw the Jews into the sea. So therefore, we who have suffered already in the Holocaust, the loss of one third of our people, are particularly sensitive to any threat to Jewish security. So once security is guaranteed, I do not see why any religious reason should prevent us from coming to an accommodation with the Arabs, and eventually to live together as we did in the Middle Ages in what were after all some of the finest periods of cultural progress through Jewish-Arabic cooperation.

CLIVE JACOBS

So you're saying maybe then Israel should be considering getting out of the occupied territories?

LORD JAKOBOVITS

Certainly it should be negotiated, I mean what form it will take, whether the form of autonomy as has been suggested as indeed was agreed at Camp David, or a federated system whereby parts of the occupied territories are linked up politically with Jordan or Egypt, and Egypt perhaps, provided they remain demilitarised and don't become a threat for terrorism and for aggression. I certainly can envisage that all this will be laid on the table and be resolved in intensive negotiations between the parties to the dispute.

CLIVE JACOBS

So really you're prepared to be pragmatic rather than adhere to the strictly religious, strictly Biblical.

LORD JAKOBOVITS

On the contrary, I believe my religious dictates place peace as the first priority. Because I believe in my religious commitment, I regard peace and understanding and security as more important than where the borders are to be drawn, and I even believe that the character of Israel will be more Jewish if we do not have a million and a half Arabs that live under Israeli control, and that are bound eventually to compromise the Jewish character of the whole state.

CLIVE JACOBS

Chief Rabbi, in advocating just a few moments ago that perhaps Israel should consider, at any rate, leaving the occupied territories, you have I think once again spoken out, here is a religious leader speaking out, a number of people associate you precisely with that, a number more perhaps believe that you got your peerage for being prepared to speak out, being prepared to lead, particularly on matters for instance of morality. And others again of course contrast that with perhaps some leaders in the Church of England, who maybe take a slightly lower profile. How do you react to that?

LORD JAKOBOVITS

My own interpretation of the quite extraordinary honour that has come my way of being the first Rabbi to be elevated to the peerage, is that it is in a sense a sign of the times. I believe that the permissive age of the 1960's and the 1970's is behind us. What that philosophy of permissiveness promised, was that once you have a free for all and we don't have moral constraints and self-discipline, we'll be happier and we'll be more secure. These promises have not been delivered, because in fact we have more crime today, we have more break-up of home life today, society is being eroded and we face major problems here in the stability of social life. Therefore there is a search today for more lasting values, for deeper roots, for enduring ideals that don't swap and change with every shifting fad. I think that the recognition that Judaism should have something to contribute, being after all, as we are, the custodians of the oldest moral tradition out of which the others have developed, is a reflection of the need of our times for greater certainty, for greater outspokenness, for a stronger stand by moral values than was current in the 60's and in the 70's. I think in fact that public opinion is somewhat unfair to religious leadership in that comparing the exposure that religious leaders are seeking and obtaining today, to what it was when I first arrived to assume my present office, twenty-one years ago, it is vastly superior, religion plays a much bigger role today in public life and is much more involved in making its voice heard, say, on the inner cities or on poverty or on wider moral and social issues.

CLIVE JACOBS

But is it not your head that appears above the parapet more frequently than others?

LORD JAKOBOVITS

Well, I've added my little bit which, it so happens, has had an enormous response in the media because some of the teachings that I believe reflect my Jewish beliefs and Jewish laws as I see it and interpret it, happen to coincide with current needs. For instance, we are deeply involved in the new knowledge explosion in medicine, let's say, creating moral problems of which you could never have dreamt before, such as artificial insemination, invitro fertilisation, organic transplants and so on, they raise the most fundamental questions of the value of human life, of one life against another life, and we have very specific teachings that shed some light on this, I don't say they give ultimate answers, but they help us to establish principles that can be applied.

So in all these areas, I believe that I am heir to a tradition that can be of some value in the public discussion, leading to solutions of problems in which there will be a greater degree of social cohesion and which we will eliminate eventually the scourges of oppression, of deprivation, of the humiliation of worklessness or idleness, that today afflict so many citizens, and in which hopefully we'll find a formula how to build two homes next to each other whereby happiness reigns inside them and peace between them.

DAVID SELLS

A 12 year old Palestinian schoolboy was shot dead by an Israeli Army patrol in Nablus, in the Israeli occupied West Bank, today, adding to the toll of teenage martyrs that the Israelis are creating. A 17 year old also bit the dust - both were unarmed. Several others suffered gunshot wounds. Since the disturbances began on December 9th, a total of 56 Palestinians of all ages in the West Bank and Gaza have been killed. Nablus today erupted after Friday Muslim prayers in the Old City, the tensest time of the week. A patrol of some 20 Israelis was pelted with rocks, bottles, building blocks, and flower pots. Tear gas and rubber bullets were fired in return, but to no avail. The Israelis then opened fire. After two months of this sort of thing, there appears to be no let-up. Michael Adams is a senior research fellow at Exeter University's Department of Politics, and contributing editor for the magazine, Middle East International. He has just returned from a two week visit to Israel and the occupied territories. By common consent, the Palestinian disturbances at the outset were spontaneous, but who now, in his view, is calling the tune - Islamic fundamentalists, the PLO, or what?

MICHAEL ADAMS

I think it is neither of those, although both have their following, and both have a share in what is happening. But this is something I asked about a lot - what is this new leadership, and the answer was always rather vague. There is a new leadership, and it is young, and it is quite separate from, although loyal to, the PLO. But nobody knows who it is. I think it probably is true that nobody knows, because the people one would expect, first of all, to be trying very hard to discover it are the Israelis, and the Israelis appear not to know as yet who is directing it, or how to lay hands on them.

DAVID SELLS

Is this new leadership, did you get the impression that its influence is increasing as the uprising goes on?

MICHAEL ADAMS

Yes, I think it is increasing with the success that there has been so far. I think I ought to say, I don't think it is a kind of centralised leadership. There seems to be some kind of a leadership committee in each area, and it may be that there is some central coordinating committee for the whole region, although it would be very difficult indeed to have such a thing, since communications are difficult between one region and another for the Palestinians. And since they obviously wouldn't be able to use the telephone, so it is hard to see how, but obviously there is some sort of coordination. I suppose it must be by runners, as it were, people who travel and are able to make their way through from one place to another.

DAVID SELLS

How aware are the Israelis themselves, do you think, of the damage that is being done by the continuation of these riots by the Palestinians?

MICHAEL ADAMS

They are very sensitive about it. They are very much aware that television in particular, as well as the newspapers, outside in the West are reflecting the things they are doing, and that this reflects very badly on them. They are particularly conscious, of course, as always, of the effect on the Americans, and it is worth adding that they are extremely conscious of the ill-effects on their own society, particularly on the young soldiers who evidently have had orders to carry out what is an extraordinarily brutal programme of

repression. As one Israeli said - you know, this is very hard on our soldiers, either they hate what they are doing and are humiliated by it by going around beating up schoolchildren, or else they love it, and that is worse.

DAVID SELLS

And yet the killing goes on. We saw again today in Nablus.

MICHAEL ADAMS

It does. There seems to be no end to it, and the Israelis seem to hover very much between the policy of live ammunition or of this repulsive policy of beating people to the point of breaking their arms and legs. And there are one or two other very disturbing aspects of the methods the Israelis use. For instance, from the time I arrived in Israel, I began hearing from Palestinians of the use of what they called 'dum dum bullets'. Well, at first I shrugged it off, I thought this is the kind of rumour that gains ground in a situation like this, and in any case I didn't imagine that 'dum dum bullets' existed anymore. But I went to the chief Palestinian hospital in Jerusalem, where the day before 53 casualties had been brought in with gun shot wounds or else very severely beaten about, and I saw some of the casualties in bed, and noted their wounds, and again the doctors started talking of these dum dum or exploding bullets. Well, I said, can you provide any evidence for this? And it occurred to me to ask whether they had x-rays of these particular casualties that I was seeing. They said yes, they did, and they brought the x-rays, and there is no mistaking it at all that inside the body of the victim the bullet had disintegrated and you can see up to about a dozen separate pieces of the bullet lodged in different parts of the corpse.

DAVID SELLS

Michael Adams.

PETER SNOW

The Twelve Foreign Ministers of the European Community today deplored what they called "repressive measures taken by Israel in the crackdown on unrest in the occupied territories on the West Bank and Gaza Strip". The measures were in violation of international law and human rights and must stop, the Ministers' joint statement said. They were speaking after yet another day of violence.

In Gaza a Senior United Nations official claimed that Israeli troops beat a fifteen year old schoolboy to death and after demonstrations in the West Bank a Palestinian man was shot dead. It brought the toll of deaths in two months to at least fifty.

Hours after it was first reported that Israeli troops had killed the schoolboy, the Bereij refugee camp where he lived, was sealed off as a war zone by Israeli troops. According to the British Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency the boy, Iyad Mohammed Ajoul, was dragged from his home and his head was beaten to a pulp. Tonight the Israeli Army said the boy's death was under investigation. Only yesterday doctors said another schoolboy was beaten to death by the Army. There were sporadic outbreaks of stone throwing in Palestinian villages too. Some of them had been untroubled up to now. Soldiers fired on a funeral where violence broke out and wounded an eleven year old girl and fifteen year old boy.

Tonight it's estimated that 200,000 people are living under curfew.

In Jerusalem a Palestinian camp was sealed off. Police and soldiers repeatedly fired into the air as they patrolled the area. All of this followed the bloodiest day of the conflict so far. Yesterday three Palestinians were shot dead by the Army and two more died of wounds suffered on Thursday and Saturday.

The United States has already gone as far as it's ever gone in condemning Israeli action. Three weeks ago it backed a UN Security Council censor of a crackdown in the occupied territories. Now Washington's attempting to launch a new plan to bring peace to the area but it faces problems appear insurmountable. First in Israel itself there is fundamental disagreement about the shape of a solution and the way to negotiate it. Foreign Minister Peres is for exchanging land for peace and recognises that the only realistic way of getting there is an international peace conference that the Arabs will agree to attend. His Coalition partner, Prime Minister Shamir, says 'no' to territorial compromise and 'no' to an international peace conference. He wants direct talks with the Arabs.

But the Arab who counts most, King Hussein of Jordan, was in West Germany today telling Chancellor Kohl why he will only meet the Israelis under the umbrella of a full-scale international conference.

President Reagan, like the Israeli Prime Minister, opposes an international peace conference. He believes it'll be a recipe for Soviet interference and diplomatic paralysis but disturbed by the rioting in the occupied territories, he's now taken the unusual step in a presidential election year of putting the Middle East back on his agenda and sending Richard Murphy, his special representative on a special peace mission.

Murphy spent the weekend in Damascus and he's now gone to Saudi Arabia. He's canvassing the idea of getting Israel and the Arabs to agree first on a six month period of autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and this cooling off period would then be followed by negotiations on a permanent settlement. Mr Murphy's problem will be selling the idea of autonomy to King Hussein who, so far, has rejected it out of hand.

And I'm joined now by the Israeli Ambassador in London, Yehuda Avner. Ambassador, do you accept with the Europeans that what your troops and police are now doing is a violation of international law?

YEHUDA AVNER

No. We are a country of the rule of law and we have a difference of opinion that our European friends, with regard to that matter, not to least to cover the circumstances which brought us into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip - namely the assault upon the very life of Israel in 1967 and the defensive war that lasted six days. But that is a somewhat complex and legalistic matter.

PETER SNOW

It's surely complex but if I may suggest it to you, the Geneva protocol of 1949, the Geneva Agreement of 1949 which your Government is a signatory to, is quite clear that it is outlawing brutality by civilian and military forces against the civilians protected in occupied territories. It's quite clear about that, isn't it?

YEHUDA AVNER

We ... to adhere to that Convention to the letter and to the spirit. The brutality ... I'm listening to your word "brutality" and when we are faced with the nature of the not peaceful demonstrations but the most unimaginable violence, often mindless and often orchestrated, when hoards come at you with rocks and with Molotov Cocktails, with nail bombs and with ... and you take every possible measure you can to reduce that violence without opening fire.

I must tell you that we do not have a policy of opening fire unless our troops are in immediate threat to their very lives and this has been a difficult weekend in which we've had to face a most vicious kind of mobbed violence.

PETER SNOW

Can any of that excuse the apparent battering to death of two schoolboys - one of them apparently witnessed by a British relief worker?

YEHUDA AVNER

You are making an allegation which my Government says is under investigation. We're not monsters and very often the kind ... of rumour and frequently hysterical rumour that in the circumstances that is being stirred up in these territories that you're occupying this kind of allegation. Whenever there have been excesses (?) our troops are put under the strongest discipline and our Israel Defence Forces are operating under tremendous restraints - self-restraint - under great complication.

PETER SNOW

Ambassador, moving on to Richard Murphy's trip - the American special envoy. Do you think he has any chance of squaring the circle between your Prime Minister's rejection of an international peace conference and King Hussein's insistence that that is the only way forward?

YEHUDA AVNER

I think with due respect that that is a little simplistic. Both Mr Peres, the Foreign Minister and Mr Shamir, the Prime Minister, have welcomed, publicly welcomed the reengagement of the United States through Mr Richard Murphy as a special envoy to move along, accelerate the peace process as quickly as we can. If we are able, as we must, to isolate the men of violence who are trying to turn ... into another Beirut and Teheran - if we are able to ... conditions where their anarchy which is designed to de-stabilise not only Israel but our immediate moderate neighbours such as Jordan and Egypt - if men

of political wisdom and courage could emerge with moderate voices out of the present ... within the Palestinian people, a terribly misled people from the days of the Mufti of Jerusalem and to the days of Yasser Arafat - the voice that will not demand maximalism of 100% because 100%, let there be no mistake about, this doctrine is not just for Nablus and Hebron, it's for Haifa and it's for Tel Aviv and Jerusalem as well and I think that we have to give this prospect of the Murphy mission every chance and every encouragement so that out of the investigatory talks it is now holding, will come a shuttle diplomacy that will bring the peace process along and much depends upon the Palestinians Arabs and their attitude.

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Presenter

Douglas Hurd has ordered an enquiry into sixteen alleged war criminals living in Britain. His announcement follows a panel of historians findings that the Austrian President, Dr Kurt Waldheim had knowledge of war crimes though there is no evidence that he actually committed any. But even if the Home Office Enquiry finds evidence against people in this country, British law means that they cannot be prosecuted and there are politicians and some MPs who believe that Mr Hurd should act now to change that law to make that possible. One of them is Mr Ivan Lawrence who is on the all party war crimes committee now and he is with us now. Good morning, first of all your reaction to the , I suppose you can call it verdict on Kurt Waldheim, some people call it a whitewash, what's your opinion?

Ivan Lawrence

It does not come as a great surprise to us on the war crimes group in Parliament, but clearly he did not tell the truth about knowing, about being there and I think that heads of state have got to be beyond reproach, it is really a matter for the Austrian people how they react to that.

Presenter

Let's move to matters in Britain now. It is said, isn't it that two leading lawyers will now be able to spend roughly a year investigating allegations that sixteen people resident in Britain were involved in war crimes. Is that good enough for you, is that far enough for you.

Ivan Lawrence

I would like to say that I think that Douglas Hurd has been very brave and has done absolutely the right thing in getting this thing moving. He could have said no, it's no good, we cannot do it and that would not have satisfied a large number of people in this country who believe that we have been quite wrong to provide a safe heaven to anybody who has committed genocide or atrocities. But by having an enquiry which looks into firstly whether there is any evidence that can be brought before the courts and secondly whether or not we should change our rules, means slowing the whole thing down. And I would like to have seen in the Criminal Justice Bill a small amendment made to give us the power which we now do not have to bring any perpetrators to trial and then let this enquiry consider whether there is sufficient evidence to do so.

Presenter

But surely what Mr Hurd is recommending is merely if you like a standard police practice in Britain. You must find evidence first before you can prosecute. No good hauling people in before you have any evidence against them.

Ivan Lawrence

The difference is that we already have the procedures in Britain for prosecuting normal offenders. But we do not have the procedures in Britain for prosecuting war time perpetrators because we cannot bring, we cannot prosecute people who were not British citizens at the time they committed offences abroad and so we must change it so that those who did commit those terrible crimes, and that's why it is not retrospective, they knew at the time what they were doing that they were terrible crimes, can actually be brought to trial and that cannot happen at present and so we have to change the procedures of our British system so that we can bring to trial anybody against whom there is sufficient evidence to do so.

Presenter

It is fair to say that almost everybody will be sympathetic with any of the procedures that can bring war criminals to justice, but there will be people who will call this a witch hunt. Again, one must repeat that without concrete evidence against these men you could ruin their lives on hearsay.

Ivan Lawrence

Absolutely, and I don't think anybody wants to conduct any kind of a witch hunt but it would be absolutely wrong to allow people who were direct perpetrators of atrocities, of genocide to get away with it. Our rules make it quite clear that people who commit murder, let alone mass murder, should not be able to hide behind time and say, ah well it is too late now. We can pursue them until the end of their days in ordinary murders, there is even more reason why we should do it for mass murder.

Presenter

What sort of crimes are we talking about. What degree of crime are the sixteen alleged to have been involved in.

Ivan Lawrence

Not all of them have been alleged to have been involved in the same degree. There are only very few who we can say are alleged to have played a direct part in the mass deportation ending in death in concentration camps or the actual supervision of the killing of a large number of innocent women and children.

Presenter

And briefly and finally, do you believe these people will be brought to book and swiftly ?

Ivan Lawrence

I don't know, that's for the enquiry to find whether the evidence is sufficient. Don't forget we have got to bring witnesses from behind the iron curtain. It is not just documentary evidence that will suffice. It has got to be good hard evidence that will stand up in a British court of law. The Russians think that they can produce such evidence for us and we will just have to wait and see, I have absolute confidence in the two men who have been selected to do the job.

5310

MATTHEW PARRIS

First we look at the crisis in Israel.

The current revolt of the Palestinians there is unprecedented. For the first time Arabs of all classes in both the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank have joined together in six weeks of sustained riots and strikes which have rattled the Israelis and for the first time Israel's own Arab citizens organised a one-day strike in support of those in occupied territories. Whether this continues, and some think it will, the ferocity of the clashes has confronted Israel with questions that go right to the heart of the viability of the Jewish State.

Zionism, the philosophy of creating a separate nation State for Jews, was invested in response to the anti-semitism of late 19th Century Europe. Theodore Herzl believed that the only political solution to anti-semitism was for Jews to find a safe place of their own to live by creating their own nation State. In his book "Der Judenstaat" he wrote: "We have everywhere tried honestly to integrate with the national communities surrounding us and to retain only our faith. We are not permitted to do so. If only they would leave us in peace but I do not think they will."

Herzl's prophecy was profoundly underlined by the fate that befell European Jews at the hands of Hitler and this fate encouraged many other countries, especially America, to bestow a moral blessing on Zionism. But from the beginning there two strands in Zionism. One, associated with Chaim Weizmann and Ben Gurion took the view that although the primary purpose of Israel was to be a safe place for Jews, it had a special responsibility because of Jewish history, to maintain social justice and live in peace and tolerance if possible with Arabs.

From the outset this dual aim was difficult. The proposed Jewish State was rejected by the Arabs but in the ensuing War, the Israelis minimised the threat by creating a State where Jews were in the overwhelming majority. The Arabs fled.

But another more militant strand of Zionism associated with Vladimir Jabotinsky and Menachem Begin took the view that rapprochement between Jews and Arabs was an impossibility and the only way for Israel to be safe was to create a militarily strong Jewish State on both sides of the Jordan. This strand came to the fore in 1967 when, threatened by an arms build-up in Arab States, the Israelis launched a pre-emptive strike. They invaded important strategic areas outside their borders and after the War the Army held on to the territory they believed was essential to guarantee security - the Gaza Strip, West Bank and the Golan Heights.

Conservative Zionists saw this as an opportunity of securing a permanent hold on these strategic territories and 60,000 Jewish settlers moved in to what they claimed was theirs - the Biblical Land of Israel - but many Liberals warned that this policy contained a cardinal error.

It potentially undermines the Israelis security because it involves controlling one and a half million Arabs. They can't be annexed into Israel proper where they would soon outnumber the four and a half million Israelis. Already there are more Arab than Jewish births each in greater Israel. Instead these Arabs have to be patrolled. 75% of them have grown up knowing nothing but Israeli occupation and they are bitter.

When they rebelled in violent demonstrations last December Israel's internal security was threatened on an unprecedented scale but it's not just Israel's security that's threatened by the occupation. To quell the revolt the Israelis have been forced to use harsh methods. They've shot unarmed demonstrators. They've also adopted a policy some Israelis have called "collective punishment" to instill fear into the Palestinians - rounding people up and beating them with clubs but however necessary this force may be to hold down revolt, it has brought with it a moral dilemma for a humanitarian people.

Brutal action by Israeli forces has rocked the Jewish conscience before, notably in the invasion of South Lebanon. Then, under political pressure from both outside and inside Israel, the Army withdrew but this time the dilemma is much more painful. Unlike leaving the Lebanon, the leave the West Bank is to leave territory many Israelis regard as essential to security and others see as their own but to stay and stomach this brutality will be equally painful because of the risk that it will become an integral part of Israel's daily life.

Already this dilemma has surfaced among Israeli soldiers:

Israeli Soldier

I am confused. I'm sure people above me are confused. My soldiers are confused.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Other reports suggest young Israeli soldiers have even fought each other over the policy of beatings and the following statement from a soldier was quoted in a Tel Aviv newspaper last week:

Israeli Soldiers

We got orders to knock on every door, enter and take out all the males. The younger ones we lined up with their faces against the wall and soldiers beat them with "billy clubs" (?). After one soldier finished beating a detainee, another soldier called him: "You Nazi" - and the first man shot back: "You bleeding heart. When one soldier tried to stop another from beating an Arab for no reason a fist fight broke out.

MATTHEW PARRIS

The traumatic events of the past six weeks have brought Israelis face to face with two dilemmas. Israel's position in the Middle East has always been under threat but is the occupation of Arab land really going to be compatible with Israel's long term security? And even if it is, are the methods they have to use in holding on to these territories compatible with the moral values they'd like to preserve in their society?

These dilemmas are not new. They sum up the essential problems of a Jewish nation State in the Middle East but this is the first time in many years they've been brought home so sharply. So has the present crisis changed the way Israelis answer these questions?

I have now on a live link to Jerusalem three Israelis who've been deeply involved in the debate. Mr Israel Harell - you've been involved as Chairman of the settlements on the West Bank - that's Judea and Samaria. How far do you think that Israel is going to carry on being able to sustain this level of sporadic violence and that not begin to interfere with her own security?

ISRAEL HARELL - Chairman of the Council of Settlements

It looks to me that Israel is facing now a situation where Israel must decide if it wants to continue the holding of the entire land of Israel from the sea to the Jordan and keep security for the four and a half million inhabitants of Israel and the riots in Judea and Samaria of course there is the question: Are we able or not able to do it?

MATTHEW PARRIS

That's the question.

ISRAEL HARELL

In my opinion we are able to do it if we want to maintain and keep our own existence. Once we are going to retreat from Judea and Samaria, I'm afraid that the border will come back to Tel Aviv and to Natanya, Petach Tikva - three cities that are almost on the Mediterranean Sea. Before '67 those three cities were always in danger of invading by terrorists as well as Jerusalem was.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Does this mean, Mr Harell, that Israel is going to have to accept continuing violence if it is to hold on to these territories?

ISRAEL HARELL

No, not at all. Of course we can bring to a solution. There are several solutions - political ones that I believe that if the Israeli Government will launch them, we might see the end of those riots. The first and that one which is acceptable in my view and I believe that we can find partners in the Arab world, is to grant to the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria, autonomy and I'm talking about full autonomy. This can give them some of their aspirations; grant them some of their national feelings. Not all of course as a State. For instance, I can't see that they will be able to hold an Army or foreign relations.

MATTHEW PARRIS

But the problem is that the Palestinians on the West Bank have always rejected this autonomous State which you propose and there's not sign that they're going to change their mind on that so if they do continue to reject what you're proposing, surely you are going to have to carry on occupation by force?

ISRAEL HARELL

If the question is our existence and their occupation I'm afraid that the answer must be, the present state should be continued but not necessarily. I believe that a great number of them would like to have autonomy if they can't have a State and they will come to with us, providing that we are willing to do it. There are of course another solution that I believe that might be even better than this one but I'm not sure that in the near future we can exercise it.

For instance, I'm sure that you know that in the East Bank of the Jordan, in other words in the Kingdom of Jordan, more than 70% of the citizens are Palestinians and those who would like to have a Palestinian State could see the East Bank of the Jordan as their own State. One should remember that the Arabs, after all, have twenty-two States and more that 22,000,000 square miles of size while Israel, including what you call the West Bank - in other words Judea and Samaria - are only 25,000 square kilometres.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Thank you Mr Harell.

Rabbi Hartman - you've long argued that Israel cannot continue to conduct herself in this way. Why do you say that?

RABBI SHALOM HARTMAN - Director, Shalom Hartman Institute

Fundamentally there are two basic values which are profoundly in conflict with each other. There is the deep love for the whole land; the desire to come home; the desire to build a national autonomous people in the Biblical Promise. On the other hand, there are human beings created in the image of G-d called Palestinians who live in this land and feel attached to it. The question that we have to face: Do the Jewish people and the Palestinians for them to exist as a separate nation require the delegitimation of the other? Is it one or the other in terms of the vision of Jewish history and in the vision of the Biblical history?

My claim is that we've come home to find room for both people and that we do not need to delegitimise the other in order to have our own dignity. We've heard for forty years, we have no right to be here. We've heard for forty years that in a sense we are an alien growth. I claim that we have come home but we have come home to find room for the Arab and not to dispossess.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Rabbi, these are moral arguments. Is there not a conflict between the moral argument that you have just put and the military need for Israel's security by not surrounding herself with hostile States in strategic positions?

RABBI SHALOM HARTMAN

I believe that the only possibility for a Palestinian solution is total demilitarisation and no offence weapons on the other side of the Jordan - on this side of the Jordan. In other words we have to distinguish between the security needs which we must be very exact and certain about and the political need to control a whole nation.

I seek not to abuse the dignity of the Palestinians but I also seek to live in security and dignity myself and therefore I want to separate the question of security with the question of control over the Palestinians.

MATTHEW PARRIS

But Rabbi, most of your countrymen don't seem to agree with you that this demilitarisation could in fact add to Israel's security. They think that it would undermine Israel's security and there is every sign of a hardening of their attitude towards the occupied territories. What makes you think that that is going to change?

RABBI SHALOM HARTMAN

I believe that there is a fluidity now. The positions are not hard. I think at this moment people are asking themselves: Is this the price we must pay for freedom and dignity? I believe in the soul of my people, is the desire to embrace the Palestinians but not as martyrs but as vital living people. I think the country is not moving towards the Right. I think they are a weir of this real issue of the Palestinians. I think they are ready to discover ways of dialogue and discussion. The Palestinians must speak now. They must declare how they want to live with us. They must declare that they're giving up all their plans of genocide. They must in some way say with clear dignity that they want to live with us in secure and dignified relationships. The voice must come from the Palestinians now.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Rabbi, is this, as you've just explained it, a question of faith so to speak, coming from your heart or is it a practical assessment of what you think the Israeli people are going to do, coming from your head?

RABBI SHALOM HARTMAN

I do not live as a philosopher in the sky. You can't live in Jerusalem and live in Heaven. When you live in Jerusalem you must live at the earth. I've come home to live at the earth. I sense the grassroots pulse of this people. They do not desire to control another nation. This has not been the dream of Jewish history but they don't want to commit suicide as well. If they can feel that they can live securely with this other people, I am convinced they'll be open to them.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Thank you Rabbi Hartman.

Mr Benvenisti. I turn to you as an expert on the West Bank. You've worked there now for many years. How significant a milestone do you think this is? Is it just a hiccup or is it a very significant phase, this latest unrest?

MERON BENVENISTI - Director, West Bank Data Project

It is a very significant phase except I don't think that it started now. We had all the indications of gathering storm - we just ignored it so now we are deep into what I would define as an almost ... inter-communal strife and the way to explain it to the British viewer is to think about the situation in Northern Ireland. This is also the ... that I think one should take into account if one wants to ask the question, how soon we'll find an answer to that. It's a long phase and I see violence continuing for a long time.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Rabbi Hartman felt that there was already the beginnings of a change of heart, as he saw it, in the Israeli people and a stirring of a need for peace and the desire for demilitarisation. Do you see that change?

MERON BENVENISTI

Well the thing is, that I see only on the abstract level or abstract dilemmas but not of immediate choices and I do not see it on both sides - both on the Israeli side and on the Palestinian side. What we see now the positions are hardening. There is much more rage, much more anger and the level of violence - we just heard now that three more were killed about half an hour ago - will cause terrible longterm effects on the "psyche" of both people.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Are there any longterm signs then that these divisions are going to be healed, that they are going to be reconcilable?

MERON BENVENISTI

Well yes, in the longrun one must hope that they'll reconcile but if you ask me what is my prediction, it is quite gloomy, at least in the foreseeable future unfortunately.

MATTHEW PARRIS

I was asking you not so much what you hoped but what you expected and you expect the foreseeable future will be bad?

MERON BENVENISTI

Will be as bad as it is now. Maybe there will be less violence but the cycle will continue with short periods of quasi-calmer situations but it's always going to be beneath the surface.

MATTHEW PARRIS

What if the violence gets very much worse - is there any chance do you think that the Israeli State will pull back from its present positions?

MERON BENVENISTI

No because I don't think that the phase of - the problem defined as disposition (?) of the territories - that phase is unfortunately over.

MATTHEW PARRIS

What on the other hand, if the violence got very much better? In fact if we had a period of a year or two with a very low level of violence or none in the occupied territories, do you think that Israel would then re-assess her position then and move perhaps towards the demilitarisation of which the Rabbi spoke.

MERON BENVENISTI

No. I think that then the question is no longer an extraneous question. It is an internally generated conflict so what one should hope, is the local leaders on both sides will see to it that they'll create some level and normal humanistic dialogue instead of the dialogues for violent deeds that they are conducting now.

MATTHEW PARRIS

How much worse do you think that this conflict could get or would have to get before those signs of a recognition by the people on the grounds, those signs begin to bear fruit?

MERON BENVENISTI

I don't know. That is why I have to provide you with my ... forecast, not my really forecast so I think it'll have to be maybe even worse until people will realise that they are facing an enemy.

You see one of the problems is that they do not even recognise that there is an enemy, let alone a partner.

o0o

GORDON CLOUGH

Will you be pressing the Russians to join an arms embargo against Iran which they have failed to do even though they call for the ceasefire with the other members of the Security Council?

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE

Certainly. I regard the moment when the Security Council unanimously passed the Resolution 598 as a very important one. I regard it the moment when the five Foreign Ministers of the Permanent Members of the Security Council came together in September agreeing on the next step as a very important one. I shall be pressing Mr Shevardnaze to join with us in delivering the arms embargo that should be now put in place.

GORDON CLOUGH

Do you think the Russians are as serious in their intention of leaving Afghanistan?

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE

I've discussed it many times with Mr Shevardnaze and indeed with Mr Gorbachev when he first came to Britain in 1984 and I believe that they have a real wish to get out of Afghanistan, I believe they recognise that it was a mistake to get there. We shall have to wait and see whether they can and will translate that into action.

GORDON CLOUGH

Do you think there is a role for the Russians in trying to solve the Arab-Israel dispute?

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE

I think that since we all believe that the way ahead is through a conference under the United Nation's auspices.

GORDON CLOUGH

The Americans don't believe that, so who is the 'all'?

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE

The great majority of the world and indeed many Americans, many members of the Israeli government do believe that. The volume of people believing that the United Nations has a part to play is very large and it's actually fanciable to pretend that one can advance to major changes in the Middle East without the Soviet Union being involved.

GORDON CLOUGH

You're also picking up some human rights questions, you're taking a list of cases and you've seen a couple of people involved in family reunification cases. How important is this aspect of a visit like this at a time when East-West relations have much improved compared with what they used to be?

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE

I think it's very important. What I'm concerned about now is to try to produce a change of attitudes so that Soviet citizens become entitled as a right to enjoy the same freedom of movement as we all take for granted, rather than these individual cases being used, as they so often seem to be, as convenient morsels to make available at convenient times in the international process. That's putting it a bit harshly. There has been a real change in the Soviet Union, but not I think sufficiently fundamental, sufficiently real for what the world would like.

BBC RADIO 4 PROGRAMME "TODAY" - THURSDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 1987
ITEM CONCERNING THE SEARCH FOR ALLEGED NAZIS
INTERVIEW WITH NEIL SHER
INTRODUCED BY JOHN HUMPHRIES

JOHN HUMPHRIES

It was reported at the weekend that the law in Britain is going to be changed so that men suspected of War Crimes outside Britain can be tried here. By coincidence, America's top Nazi hunter, Mr Neil Sher, has come here to talk to the Home Office and MPs about how they do it in the United States. Mr Sher, who's official title is Director of the Office of Special Investigations, is with me.

You set up your office in 1979, why?

NEIL SHER

That's correct. In 1979 there culminated a strong effort on the part of the United States Congress by ... support, to once and for all deal with the issues of alleged Nazi persecutors and alleged Nazi criminals. For many years there had been allegations that such people were living freely in the United States and so finally in '79 our Government decided that they were going to create an office, who's only mission was to investigate these people and take appropriate action under our law.

JOHN HUMPHRIES

And what have you done?

NEIL SHER

We have investigated over a thousand individuals and brought to Court over sixty. The aim essentially is to strip them of American citizenship which they illegally secured and then deport them and nineteen people have in fact been deported or otherwise removed from the United States. About twenty six or so have been stripped of citizenship and another six are waiting to be deported. They're going through the appeals processes and we have about twenty five cases pending in various US Tribunals - US Courts - right now.

JOHN HUMPHRIES

Have you come here to suggest that we should set up a similar office of investigation?

NEIL SHER

It's really not my province to suggest to the British authorities what they can or cannot do with their law. I am here really to indicate that if there was any assistance they need, this is the message I will give, in having to find evidence if they're interested, where you can find witnesses, people to contact. There's no need to re-invent the wheel and I would add that in Canada and Australia similar efforts are under way and I've been to Australia and Canada and their representatives have been to our offices in Washington to discuss the matters with them.

JOHN HUMPHRIES

It must be becoming increasingly difficult to trace and to prove crimes against these people.

NEIL SHER

I think there is no question and anybody involved in this will tell you that time is the biggest enemy. Witnesses are passing away or becoming infirm; defendants are dying - but what it really does is ensure that we work as quickly as we can and as hard as we can. Documents become very very important because a document doesn't lose a memory and doesn't die.

JOHN HUMPHRIES

What is the motive behind this - the motivation behind now? Is it vengeance.

NEIL SHER

No I don't think that's really it at all. Certainly in the United States there is extremely strong sentiment at being a country founded by immigrants and being the place that we're proud of our tradition of giving safe haven and refuge to the persecuted people over the world and particularly today's Thanksgiving Day and for Americans it's particularly important we think in these terms. We really think it's a abhorrent to have in our country the oppressors, the persecutors. It simply does not sit well and it goes against everything our country stands for.

438

מזכר

(להתכתבות פנימית במשרדי הממשלה)

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יט' בכסליו חשמ"ח
10 בדצמבר 1987
סימוכין: 0340

אל: אירופה 2

מאת: הציר-יועץ, לונדון

הנדון: דיוני הפרלמנט: פושעים נאצים

2.1.5

לוטה עותקים משאלות וחשובות שהועלו בנושא הנ"ל בדיוני

הפרלמנט ב- 3-7/12.

פכ

בברכה,
יורם
שני

正仁先生



HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Oral Answers to Questions

HOME DEPARTMENT

Nazi War Crimes

8. **Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on what action he intends to take in regard to those living in the United Kingdom who are alleged to have committed Nazi crimes in the last war.

Mr. Hurd: We are urgently considering the policy and legal implications of documents provided by the Simon Wiesenthal centre. I hope to be able to announce our conclusions soon.

Mr. Winnick: I appreciate what the Home Secretary has just said, but would it not be quite wrong if those held responsible for the most monstrous Nazi war crimes were allowed to get away scot-free because they happen to be living in the United Kingdom? Therefore, is not the real choice for the Government one between changing the law on extradition, as we have been urging on the Irish Government on another matter, or allowing legal proceedings to take place in this country?

Mr. Hurd: The truth is that we have no jurisdiction as things stand over crimes, however serious, committed overseas by individuals who were not British citizens at that time, nor is there, under present arrangements or likely arrangements, a possibility of extradition, nor can there be any thorough further investigation without jurisdiction. We have to decide whether we should assert jurisdiction by a change in the law and if so how that should be defined. That is far from easy. The ethical and legal considerations are very serious and do not all point in the same way. We are considering how to proceed.

House of Commons

Thursday 3 December 1987

Oral Answers to Questions

HOME DEPARTMENT

Nazi War Crimes

Mr. Stanbrook: Will my right hon. Friend agree that, however much we detest the perpetrators of war crimes, we should not institute extraordinary legal changes to enable mere allegations to be pursued?

Mr. Hurd: The difficulty is that it is hard to pursue beyond the stage of mere allegations when there is no jurisdiction. There is certainly no question of creating crimes or offences retrospectively. It is a question of the width of our jurisdiction over crimes that are recognised by everyone as crimes.

Mr. Flannery: When massive evidence is accruing about crimes committed during the war as in the case of GECAS in Edinburgh, will we tolerate a situation where a trial needs to take place to let us all know whether the crimes have been committed, or will we leave a man like that and apparently 16 others in this country and do nothing about them after all that we think that they have done?

Mr. Hurd: The hon. Gentleman clearly has not listened to the exchanges over the past two minutes. I have set out the considerations and the options that we are considering.

Mr. Marlow: Will my right hon. Friend please be extremely wary on this issue and take note of the fact that the supporters of this particular proposal are motivated not by justice, but by the demands of propaganda? Will he also be aware of the fact that many of his hon. Friends would be extremely concerned if he were to pursue such legislation which would, in effect, be retrospective?

Mr. Hurd: The question is how we deal with extremely serious allegations. I do not want to repeat myself in case I get the balance slightly different, but I have set out deliberately all the considerations. We must be very cautious about this because the considerations either way are very serious. As soon as we have reached a conclusion, we shall let the House know.

Mr. Alex Carlile: If the Home Secretary announces jurisdictional changes in due course will he also consider the necessity of announcing specific funds so that proper police investigations can be carried out into the allegations that have been made?

Mr. Hurd: Any change would certainly produce costs. There is no doubt about that. I do not believe that the hon. and learned Gentleman or anyone else would think that that consideration should be decisive.

E.R.

Monday, 7th December, 1987

Written No. 273

W Mr Ron Brown (Edinburgh, Leith): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations he has received seeking action against Mr A Gecas, a resident of Edinburgh, in relation to alleged war crimes; and if he will make a statement.

JOHN PATTEN

Around 2,000 mostly in the form of pre-printed postcards. We are now considering the policy and legal implications of the documents provided by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

ד' בכסליו חשמ"ח
25 בנובמבר 1987
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מאת: הציר-יועץ, לונדון

(ח)

הנדון: דיוני הפרלמנט: השואה

לוטה עותק משאלות וחשובות שהועלו בדיוני הפרלמנט בנושא הנ"ל לרבות
הצעות לסדר היום.

בברכה

יוסף שני

העמק: תפוצות.

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331 HOLOCAUST NEWS

Mr Michael Latham
Mr Greville Janner
Mr John D. McWilliam
Mr Ted Leadbitter
Mr Eddie Loyden
Mr David Clelland

Ms Joyce Quin

Mr Dennis Turner

Mr John Cummings

★ 9

That this House views with repugnance the publication, *Holocaust News*, the aim of which is to deny the events of the Holocaust as lies, exaggeration and preposterous tales, which have been perpetrated by Zionist-Jewry's stunning propaganda machine; considers its nation-wide distribution to schools, local councils, private addresses, honourable Members and many others as a clear attempt to stir up racial hatred contrary to the Public Order Act 1986; and urgently calls upon the Government to take appropriate action.

No.48

Notices of Motions: 20th November 1987

1185

331 HOLOCAUST NEWS

Mr Michael Latham
Mr Greville Janner
Mr John D. McWilliam
Mr Ted Leadbitter
Mr Eddie Loyden
Mr David Clelland

Mr Frank Cook

Mr Jacques Arnold

★ 11

That this House views with repugnance the publication, *Holocaust News*, the aim of which is to deny the events of the Holocaust as lies, exaggeration and preposterous tales, which have been perpetrated by Zionist-Jewry's stunning propaganda machine; considers its nation-wide distribution to schools, local councils, private addresses, honourable Members and many others as a clear attempt to stir up racial hatred contrary to the Public Order Act 1986; and urgently calls upon the Government to take appropriate action.

No.49

Notices of Motions: 23rd November 1987

1209

331 HOLOCAUST NEWS

Mr Michael Latham
Mr Greville Janner
Mr John D. McWilliam
Mr Ted Leadbitter
Mr Eddie Loyden
Mr David Clelland

Mr Jeremy Hanley

Mr Ernie Ross

Mr Mr Donald Anderson

Rev Martin Smyth

Mr Neil Thorne

Mr Harry Barnes

Mr David Knox

Mr William McKelvey

Mr John Butterfill

Dr Michael Clark

Mr Allen McKay

Mr Spencer Batiste

Mr George Robertson

Mr John McAllion

Mr Ivan Laurence

Mr Brian Sedgemore

Mr Robin Squire

★ 28

That this House views with repugnance the publication, *Holocaust News*, the aim of which is to deny the events of the Holocaust as lies, exaggeration and preposterous tales, which have been perpetrated by Zionist-Jewry's stunning propaganda machine; considers its nation-wide distribution to schools, local councils, private addresses, honourable Members and many others as a clear attempt to stir up racial hatred contrary to the Public Order Act 1986; and urgently calls upon the Government to take appropriate action.

★ The figure following this symbol gives the total number of names of Members appended, including those names added in this edition of the Notices of Questions and Motions.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FOR ORDINARY WRITTEN ANSWER

ON TUESDAY 17th NOVEMBER 1987

QUESTION

62

MR. JIM COUSINS: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will take action against the publishers of an alleged historical journal called Holocaust News under the Race Relations Act; and if he will make a statement.

MEMBER'S CONSTITUENCY:

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE CENTRAL

(LAB)

ANSWER

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL: I have been asked to reply.

The publication has been examined by the Director of Public Prosecutions, and he has concluded that it does not, in his view, contravene the law.



EMBASSY OF ISRAEL

2 PALACE GREEN
LONDON W8 4QB

Telephone: 01-937 8050

ו' בחשוון תשמ"ח

29 באוקטובר 1987

סימוכין: 2174

שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

351.2

אל: ארופה 2

ית: הציר-יועץ, לונדון.

הנדון: דיוני הפרלמנט: נאצים בבריטניה.

לוטה עותקים משאלות ותשובות שהועלו בדיוני הפרלמנט ב-26/10

בנושאים הבאים:

א. האשמות נגד גקאס.

ב. הסגרת פושעי מלחמה.

ג. תקנות הכניסה לבריטניה.

351.2

בכוחה
יורם שני.

העתק: משפט

תפוצות.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Written Answers to Questions

HOME DEPARTMENT

Mr. Gecas

Mr. Winnick asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the latest position regarding his inquiries into the allegations of Nazi war crimes made against Mr. Gecas; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Hurd: On 17 July the Simon Wiesenthal centre presented documentary material containing serious allegations against Mr. Gecas and two others. This material is still under examination. In the light of our assessment we shall consider what action is open to us.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Written Answers to Questions

HOME DEPARTMENT

Foreign Visitors

Mr. Winnick asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what are the numbers refused admission as visitors into the United Kingdom in the last five years due to involvement in wartime Nazi organisations; and if he will make a statement;

(2) if wartime involvement in the Waffen SS is a reason for refusing someone admission into the United Kingdom as a visitor; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Renton: Decisions on the admission of passengers to the United Kingdom are taken on arrival here and on the basis of the circumstances of the individual case. A passenger may be refused leave to enter on the grounds that his exclusion is conducive to the public good and factors such as that referred to by the hon. Member may be relevant to that decision. Central records are however not maintained of the detailed reasons for the refusal of leave to enter, to passengers seeking entry as visitors.

Mr. Winnick asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is now his policy towards the admission into the United Kingdom as visitors who are leading members of the French national front; and what representations he received over the proposed visit by the leader of that organisation.

Mr. Renton: Decisions on the admission of passengers to the United Kingdom are taken on their arrival here and on the basis of the circumstances of the individual case. We have received a small number of letters opposing the recent proposed visit of M. Le Pen, of which two were from hon. Members.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Written Answers to Questions

HOME DEPARTMENT

Extradition

Mr. Wareing asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests he has had in each year since 1979 to extradite persons residing in the United Kingdom to face charges of alleged war crimes; how many extraditions have taken place; what steps he plans to take to investigate such allegations; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Hurd: Since 1979 the United Kingdom has received three requests from the Soviet Union for the extradition of people accused of war crimes. In 1986 two requests were received, one relating to a person who had died and the other to a person whose whereabouts were unknown. One request has been received this year. However, in the absence of an extradition treaty it is not possible to extradite to the Soviet Union. We are examining documentary material provided to us by the Simon Wiesenthal centre which contains serious allegations about the wartime activities of three people. In the light of our assessment of this material we shall consider what action is open to us.



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שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

2223

ב' באלול תשמ"ז
27 באוגוסט 1987
סימוכין: 2044

אל: ארופה 2 ✓

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ב. נ.

מאת: הציר-יועץ, לונדון.

הנדון: פושעים נאצים בבריטניה.

לוטה הודעת דובר הפוראופ מיום 25/8 המאשרת כי בריה"מ
פנתה בבקשת הסגרה לגבי מקרה גקאס.

בבוכה,
יורם שני.

העתק: תפוצות.

FCO PRESS CONFERENCE: Tuesday, 25 August 1987

THE GULF

Asked about reports of a Kuwaiti decision to re-register a tanker under the British flag, Spokesman said that re-registration was a purely commercial matter.

MR ANTON GECAS

In answer to a question, Spokesman confirmed that the British Embassy in Moscow had received a note from the Soviet authorities on 24 August, which detailed allegations against Mr Gecas and requested that he should be handed over to the Soviet authorities. Spokesman said that the FCO would respond to the note in due course and confirmed that there was no extradition treaty between the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union.

371.2 262

DEBATE FOLLOWING STV'S TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY REGARDING NAZIS IN THE UK

(Early part of programme missing)

SHEENA MacDONALD

... you suggested it was not a good idea to continue pursuing these men, what's your understanding of justice in this context?

IVOR STANBROOK, MP

My understanding of justice in this context is that this particular campaign is inspired not so much by justice as by vengeance and I don't believe that vengeance is a proper standard by which we can judge anybody and in particular I am against changing or bending our law so as to accommodate this particular campaign by the Wiesenthal Centre.

MacDONALD

I am sure Mr Zuroff will have a response to that but first of all I would like to go to Professor MacCormick who is the director of social and philosophical study of law at Edinburgh University. Neil MacCormick, what is a war crime?

MacCORMICK, PROFESSOR, LAW FACULTY, EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY

A war crime is in simple terms a crime committed in the context of war. War is often an excuse or a justification for killing people but many acts which can be committed in war are criminal as for example as Efraim Zuroff remarked, killing innocent non-combatant men, women and children is a crime even if committed in time of war.

MacDONALD

So would you agree with his definition of justice or would you sympathise with Ivor Stanbrook's point of view?

MacCORMICK

I don't think either was defining justice. Justice comprises many elements. One element is that retributive justice as defined by Mr Zuroff. There are other aspects of justice including the justice of a fair trial, and the fair airing of allegations and so forth. I think that an important part of justice is as was said, bringing to accusations, proof and punishment to those who have committed crimes.

MacDONALD

So 40 years on would you feel that is the thing to do?

MacCORMICK

It's a general rule of most civilised legal systems that crimes as such don't as we say prescribe. If somebody commits a murder 40 years ago it remains a murder 40 years later and the fact that somebody has succeeded in concealing themselves for a period of time doesn't make it cease to be a crime or cease to be punishable in any ordinary system of law.

MacDONALD

Richard Holloway, may I come to you. You are Bishop of Edinburgh. Would you accept that point of view?

RT. REV. RICHARD HOLLOWAY, BISHOP OF EDINBURGH

Yes I think I would. I would be interested in the de-emotionalising the thing and I think that one important part of justice is establishing the truth, finding what actually happened. What you then do about it I think we could debate. You might want to be merciful, you might want to punish exorbitantly but I think you can't do any of those things, you can't debate them until the record is established and I think that in this particular debate we are actually talking about filling the record up as far as we can and I think I would support establishing facts that are establishable and the longer we wait the more difficult that will become.

MacDONALD

Peter Archer, you are an ex-solicitor general and you serve on the Cross Party Parliamentary War Crimes Group. Now presumably establishing evidence or information or the facts is part of your brief?

RT. HON. PETER ARCHER, MP, WAR CRIMES GROUP

Oh certainly I would be very anxious that there shouldn't be any miscarriages of justice and I can see that it's distasteful and difficult to drag up something which happened more than forty years ago and put someone who's an elderly person into the dock as it were but I think we are talking about an episode in history which let loose evil of a quite unique character. I don't think there is anything in modern history to compare with it and I think the whole international community would insist that this just can't be forgotten. It is our business and indeed if we tried to escape the difficulties by simply sweeping it under the carpet it would be deeply offensive to the relatives of the victims.

MacDONALD

But it has been swept under the carpet for a long time. It's over 40 years now since the war ended. Professor Bernard Crick, you're emeritus professor of politics at London University and a visiting professor at Edinburgh University. Now you have called for an end to the hunting of what you describe as 'foul old men'. Obviously then you sympathise with Ivor Stanbrook. Why is now, more than 40 years on, is it the time to end the hunt, not to pursue the hunt?

PROFESSOR BERNARD CRICK, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, LONDON UNIVERSITY

I think the crime of the holocaust was so enormous and horrible that it transcends the possibilities of human justice. I think yes, it does call for vengeance but a lot of vengeance was done at the time in hot blood, by killing, but what can be better justified in hot blood by killing than it can by prostituting systems of justice 40 years after. Not many old men in the dock, don't forget, but old men witnessing. Yes, that was him, that was him, they've seen photographs, they've read books, they've spent all their lives hoping for vengeance. This is not justice. There are 3 motives for all this happening. As Mr Zuroff said, there is justice but I don't like his definition of justice in terms of punishment. I'm a platonist in this sense and although I'm a humanist my ethics are Christian. I'm sorry, I do have to say this very bluntly. I think that justice consists of doing what is right and also in atonement and also in forgiveness and as a non-believing humanist I also believe in atonement. This is hopeless after all these years. The second motive is vengeance and the third motive, damn it, is to do with the internal politics of the State of Israel, the determination of the older generation to keep on staging state trials because they believe that the patriotic young generation who are tremendously patriotic, who have grown up in Israel, who have had military service, who are almost Greek in their attitude to public service and democratic politics - I don't agree with all the policies of the State of Israel, yet nonetheless they think they are not Jewish enough because they do not remember the horrors of the holocaust. I wish the young could be given a rest from the horrors.

MacDONALD

Efraim Zuroff, I think you should respond to that point first and also to the point that's been made that this is actually vengeance rather than true justice.

EFRAIM ZUROFF, WIESENTHAL CENTRE

First of all, in terms of the politics of the State of Israel, I think that the issue in hand is not what the State of Israel would do but rather what the government of Great Britain will do.

STANBROOK

That's the issue that you want to make.

ZUROFF

I beg your pardon. We came here to present evidence to the Home Office and our feeling is, is that it is the Home Office which must take action. The government of the State of Israel cannot dictate to Great Britain what to do and regardless of what ultimately happens to the individuals in question, the first question relates to Britain. How will Britain respond to these allegations? How will Britain respond to the evidence? We feel we've submitted evidence of a conclusive nature regarding one suspect, preliminary evidence regarding 2 additional suspects, and allegations regarding additional suspects. We think that it's only proper that the government of Great Britain investigate these charges. That's number 1. This has absolutely nothing to do with the State of Israel. It's true that ultimately these suspects might be extradited to the State of Israel, although I think it's doubtful. This is a possibility although there are legal obstacles, there are technical obstacles, but that is definitely not the issue at hand and has nothing to do with this. Moreover, I want to point out that having personally attended the trial of Ivan Demjanjuk, I take exception to your statement regarding the youth of the State of Israel. The youth of the State of Israel have proven in the course of this trial that they have an intense interest in the holocaust, they are very interested in what is going on and the recent opinion polls in Israel show that if the older generation are worried they have absolutely nothing to worry about because the overwhelming majority of the people of the State of Israel are interested in seeing that justice is achieved. Now, but I think the other statement is very serious and that is calling our campaign a campaign of vengeance. First of all, it's true that as Jews we have a personal motivation in pursuing this matter but beyond the personal level there is a level that relates to society, a universal level. The question is how does society respond to the crimes committed during the holocaust. What is the message that society is broadcasting. The message until now has been, if you commit a crime and you are able to escape for 40 years, we will give you a prize and let you die in peace and tranquility because after all, you've already succeeded in escaping for 40 years, so why dredge up old crimes. But if God forbid, Mr Stanbrook, someone had murdered your child and time had passed, would the passage of time in anyway dull your desire to see that evil person were brought to justice?

STANBROOK

Obviously this is a personal matter and as regards the persons themselves, one has every sympathy for the way they feel. This was a terrible, terrible crime which was committed over the course of a number of years involving many millions of people possibly and no one has any sympathy with the perpetrators but we are discussing whether the state as such should change its rules, change its administration of justice, change its rules of evidence in order that after 40 years or more, these people should be brought before some sort of court and punished, notwithstanding the fact that the evidence such as we hear about it is not really sufficient by British law. You expect us to change our British law to accommodate your

ZUROFF

Excuse me. You're confusing two issues. You're confusing a practical issue with a moral issue. You began by attacking us on moral grounds.

STANBROOK

Well the moral issue is simply that you must prove this and what you call evidence is only allegations. You just said they are allegations. Must we investigate allegations brought by an agency like yours which is just out for vengeance ?

ZUROFF

Did you see the evidence we presented to the Home Office ?

STANBROOK

Of course not ...

ZUROFF

So how can you say they are allegations ?

STANBROOK

The Home Secretary did and he's not proceeding is he.

MacDONALD

Can I put this point to Peter Archer who serves in the Parliamentary War Crimes Group. Is it so impossible to change the system we have in order to deal with the allegations ?

ARCHER

Well whether we have to change the system depends on what will be the just way of proceeding with this. Clearly there are difficulties about investigating something which happened a very long time ago. Witnesses' memories do fade and one can see some of the problems.

MacDONALD

Morally should one therefore give up ?

ARCHER

First of all, yes - the moral issue is whether you just forget about it and say, well if it's going to be difficult let's not bother, and secondly it seems to me that this isn't something which everybody has forgotten about over the years. Back in 1947 there was a very real attempt to set up an international court which could consider these things. I still think that would have been the most sensible way of dealing with it. In the event, it never happened and so we have to decide whether it would be better in some way to confer jurisdiction on the courts of this country or to extradite to Soviet Russia where these matters happened or to extradite to Israel which by its own law has jurisdiction over crimes against Jews and these are very real technical difficulties. But I don't think because we have technical difficulties we forget about it.

MacDONALD

I'd like to go into greater depth about the practical difficulties, the technical difficulties later on but at the moment I'd like to establish your moral standpoints, if you like, I mean do you, Peter Archer, think that it is morally quite reasonable to continue pursuing alleged war criminals in 1987 ?

ARCHER

I think it's more than reasonable, I think it's mandatory of us because if we were to forget about it, crimes of this order, I can well imagine that relatives of the victims, many of whom are still alive, would feel that justice really had been abdicated.

CRICK

It seems to me a lawyer's naivete or arrogance to think that because people are not prosecuted in court they are forgotten. All my life as a political philosopher I've been talking about the holocaust and about the uniqueness of totalitarianism but it does not affect my view of justice that after 40 years, it is almost impossible to get justice in any court with plaintives and defendants so old and particularly and I must say it bluntly, in Israeli courts and on the incredible confidence of Mr Zuroff who told his London press conference in February that we have never had any doubt about the accuracy of the evidence from the Soviet Union. I meant, this is a black and a terrible joke. Peoples' judgement becomes corrupted by vengeance. We hate the memory of the holocaust but it is not simply a matter for courts, it is a matter for contempt and the morality of mankind. It is almost trivialised by trying to bring old men to justice and this obsession of your one institute, and I don't think it's a general obsession. I go to Israel every year. I don't think it's a general obsession in fact of Israelis. I think you misrepresent your own country. I think you are taking a partisan point of view in that respect.

MACDONALD

Richard Holloway, is it morally wrong to bring old men to court ?

HOLLOWAY

No. I can't believe that it is and I am not taking sides on who pursues whom. The film that we saw, presumably the Lithuanians and the Russians are in pursuit there. I would have thought that it becomes very difficult to establish justice the further away you are from the crime - I accept that and you may have to reach a point where you have to say it's no longer possible to do justice here but I think that that's something we decide technically and in terms of the probability of history of establishing fact, but I don't think that the mere passing of time alters the moral significance of the act and therefore alters our imperative need to establish the act. We may then decide to be clement upon the criminal. I wouldn't want to execute these old men or maybe even send them to prison, but if they are guilty of these things I think that ought to be established and part of their atonement is acknowledging what they did and becoming ... you can't forgive someone who doesn't repent, to use technical Christian language but even humanists would recognise that. You can only dismiss a crime if a person says yes, I did it and then you can say, go in peace, we forgive you. But if he says defiantly that in fact he didn't do it and you know that he jolly well did then you have to establish beyond doubt that he did it and then justice renders a verdict. Now I think that the jury is still out on this one.

MacCORMICK

I think we are getting into this point, aren't we, what the weight of evidence is or in principle can be. Where a charge is very grave there, above all, you must insist upon rigorous standards of proof. I don't think that any of us here would disagree with that point, that it's essential that the gravest charges is subjected to the most rigorous proof. But that's not a reason, I think myself, for saying at the outset, 40 year old evidence can't be reliable. The reason for warning ourselves of the difficulty of proving quite adequately to the proper standards of proof which are in my opinion exacting in a matter of this kind and it may be that for other reasons there is no tribunal before whom a particular person can legitimately be brought but that should be a conclusion of enquiry, not a premise of it, it seems to me. Therefore it does seem to me that our government, and I'm not quite sure why it's only the Home Office, for example the people that are resident in Scotland, the Lord Advocate would have something to say about such allegations of serious crime. These matters should be looked into and looked into with all the proper rigour in my opinion.

MacDONALD

We are talking about somewhat slippery concepts in a way here, justice, retribution and indeed vengeance. It's been suggested that this justice is in fact a victor's spoils, that in fact if the outcome of the war had been the other way then bombers of Dresden might be in the dock, the people who planned the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima might be in the dock charged with war crimes. Would that be fair, Efraim Zuroff ?

ZUROFF

I think we have to distinguish between crimes committed in the process of final solution which were crimes of a different type and this is particularly the pernicious nature of those crimes is what we are talking about and why think it's so important that these individuals, people at the trial are ultimately punished for the crimes if they are proved to be guilty.

MacDONALD

So the fact that the allied forces won the war in a way is irrelevant.

ZUROFF

I think so, yes.

STANBROOK

It's not really relevant to the legal position because there are no members of the Nuremberg tribunal other than the victors themselves. If we'd had some neutral members, states, represented that might have had some claim to being an international tribunal and as Peter has just said, we didn't succeed in establishing an international crimes tribunal. If we had done so, then that might have represented a very fundamental step by the British jurisdiction at any rate, but we hadn't got that and so we have to rely upon the British system, the British tradition and the British tradition, whatever one might say about the moral position is that after a time the British public are inclined to think of atonement and think of forgiveness before they think of vengeance.

MacCORMICK

I think if that were the general view of the British public, the response to the digging up of the Yorkshire moors would have been different.

MacDONALD

But in fact there has been, would you agree, a degree of apathy amongst the British public. One could argue in fact that this latest investigation depends on media interest. Is there a degree to which the politicians are cynical in that they will not act on this unless there is sufficient public interest to make it worth their while ?

ARCHER

Well of course it's easy for all of us to forgive crimes committed against other people. We can all of us bear other peoples' misfortunes with fortitude and so we do depend on the media frequently to focus public opinion on these matters. If it weren't for the media and I have my quarrels with the media. If it weren't for the media a lot of these things would never come to light and a lot of injustices would never be rectified.

HOLLOWAY

Yes I mean I agree with that but could I go back to what you said earlier about the way that the allied forces fought the war. I mean I think to some extent we offended against the laws of war as well and there are laws and we are actually talking about appropriate ways to fight in a properly declared war and I think that we probably have to accept a level of guilt for obliteration bombing which was inconsistent with the means appropriate to pursuing a war. I think that it's very difficult to bring that kind of thing

to justice simply because of the stretched out nature and the distance nature of the thing. The awful thing about the holocaust was the highly personal upfrontness of the thing. People actually putting pistols to other peoples' heads, identifiable as individuals shooting individuals who themselves were known in the village and I think that does alter...

MacDONALD

That makes it worse ?

HOLLOWAY

I think it makes it more easy to categorise but I think we also have to accept our share of unjust execution of the last war.

CRICK

I think the holocaust was in fact nothing to do with the war, that the nazis would have attempted this terror they called the final solution, war or no war and I think it was a completely irrational factor and the ghastly amoral Goering said at Nuremberg he thought the final solution was a terrible mistake, it was a waste of military resources in a what should have been a rationally fought war, but this strengthens my feeling that this thing is so vast and terrible that it has to be comprehended in our culture, in our history, in our teaching, in our literature and I think it is. It has been one of the major themes of all of us who grew up in that wartime generation have had this with us all our lives and may shock Mr Zuroff profoundly but I find this hunting of old men is actually trivialising the issue and I think the only way to deal with the memory of the holocaust is as some have been doing in your country and in mine and elsewhere of dedicating their lives to peace and I can't avoid as a student of politics the slight implication that there is a political division in Israel in which it is convenient to raise the ghosts of the past rather than to deal with the most pressing problem of your country at the moment - how to bring peace in a divided area of the world.

HOLLOWAY

How do you exercise that it must be an awful kind of blot in their psyche and that's why I find it very difficult to judge what they are doing, hunting these old men as you put it. If you have this burning thing inside you, having seen 6 million people...

MacCORMICK

May I intervene for a second. It seems to me that we should not forget the uniqueness of the holocaust nor after all of what was unique about it, it is murder on a mass scale and it's genocidal murder and it's murder coupled with racial insult so that members of the same race group are bound to feel stronger than others about it afterwards but it's not the only case of genocide, it's not the only case of racial murder and it's not the only instance of war crimes and I think this does have a certain moral for us at the present. Most or many contemporary methods of fighting war it seems to me are apt to involve the knowing destruction of the innocent. War crimes are not in the past. The discussion and continued discussion of what is criminal in war doesn't merely, in my opinion, have a retrospective element in it, it has a prospective element in reminding us of the morality of what we may be about to do.

MacDONALD

Efraim Zuroff, you've dedicated your life, your lifetime of work and the Simon Wiesenthal Centre indeed is completely dedicated to this. What is your motivation, what is it you are aiming to do ? Is it retrospective or is it as Neil MacCormick suggests prospective, to discourage others, to remind people ?

ZUROFF

That's precisely the case and I think that motivation as I said before is that both on a personal level as a Jew who is personally affected. I think that every Jew is personally affected but it's also on a universal level. The message here is very simple. We are talking about crimes committed against human beings and the question is how will society respond to the commission of crime against innocent civilians. What is the message that society is broadcasting? My personal feeling is that a lack or a failure to bring these people to justice in a sense is saying that we don't view the crimes as that serious and they don't require taking action. Afterall there is action is taken against people who speed on the roads, there's action taken against people who commit far lesser crimes.

MacDONALD

Do you accept any of Bernard Crick's point that these are old men, that the evidence is shaky?

ZUROFF

The fact that these are old men is totally irrelevant. The fact that 40 years have passed is totally irrelevant. The question is the following. Did these people commit these crimes or not? If they committed the crimes, we propose to present the evidence and incidentally no one is saying that we intend to fabricate evidence. There are many cases which can't be brought to court because precisely as you say, there are legal difficulties, there are technical difficulties, we can't find the witnesses and many criminals will not be prosecuted. We know that. But in cases where evidence exist and it's genuine evidence and it's legitimate - not bring a case because 40 years have passed? What kind of morality is that?

MacDONALD

What kind of morality is that, Bernard Crick?

CRICK

Well there's without sin cast the first stone. I think it would have been better for modern Israel to have set itself up as the state that would dedicate itself to peace...

ZUROFF

What does Israel have to do with this? This is Britain that has to decide. It's easy for you to throw it on Israel.

CRICK

Who are you to act in this god-like way and accuse us. Who is this 'we' you keep on speaking of? Is it the State of Israel or the conscience of humanity?

ZUROFF

The we is the following

CRICK

I think you are speaking for the Likud party's view of the State of Israel and not my friends in the Mapam, in the Mapai either.

ZUROFF

This has nothing to do with Israeli politics...

CRICK

Rubbish !

ZUROFF

There are charges against people living in this country. Those charges were presented to the Home Office. Who's authorised the deal

CRICK

But what if we bring charges against you for co-operating with South Africa and for co-operating with the arms deal with the Contras ?

MacDONALD

Ivor Stanbrook, do you perceive as this having anything to do with Israeli politics at all ?

STANBROOK

I'm sure that it is a very important aspect of the whole matter because after all, Israel was born itself in violence.

MacDONALD

Because the Soviet Union is applying for extradition of certain individuals...

STANBROOK

Yes, and that's another reason for us being very suspicious of the whole thing. No question I think, of anyone being extradited to Russia. Not only because we have no treaty but because of their record on human rights. We simply wouldn't trust them to give a fair trial. Even if the evidence were forthcoming and it's the instinct of every Briton, I believe, that there is no sufficient evidence to justify making such a drastic change to our law.

MacDONALD

Right, we'll consider the evidence, the fairness of the Russian system and the practical possibilities of doing anything about these issues in the second half.

We've been discussing the moral and philosophical issues involved in the renewed pursuit of alleged Nazi war criminals. But who are the real war criminals ? Are the men who were listed by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre and the Soviet Union the worst criminals or were they simply obeying orders and is in wartime obeying orders a good excuse ? I'd like to put that point first to Richard Holloway.

HOLLOWAY

No I don't think it is. I think it would probably mitigate circumstances and you would have to grade the people who were responsible for the policy which was handed down as orders but we are all moral beings. Even within war there have to be certain moral structures observed. There are rules of war and I would think the average soldier would know that shooting a defenceless woman with a baby in her arms, even though ordered to do it, couldn't possibly be a legitimate aim in war. I would think that a person who did that would know that obeying orders was no justification for what he did but maybe he was scared out of his wits by his lieutenant and I think that would mitigate because I think sheer cowardice - I don't know what I would do in a circumstance like that but it wouldn't justify my committing a crime.

MacDONALD

Peter Archer, it's a trivial parallel but I'm sure you've been whipped into the lobby as you have obeyed orders. Is there a hierarchy of culpability ?

ARCHER

Well I'm not sure that politicians are a very good analogy. Civil servants are probably a better analogy. There are discussions in this country at the moment as to whether a civil servant who sees that a minister is doing

something wrong and discloses it is culpable or not. But personally, all my instincts say that if you have someone in a very difficult position, a private who is being told by his colonel to do something, then any system of justice ought to take that into account as a mitigating factor. What I think matters in the context we are discussing is whether someone was acting on orders against all his instincts and wishing desperately that he didn't have to do it or whether he went out of his way to do more than his orders dictated, whether he was actually enjoying what he was doing and that may be the important distinction.

MacDONALD

Efraim Zuroff, do you accept that distinction ?

ZUROFF

Yes I do, but I would like to add that in many cases, we are not talking about people who were coerced, we are talking about people who volunteered for the test and we obviously have to check each particular case, but that's certainly the case in many of the instances that we are talking about.

CRICK

I agree with Mr Efraim completely on this point. I think it's quite indefensible to plead [?] command against any breach of moral law or ideas of universal human rights or natural law and I'm not even sure why the common soldier, unless Peter Archer as a fellow socialist thinks that common soldiers aren't capable of understanding those things. No, of course not and this is a mitigating factor in sentence but not in guilt but with respect to the presenter I think this is a red herring and in a discussion we are holding. I doubt if any of us would really think that was the excuse and indeed, indeed, these people often, the zealots, did more than they were ordered to and the old decent conservative German army officers completely lost control and were guilty for not trying to stop things and just getting drunk in their mess while the zealots did it.

MacDONALD

A red herring, Ivor Stanbrook ?

STANBROOK

Yes, I suppose it is but we must remember of course that we're speaking in the context of the British system of justice and we are very fortunate to be British citizens where as a principle of British law it's been established for many many centuries that superior orders are no excuse. Now, take the position of Europe and the war and even today in South Africa, I think one must accept that these circumstances produce different conclusions for different people. We are very fortunate in Britain having the system of justice we've had. It doesn't necessarily apply elsewhere.

MacDONALD

Well let's talk a little....

MacCORMICK

I must say I want to fly a flag for the universality of moral principles on this point. It doesn't seem to me that who you are alters the question of whether superior orders excuse you or not and I think the standard is a bit kind to the British systems of justice in the sense that although it was adoption [?] of the common law, certainly our own military regulations were not adjusted until after the Nuremberg trials and made it quite clear that it was the duty of the soldier to disobey unlawful orders so we've all learnt things from that experience.

ARCHER

I think we should make it clear duress is a defence certainly under English criminal law and often [?] in Scottish criminal law and I think that it's right that it should be. There must be some examples where a reasonable human being couldn't be expected to withstand the pressure.

MacDONALD

Let's look a little more at the British system of justice in direct context here. It might be useful in fact to consider the practical implications of this kind of pursuit of alleged war criminals, bearing in mind that there have been very recent precedents for war crime trials. As Bob Tomlinson recalled earlier this evening in Scottish Television's documentary, Crimes of War.

TOMLINSON

Justice has always been pursued. It still goes on and not just in the Soviet Union. Klaus Barbie has been convicted of war crimes in France, John Demjanjuk was expelled from America to Israel for trial. Karl Linneas was deported from America to Estonia where he had already been tried in absentia and found guilty and Canada tabled a bill in its parliament so that Nazi war criminals found living there could be put on trial in Canadian courts.

HNATYSHYN (CANADIAN JUSTICE MINISTER)

I think it's a pretty impressive and important step in the history of our country to ensure that Canada is recognised as a country which is not a haven for war criminals.

TOMLINSON

But one country stands alone. There has never been a war criminal extradited from Great Britain. There has never been a war crimes investigation in Great Britain. There has never been a war crimes trial in Great Britain.

MacDONALD

Well Greville Janner MP in the House of Commons today called for an immediate investigation of these fresh allegations. The Home Office made no response today but yesterday made a statement in which they said they are studying closely the material which they received from the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in order to assess the scope for further action. What further action would you like, Efraim Zuroff?

ZUROFF

As I said previously, we want these charges investigated and if the persons are found guilty as we believe they will be, we want them to be punished for the crimes. The question of how to do that within the context of British law is very complex. Not being a British citizen I think I'm hardly the person to provide advice here.

MacDONALD

So you've got no specific things that you want to happen?

ZUROFF

I have ideas. In other words the possibilities. There are only a limited number of possibilities - either a prosecution in Britain, deportation or extradition.

MacDONALD

Right. Well let's look at those options because none of those are possible at the moment. Peter Archer, there is no effective extradition with the Soviet Union. Do you think there should be?

ARCHER

No. My inclination on this would be to say that this is not the appropriate way of dealing with it. I am not necessarily knocking the Soviet system of justice but I think that what would inevitably be a political show trial probably shouldn't take place in the Soviet Union. That wouldn't be my solution.

MacDONALD

Should we implement the kind of legislation that Canada has implemented so that war crimes trials can take place in this country?

ARCHER

That would be the option which at the moment at least, I prefer. I can see difficulties about it. You would need legislation of course to confer jurisdiction on the English or Scottish courts because they don't have it at the moment and and you would have to get a lot of witnesses over here from a long way away and they would be in unfamiliar surroundings. You would need to have all the proceedings translated, I can see all that but of all the courses of action, each of which has its difficulties, I think that's probably to be preferred.

MacDONALD

Would you push for that?

ARCHER

Yes.

MacDONALD

If you did it might eventually come to a vote in the House of Commons. Ivor Stanbrook, would you vote for it?

STANBROOK

No, I think these accusations must be treated seriously and if I haven't seen the evidence, if I were to see the evidence and myself to be satisfied that there was a case which was fit to go to a British court then I would be in favour of changing our laws so as to give British courts jurisdiction over offences committed abroad because that is the difficulty. At the moment, British courts have no jurisdiction over offences committed abroad except where they were perpetrated in the case of violent crimes by British citizens. We don't extend it beyond that but I think that change would be justified if it is true this evidence is worthy of being put before a British court. I don't believe that it is and all that we've heard from Mr ... Efraim here....

MacDONALD

Why don't you, Ivor Stanbrook ...

STANBROOK

Because first of all you start off with 45 years during which that ... people concerned, witnesses concerned, the evidence has been allowed grow and be changed and altered and for the evidence to be falsified and for countries like Russia which has no record whatsoever in the field of justice to produce that sort of evidence one is bound to think that it's not fit to go before a court.

MacDONALD

There are two points there. I'd like to go to Neil MacCormick. One is that Russia is not fit to judge this kind of thing or to present credible evidence. The second is that Ivor Stanbrook has not seen or heard of any evidence or information that he would regard as credible. What's your viewpoint on those two points?

MacCORMICK

Well the first is the question of extradition and the fitness or unfitness of other countries. On the point of extradition one has to remember - if I'm being a little long winded - that we are discussing a grave infraction of rights by people and that's what's vital is that in vindicating the crimes one doesn't infringe rights oneself. Now the only legitimate way of extraditing somebody from this country is under proper legislation in fulfillment of a bilateral treaty. No such treaty exists. Therefore it would be under the present state of the law unjustifiable to extradite people to the Soviet Union at the present time and if, but only if, an adequate bilateral treaty could be negotiated would it become legitimate.

MacDONALD

Could you imagine that happening ?

MacCORMICK

I can't imagine it happening in the early future by the will of either party. Also, I think that there may be rather special problems about the position of the Soviet Union in respect of events in the Baltic republics. But there was one remark in the film that may be quite surprising that Lithuania only became a part of the Soviet Union in 1940 which suggests that it was not well remembered how this disastrous event took place. There are special problems I think about that which make me feel that an extradition to the Soviet Union would not be seen as a particularly just way of proceeding in this case. I therefore do come down on the side of those who think the appropriate thing is to deal with the matter in this country rather than in another country although it would involve bringing witnesses in but I think that would be appropriate.

CRICK

I wrote the life once of a man who died in 1950 - George Orwell - so I was involved in interviewing a lot of old men on their memories and it was largely a waste of time. They insisted on being interviewed but they'd read so much in the meantime that their memories were completely muddled. The only thing is effective documentation. Now there may be effective documentation but alas it is not what people want. It's show trials. They want old people standing up and saying I remember him, that was it, let me tell you about

MacDONALD

For our information...

CRICK

Now this is not British justice...

MacDONALD

At what age does one become an old man ?

CRICK

Or old woman. Well 40 years on from people who held effective military command. We are dealing with people of a minimum age of 70.

MacDONALD

Well in their late 60s..

CRICK

I'm sorry, I mean I know some gerontologists and gerontological sects [?] you know and every thing can be done but on the other hand there are problems with ageing memory. At 57 I'm beginning to doubt my own memory and all kinds of things.

MacCORMICK

But that's to say that you have to do the best justice you can. After all, a civil claim could arise in this country, even arising from events abroad which would provided that for some reason or other it had not been possible for the evidence to be discovered until recently. It would be very difficult to establish even at the lower standard of a civil claim based on 40 year old evidence but we wouldn't back off trying it if there was evidence there to be considered.

HOLLOWAY

I'm a layman here, it's highly technical but I would have thought that most sane opinion in the country in Scottish terms would call for a fiscal report to see if there is enough to go to trial. I don't know if there is. I can't assess the evidence. There are people who can. If there is evidence there then I think it ought to be tried but I think we ought to look at the evidence first and assess it.

MacDONALD

Peter Archer, you've credited the media, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre has gathered evidence. Do you think the government should send its own investigators to the Soviet Union as many other countries have to look for the evidence themselves.

ARCHER

I would have thought that was the sensible way to proceed, yes. Clearly in any particular case whether there is sufficient evidence to put someone on trial must depend on how much evidence you've got already and how much evidence you could possibly accumulate. But I would have thought normally, if you didn't think there was enough evidence already the sensible thing is to go and interview the people who at least claim to remember these matters.

CRICK

But surely there is no law under which - now here I have some sympathy with the Wiesenthal Centre - there is no law at the moment which we can put them up on trial. It is outside the jurisdiction of the British courts except well, I think I can guess what Neil is going to say and I am very sympathetic. If the British common law could stretch to say that there is an even higher international law in which the common law is a part - gosh, let's try that one on. That would liberate the British legal system, but the more likely thing is that some of these people might have got into the country illegally and that's a question I want to put to the lawyers.

MacDONALD

Checking naturalisation ?

CRICK

Yes.

MacDONALD

Is that a feasible option ?

ARCHER

Could I just say first, the order in which you do these things is a matter of convenience. Whether you investigate first to see whether there is anyone who might be in this position of being placed on trial or whether you first pass the legislation to give the United Kingdom court jurisdiction, doesn't seem to me to matter very much. It's not a question of principle.

CRICK

You have no authority to decide for the vote [?] How could you send people...

ARCHER

I would personally want first of all to see whether there was anyone likely to be in this position so that we didn't have long arguments about something which was academic. I don't think that's a matter of principle. But turning now to the question of divesting someone of their nationality. It is true that someone who has acquired British nationality by naturalisation, if it can be shown that they omitted to disclose some essential fact, can be divested of their nationality. If you do that, then the Home Secretary would be entitled to deport them. He wouldn't be entitled to deport them to any specific destination. He couldn't say this person has got to go to Russia. If they could find some other country which would take them then they would be entitled to insist on going there. It seems to me that the likelihood here is that it would all be a waste of time, certainly I think it would be wrong in principle to use this as a disguised form of extradition. I think you normally, it's either something that falls within the extradition provisions or it doesn't.

MacDONALD

So your favourite option is to establish some kind of system within the legal system of this country whereby alleged war criminals can be brought to trial here.

MacCORMICK

If I can intervene here just for a moment just to say something. It's been said that there's no law that they broke at the time and no law of this country. I think this is to confuse the issues of substance of law and issues of jurisdiction. It was not lawful by any system in the United Kingdom to go shooting people, innocent people at that or any other time, nor was it lawful in Lithuanian law, nor was it lawful in Russia, nor indeed was it lawful in Germany. None of these systems made it lawful. The question is only one of jurisdiction and changing the conditions in which people can be brought before a particular court is not wicked retrospection in my opinion.

MacDONALD

Can I ask Ivor Stanbrook and indeed Bernard Crick if this was all happening 10 years ago or indeed 20 years ago, would you be more sympathetic to men like Efraim Zuroff?

STANBROOK

No, I don't think so. The question is the sufficiency of the evidence in any event. Ten or 20 years ago, it's true, it might be possible to get evidence that would satisfy the court.

MacDONALD

What kind of evidence would satisfy you, can you say?

STANBROOK

I would want to have the direct testimony of the witnesses who not only identified the person concerned but actually saw him committing the offences concerned. But there's a long way to go there. The longer we get from the time of the crime, of course, the more unlikely it is that we will get satisfactory

MacDONALD

But given that morally you feel this is a pursuit of vengeance anyway, you wouldn't be in the position of going to the Soviet Union....

STANBROOK

I take the view that a mere allegation made by a notorious organisation like the Simon Wiesenthal Organisation is quite insufficient...

MacDONALD

Why do you say notorious ?

STANBROOK

I beg your pardon ?

MacDONALD

Why do you say notorious ?

STANBROOK

Well because I think they're pursuing this as a matter of vengeance and not as a matter of justice. I'm just saying that from what I've read about but the point is this thing could be investigated if the evidence were adequate to satisfy British law.....

ZUROFF

Why won't you let the people read the evidence ? You're so quick to condemn the effort. Let the people read the evidence and decide.

STANBROOK

Well you've already breached British standards of justice by giving enough publicity in a television programme in connection with one individual and that I think is absolutely disgraceful on the part of the television company concerned.

ZUROFF

We did not produce the television show. For your information

STANBROOK

...which should produce the evidence to the Home Secretary, certainly, but shouldn't go round identifying people before there's been a chance of establishing a judicial system against them.

ZUROFF

The evidence was provided to the Home Secretary and the names were not released. Only one name is known. Others were not released and the fact of the matter is they are not known. They are known only to the Home Office.

STANBROOK

I find it inexcusable ...

CRICK

What are we all as human beings really trying to do ? We are trying to make sure that even if we can't stop war that there will never be genocide again and I am absolutely appalled at the triviality of thinking that the pursuit of old men has very much to do with that compared with - God in heaven - we've got all of our history books, we've got all of our literature that has written well and thoroughly about the holocaust. Israel itself cannot hold up its head proudly because of its connections with South Africa, because of the virtual lack of interest in Cambodia. There is sin even in Israel. There is sin amongst ourselves.

ZUROFF

What does that have to do with the issue in hand ? You are running away from the issue.

CRICK

We've got to look in a much wider way ...you are making this a narrow issue. You are persisting on this narrow issue.

ZUROFF

You are running away from the issue, you are running away from the issue. The issue is Britain. What will Britain do ?

CRICK

I do not want to see genocide again in the world.

ZUROFF

Nor do I for that matter.

CRICK

Well you won't get it through appearing in British courts. That is ridiculous.

MacCORMICK

It seems to me that the motivation of an accuser is always supremely irrelevant. Somebody might accuse somebody else out of malice or anything else. If the accusation turns out to be true and a crime has been committed that is the issue. On the other hand, it is often a question whether there is a public interest to be served in carrying on a prosecution. Bernard Crick and Ivor Stanbrook seems to be saying that there is no public interest served by this kind of public prosecution and those of us who think that the specific evils of war crimes are worth reminding about would, I think, suspect that there is a public interest even in this rather exceptional sort of case.

STANBROOK

In mere allegations, nothing more ?

MacDONALD

Richard Holloway, here we all are taking part in a television programme. What do you think should happen ?

HOLLOWAY

About these particular

MacDONALD

About these particular allegations at this particular time in '87.

HOLLOWAY

I think they should be tested to a further point in our British .. with all the British legal constraints possible and given that it's going to be very difficult to get any kind of verdict in Britain I think that the record ought at least to be established. What we do with the poor old man - I would be merciful to him but I think the record ought to be established.

MacDONALD

Peter Archer, will the government pursue these allegations ?

ARCHER

Well the government know that better than I do. It is a matter to which they must clearly direct their minds and they must tell the public what they've decided and why and some of us will be asking them to do that.

MacDONALD

Ivor Stanbrook, do you think we will ?

STANBROOK

I think... we will give them proper consideration and if they amount to evidence which justifies their being put before a British court and no question of jurisdiction being transferred elsewhere but if it justifies coming before British court it may well suggest something but I personally am

very doubtful that any of this is satisfactory evidence to go before a British court.

MacDONALD

Efraim Zuroff, are you optimistic that the British government will do anything ?

ZUROFF

It's hard for me to say. I'm hopeful that the British government will do something. I think the evidence is very conclusive and I think it would be very hard to ignore the kind of evidence that we submitted on Friday.

MacDONALD

And what's the best they can do ?

ZUROFF

It's up to them to decide.



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שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

באב תשמ"ז

351.2

4 באוגוסט 1987

אל: ארופה 2 ✓

סימוכין: 1986

מאת: היועץ המדיני לונדון.

הנדון: דיוני הפרלמנט: פושעים נאצים.

1. לוטה עותקים מהנוסח הרשמי של שאילתות ותשובות שהועלו בדיוני הפרלמנט בנדון, בימים 23-24/7.

2. הנוסחים הנ"ל כבר שוגרו אליכם בזמנו כדפים משוכפלים שיועדו לעתונות בלבד ושאותם יש להשמיד מטעמים של סודיות המקור.

בכ"ח
יורם שני.

העתק: תפוצות.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Written Answers to Questions

HOME DEPARTMENT

Mr. Antonas Gecas

Mr. Winnick asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what documentary evidence has been received by Her Majesty's Government from (a) overseas Governments and (b) other sources regarding the wartime activities of Mr. Antonas Gecas; and when the Government will be reaching a conclusion of the outcome of such evidence;

(2) to what specific alleged Nazi wartime crimes the documentary evidence received by Her Majesty's Government relating to Mr. Antonas Gecas refers;

(3) what representations have been made to him seeking the extradition of Mr. Antonas Gecas for alleged Nazi wartime crimes against humanity; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Douglas Hurd: On 7 July representatives of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre gave the Department a substantial volume of documentary material in support of their allegation that Mr. Gecas had been involved in crimes of mass murder during the Nazi occupation of Lithuania. We have also examined other documents identified in the original list of names which the centre sent us last November. We are studying the recent material in order to assess the scope for further action. No request for the extradition of Mr. Gecas has been received.

Mr. Winnick asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances Mr. Antonas Gecas was given British citizenship; what information he gave at that time regarding his activities during the last war; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Hurd: Mr. Gecas was granted citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies in 1956 following an application for naturalisation under section 10(1) of the British Nationality Act 1948. The information which he supplied at that time will now be examined alongside the material handed to my Department on 17 July by the Simon Wiesenthal centre.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Written Answers to Questions

HOME DEPARTMENT

War Criminals

Mr. Winnick asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is Her Majesty's Government's policy towards the bringing to justice of United Kingdom inhabitants held responsible for Nazi crimes against humanity; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Hurd: The policy of successive Governments has been that those accused of serious crimes committed abroad should be extradited, provided the requirements of our law are met. Last week I received from the Simon Wisenthal Centre documentary material in support of allegations that people responsible for war crimes are living in this country. I am examining this material in order to assess the scope for further action.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Written Answers to Questions

HOME DEPARTMENT

Mr. Antonas Gecas

Mr. Janner asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will investigate further allegations against Antonas Gecas contained in the new Scottish television film about him and other suspected war criminals living in the United Kingdom;

(2) if he will initiate investigations into new information provided to him concerning alleged war criminals living in the United Kingdom;

(3) whether he will now take action concerning the further allegations against Antonas Gecas and other suspected war criminals living in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Hurd: The allegations made in the Scottish Television programme are being studied together with the material supplied to us on 17 July by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

משרד החוץ-מחלקת הקשר

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תאריך : 31.07.87

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שמור

חוזם: 7,20578

אל: המשרד

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דע: אירופה ב'

מאת: לונדון/הציר

פושעים נאציים.

הטיפול בנושא ירוכז ע"י יו"ר ה'בורד אופ דפיוטיס'
כמובן תוך התיעצות אתנו. המצב הוא שמאז תום מלחמת
העולם השניה לא הועמד אף פושע מלחמה לדין באנגליה.
הבורד מתייעץ עם טובי המשפטנים בנדון.

רביב

אף

תפ: ממנכל, אירב, סייבל, תביעות, משפט, תפוצות



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שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

מקום

דואר 2.10.87

ב' באב תשמ"ז
28 ביולי 1987
סימוכין : 1957

אל : אירופה 2

מאת : יועץ מדיני/לונדון

הנדון : דיוני הפרלמנט: פושעי מלחמה בבריטניה

לוטה עותקים משאילתות ותשובות בכתב בנושא זה, שהועלו
בדיוני הפרלמנט ב-23.7.87.

ב ב ר כ ה,

ח/רינה
יורם שני

העתק : משפט

תפוצות

Thursday, 23rd July, 1987

Written No. 395

W Mr David Winnick (Walsall North): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what is HMG's policy towards the bringing to justice of UK inhabitants held responsible for Nazi crimes against humanity; and if he will make a statement.

MR JOHN PATTEN

The policy of successive Governments has been that those accused of serious crimes committed abroad should be extradited, provided the requirements of our law are met. Last week my rt hon Friend the Home Secretary received from the Simon Wiesenthal Center documentary material in support of allegations that people responsible for war crimes are living in this country. He is examining this material in order to assess the scope for further action.

Thursday, 23rd July, 1987

Written Nos. 250,253 and 254

Mr. David Winnick (Walsall North): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what documentary evidence has been received by HMG from a) overseas governments b) other sources regarding the war time activities of Mr Antonas Gecas; and when the Government will be reaching a conclusion of the outcome of such evidence.

Mr. David Winnick (Walsall North): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what specific alleged Nazi war-time crimes does the documentary evidence received by HMG relating to Mr Antonas Gecas refer.

Mr. David Winnick (Walsall North): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations have been made to him seeking the extradition of Mr Antonas Gecas for alleged Nazi war-time crimes against humanity; and if he will make a statement.

MR. JOHN PATTEN

On 7 July representatives of the Simon Wiesenthal Center gave the Department a substantial volume of documentary material in support of their allegation that Mr Gecas had been involved in crimes of mass murder during the Nazi occupation of Lithuania. We have also examined other documents identified in the original list of names which the Center sent us last November. We are studying the recent material in order to assess the scope for further action. No request for the extradition of Mr Gecas has been received.

E.R.

Thursday, 23rd July, 1987.

Written No. 251

W Mr. David Winnick (Walsall North): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what is the policy towards the removal of British citizenship from a naturalised citizen found to have been involved in Nazi war-time crimes against humanity; and if he will make a statement.

MR. DAVID RENTON

The circumstances of any particular case would be considered in accordance with the provisions of section 40 of the British Nationality Act 1981.

Kriegsverbrecher-Archiv der UNO wird geöffnet

New York (dpa)

Friedensnobelpreisträger Elie Wiesel hat sich der Forderung Israels nach einer Öffnung des bei der UNO in New York lagernden Kriegsverbrecherarchivs angeschlossen. Vor Journalisten in der UNO sagte Wiesel, wenn dieses Archiv weiter geschlossen bleibe, „würde das notwendigerweise bedeuten, daß die Stimme der Geschichte zum Schweigen gebracht wird“. Wiesel, selbst ein jüdischer Überlebender des Holocaust, gab zu bedenken, daß damit den Nationalsozialisten in die Hände gespielt würde, die auch versucht hätten, „ihre Opfer ein zweites Mal zu töten, indem sie die Spuren ihrer Gräber auslöschten und, vor allem, die Erinnerung an die kriminellen Taten“.

In die rund 40 000 Akten, die in den Jahren 1943 bis 1947 von Juristen der Siegermächte zusammengetragen und später der UNO übergeben worden waren, dürfen heute nur Regierungen Einblick nehmen. Allerdings laufen zur Zeit Bestrebungen, die Unterlagen über Kriegsverbrechen der Achsenmächte, ihre Täter, Zeugen und Opfer einem weiteren Personenkreis – vor allem Wissenschaftlern zugänglich zu machen.

Der amtierende Botschafter Israels bei der UNO, Johann Bein, berichtete in der Pressekonferenz, daß jetzt alle 17 Staaten, die seinerzeit an der Sammlung des Materials beteiligt waren, sich bereit erklärt hätten, am 22. September mit UNO-Generalsekretär Javier Perez de Cuellar über die künftige Regelung des Zugangs zu diskutieren.

Das über Jahrzehnte praktisch vergessene Archiv war in den Blickpunkt der Öffentlichkeit geraten, nachdem darin eine Akte über den ehemaligen UNO-Generalsekretär und heutigen österreichischen Präsidenten Waldheim entdeckt

Join call to open UN files

By YITZHAK RABI

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) — Britain and Canada joined Israel and 11 other nations in requesting that the files on Nazi war criminals compiled by the UN War Crimes Commission be opened to the public.

The two countries informed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar of the change in their position. Only four of the 17 former members of the defunct War Crimes Commission still oppose opening the files. They are France,

Poland, Czechoslovakia and India.

Last week Belgium, China, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Norway joined Israel's request. It had been supported earlier by the US, Australia, Denmark, Greece, The Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

Israeli diplomats have noted that while a majority of the former members favors making the files public, final authority rests with the Secretary General. An archive containing 40,000 files on war criminals is stored in a building in mid-town Manhattan.

INTERMOUNTAIN JEWISH NEWS, DENVER
24/7/87

2/2 83



כ' בתמוז תשמ"ז
17 ביולי 1987
988

38/1

אל : השגרירות, לונדון

מאת: מנהל תפוצות

הנדון: מרכז יקר

הג' ואיש קרוניכל מן ה- 12/6 מוסר שהמרכז הנ"ל שוקל הקמת סניף בישראל. נודה לכם על דווח חמציחי על המכון, מטרותיו ופעילותו וכן על מייסדו ונשיאו הרב מיכאל רוזן. אודה שמכל מה ששמעתי עד כה לא התרשמתי אבל אשמח אם רושם זה בר-חיקון.

בברכה,

גדעון חדמור

העחק : אירופה ב'

רח"מ מירל סורג בטחוני	מחלקת הקשר ניו-יורק טופס מברק	רח: 1 מחור: 3
0500	המשרד	א: 2
נר:	(ג'א - האג'א ס'א'א'א)	ר ע: לונדון (בלי המצ"ב)
0500	מאת: נאוי"ם, ניו-יורק	מאת: גביר.

אל: הראל/מנהל חביעות (אנא העבר גם לידיעת השגרירים נתניהו ואבנר).
 דע: ארבי"ל 2. אירופה ב'. שני/לונדון. (ג'א - האג'א ס'א'א'א)
 מאת: גביר.

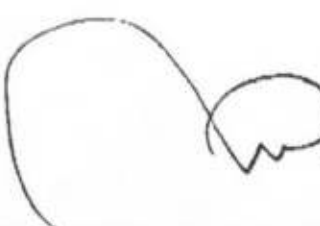
ארכיון האו"ם לפשעי מלחמה: יו בריטניה, למברקנו 486.

1. כאמור במברקנו 486 מאתמול (20.7), עמדת בריטניה רחוקה מלהשביע רצון. הדבר בא גם לידי ביטוי במכתב ששלח ב-28.5 שה"ח בריטניה, ג'פרי האוו, אל חבר הפרלמנט מרלין ריס, המכהן גם כיו"ר הוועדה הפרלמנטארית הבינמפלגתית לפשעי מלחמה. תוכן המכתב (המצ"ב) מדבר בעד עצמו.

2. נראה שרק התערבות אישית של גבי תאצ'ר - כמוצע במברקנו 486 - עשויה להניע את שה"ח האוו להורות למשלחת בריטניה באו"ם לפעול למען פתיחת הארכיון כנדרש.

3. אנא העבירו המכתב המצ"ב ללונדון בדיפ'.

נאוי"ם

אישור: 

שם השולח: ר. גביר

תאריך: 21.7.87

ג'א א'א'א
 א'א'א א'א'א
 א'א'א א'א'א
 א'א'א א'א'א



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2/3

0500

Dear Mr. [unclear]

Thank you for your letter of 7 May about the United Nations War Crimes Commission (UNWCC).

As a former member of the UNWCC, we were consulted last year by the UN Secretary General about the proposal that the files of the UNWCC be opened to public access.

Under the existing rules, which we believe have worked well over the years, Governments are allowed access to the principal files upon written request naming individuals about whom they are seeking information, and on undertaking to preserve the confidentiality of the files. Bona fide non-official researchers are allowed access to documents on the work of the Commission. There is, therefore, no hindrance to Governments examining the files for the purpose of prosecuting those suspected of war crimes. The files contain allegations and information which have never been subject to any judicial procedure. To open them to public access would increase opportunities for untested information to be used against individuals, who may be unaware of the allegations against them.



0000

For this reason we have, as you know, had reservations about unrestricted access to the UNWCC files. Most other countries who are former members of the UNWCC have thus far taken the same view. However, we are keeping an open mind on the question and should naturally be ready to consider carefully any specific proposal for changes in the existing rules which the UN Secretary General, as custodian of the files, might put forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

GEOFFREY HOWE

END

82-100

1712

357-262



חבר הכנסת

הכנסת

ה' תש"ח / הכנסת
ד"ר יצחק זאב

Handwritten: ۱۰۲۳

$\frac{1}{2} \log \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{1}{2}$

ל-1000000 גרם ב-1000000 גרם
ב-1000000 גרם ב-1000000 גרם
ב-1000000 גרם ב-1000000 גרם
ב-1000000 גרם ב-1000000 גרם
(FPO) - 1000000

141/10/21

Q. 427.

11/2/2018 : 2018

Liberal International

1 Whitehall Place,
London, SW1A 2HE
Tel: London 839 5905/3311
Cables: Worldlib London
Telex: 8956551 LIB HQ. G.



LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

LONDON, 11 JULY 1987

"The Liberal International Executive Committee, meeting in London on 11th July 1987, is gravely disturbed by recent expressions of antisemitism in Europe, not least in Austria.

The Executive reiterates that it is an imperative duty of all Liberals to expose and actively attack those who promote antisemitism and who propagate lies about the reality of nazism, and actively fight any trace of sentiments of the kind that once cleared the way for the Nazis."



EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
2 PALACE GREEN
LONDON W8 4QB
Telephone: 01-937 8050

ג' בתמוז תשמ"ז
30 ביוני 1987
סימוכין : 1845

שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

351.2 (2)

אל : מנהל תפוצות

דר' י. בר-רומי, יועץ ליד תפוצות

מאת : עתונות/לונדון



הנדון : אנטישמייות בעתונות הבריטית
למכתביכם מ-15.5.87 ו-11.6.87

א. התשובה לשאלה המועלית במכתביכם אינה פשוטה. הבעיה אינה מצויה אצל כתבי העתונים הבריטיים בארץ אלא אצל הפובליציסטים, בעלי הטורים וכותבי מאמרי המערכת כאן. העתונים גם מאפשרים לדעות אחרות - המובעות לדוגמא ע"י יהודים ואחרים - להופיע בעתונותם. כלומר, הבעיה אינה בעיה של בורות או חוסר ידע אלא בעיה של שינוי דעות מושרשות ו/או התמודדות עם מה שנקרא "הדרך הבריטית והנוצרית בה מקובל לעשות הדברים במדינה זו".

ב. שני ארועים מרכזיים בתחום הנאציזם קורים ממש בימים אלה: משפטו של בארכי בצרפת ומשפט דמיניוק בישראל. בנוסף על כך, קיימת פרשת גרוש הנאצים מארה"ב (לינאס), רשימת הנאצים החיים בבריטניה ופרשת ולדהיים. דהיינו, הבעיה אינה מחסור בארועים הקשורים בשואה ובחוסר מודעות לשואה אלא שלמרות זאת חזקה הדעה בנחש של מעצבי דעת קהל בבריטניה שעבר זמן רב מאז השואה והנפשות המעורבות זקנות מדי בכדי להצדיק נקמה (תכונה לא נוצרית) והעמדה למשפט.

ג. שיחה עם עתונאי בריטי אחד או יותר לא תביא לדעתי לשינוי עמוק. יתכן ונזכה לכתבה מעניינת, וגם בכך מן החיובי, אך שינוי לעומק יבוא ע"י פעולת שכנוע מכאן ע"י כל הגורמים הישראליים, ציונים ויהודיים. הדברים נעשים באורח מתמיד (סמפוזיונים, שיחות, ביקורי



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שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

- 2 -

אנשים כאלו ויזל בלונדון ועוד) אך מולנו אויב רציני אחד -
הזמן; ככל שהוא חולף והשואה מתרחקת, מתחזקים הנימות האנטישמיות
המסורתיות, ובמדינה זו אין הן חסרות.

ב ב ר כ ה,

א. מנור

העחק ✓ מנהל אירופה 2



יד' בסיון תשמ"ז
11 ביוני 1987
728

די.ל. 350.2

CM

אל : מר אבי מנור, השגרירות, לונדון

מאת: ד"ר יואל בר-רומי, יועץ ליד תפוצות

הנדון: גילויי אנטישמיות בעתונות הבריטית
מכתב 1712 מ-6 במאי 1987

התמונה עליה הצבעת יש בה כדי להדאיג. בדיון שקיימנו בנושא אצל מנהל תפוצות עליה הרעיון לזמן אחד או שני כתבים של עתונים בריטיים בישראל לשיחה על בעיית הפושעים הנאציים (אולי גם על נסיונות שכתוב חולדות השואה כגון במקרה של המחזה "כליון"). אפשר שבפגישה זו ישתתפו אנשי אוניברסיטה ו- "יד ושם".

ברצוני לדעת אם אתה רואה חועלת במהלך זה ואם כן אם אתה יכול להמליץ על עתונאי שיהיה מעוניין בנושא ושיוכל לכתוב עליו בכיוון הרצוי.

בברכה,

יורל

יואל בר-רומי

הערת: מר ג. חדמור, מנהל תפוצות
מר איתן מרגלית, מנהל אירופה 2

1907 1914
1914 1917



1917 1918
1918 1919

1919 1920
1920 1921

טז' באייר תשמ"ז
15 במאי 1987
-647-

104/0 351.2.-C 72

אל; מר אבי טנור, לונדון

מאת: מנהל תפוצות

הנדון: אנטישמיות בעיתונות הבריטית?
למכתבך מ- 6.5

מזמן אני שם לב ליחס הביקורתי עד שלילי של התקשורת הבריטית לנושאים
יהודיים שונים העולים על הפרק. יש בדברים הרבה התחסדות, דו-הרצופיות וסתם
טנאח ישראל וטוב עשה השגריר שמחה אישית באוזני עורך ה"טאנדיי טלגראף".

אני רוצה להציע למע"ת להזמין כמה עיתונאים בריטיים, יחד או בנפרד,
לדיון בבעיות הנזכרות בדווחך אליו נביא 2-3 מומחים מהמשרד או מחוצה לו.
מה דעתך?

בברכה,

גדעון חדמור

העתקים: מנהל מע"ת
אירופה 2
לשכת המנכ"ל
הסברה

1987
28 APR 87
-003-

324.5-025

1987 APR 28 10 10 AM

1987 APR 28 10 10 AM

1987 APR 28 10 10 AM

1987 APR 28 10 10 AM

1987 APR 28 10 10 AM

1987 APR 28 10 10 AM

1987 APR 28 10 10 AM

1987 APR 28 10 10 AM

London finds three more alleged Nazis

By DAVID HOROVITZ

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON. — The Home Office has found three more alleged Nazi war criminals living here, bringing the total to nine.

But the Home Office is not planning to take any action against the nine — named on a list supplied by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre — until more evidence is provided against them.

Home Secretary Douglas Hurd has agreed to investigate the immigration applications of the nine, to check for irregularities, but the police are not to be called into the investigation for the time being.

The Wiesenthal Centre, meanwhile, is being delayed in its efforts to find further evidence against the nine by the Soviet authorities.

When the centre's officials were here last month the Soviet Embassy promised full cooperation in their efforts to speak to witnesses living in the Soviet Union and to examine Soviet archives.

But the centre's researcher, Ephraim Zuroff, who applied for a visa to the Soviet Union last month, has still not received one.

The Soviet Embassy, while admitting that its promised cooperation has not been forthcoming, would give no reason yesterday for the visa delay.

Modern 'pilgrims' follow Chaucer to Canterbury

LONDON (AP). — Pilgrims are dressed like Chaucer's who will act out the tales of Geoffrey Chaucer, the first great English poet.

A group of enthusiasts is to start out tomorrow on the same journey which 500 years ago led to *The Canterbury Tales*, the Middle English narrative poem with an immortal cast of storytellers, from knight to nun and miller to monk. Others will make the journey at later dates.

Although Chaucer is revered throughout the English-speaking world, official England has ignored the 500th anniversary of the pilgrimage. There isn't even a postage stamp.

"It is odd because Chaucer is regarded as our other great poet beside Shakespeare, and he was the first to write in recognizably modern English — although a lot of schoolboys would disagree," said William Kelleher, a manuscript specialist at the British Library. The library contains the former library departments of the British Museum.

"It would be nice to see it marked with some event. But dates and such from Chaucer's time are rather vague — perhaps that's the reason," Kelleher said.

"We don't even know the date of Chaucer's birth. Scholars say the few facts we do know from tales would fit 1387 as the year of his pilgrimage, and April the most likely time," he said. The tales begin, in the phrase familiar to millions of English literature students. "Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote..." ("When April, with its sweet showers...")

The anniversary pilgrims include

who will act out the tales of Geoffrey Chaucer, the first great English poet.

for establishing a Chaucer

Canterbury.

Monday, Thursday, the day

and Friday, they cross Lon-

for prayers in Southwark

and then go to a "pilgrims

ing them dishes based on

any recipes, made from

able in those days," said

ickering, who owns the

called Pilgrims.

to the site of the Tabard

the original pilgrims

for the five-day horse-

ney to the shrine of

Thomas Becket, mur-

70.

pilgrims will start their

a thick soup of peas,

onions and carrots,

they can dunk their

bread.

ollow baked fish, chicken

honey and seasoned with

and parsley, and salad of

and onions. The meal

ped off with a choice of

applemoy, which is

ed apples with a crusty

bardy tart, a custard with

and parsley in a pastry

avellers couldn't hire

imals in London to go all

eters to Canterbury on

so they will have to drive

the way. But they plan to

stage into Canterbury

in the cathedral.

"Gorb

EB/11/11



EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
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Telephone: 01-837 8080

שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

כ-6 21.2

אלו ד"ר י, בר רומי, יועץ

ליד תפוצות.

סמח: עיתונות לונדון.

ט' בניסן תשמ"ז

8 באפריל 1987

סימוכין: 1675



הנדון: השמעת הציונות.

חורה על מכתבך מיום 25.3.87.

א. נושאים בעלי היבט אנטישמי מועברים על ידי באופן

קבוע גם לתפוצות ואני מקווה שמגיעים גם לידך.

כאשר לנושא השמעת הציונות, ארשום בפני ההעניינותך

בו ואעביר החומר הרלבנטי לתפוצות.

ב. אציין כאן שאוכל לעשות זאת רק כאשר מדובר במכתבים

והומר אחר אך לא בנושא מברקים. בנושא זה קיבלנו

נוהל מלשכת המנכ"ל המחייב אותנו למען כל מברק

למסור יחיד עם אפשרות להעביר לידיעת סמוען אחד

נוסף. במקרים שבהם תהיה עדיפות למסוענים אחרים,

לא אוכל לצרף את "תפוצות" לרשימת המסוענים.

אבקשך על כן להסדיר העברה מברקי בנושא אליך בקביעות

באמצעות לשכת המנכ"ל. שהיא האחראית לתפוצות המברקים

עפ"י הנוהל.

בברכה,
א. מנור.

העתק: הסברה/מרחבי.

ארופה 2.

חוזם: 3,6867

אל: המשרד

מ-: לונדון, נר: 164, תא: 120387, זח: 2000, דח: מ, טג: ב

נד: 8

בלמע/מידוי

אל: אירופה 2, הסברה, קשתות,

מאת: עתונות/לונדון

המחזה 'כליה'

לשלכו 70.

1. הפאנל היהודי יורכב מהאישים הבאים שנתנו נבר הסכמתם להשתתף: - מרטין גילברט, KLIVE SINCLAIR סופר יהודי-בריטי והעורך הספרותי של הג'ואיש כרוניקל. רו"ר דות סטיבנל יו"ר הפדרציה הציונית) יתכן וגם ההסטוריון הבריטי פול ג'ונסון יצטרף כחבר נוסף.

2. הצד השני ייוצג ע"י האנשים הבאים: LENNI BRENNER (סופר יהודי-אמריקני שמאלני ואנטי ציוני) גיט אלן (המחבר) וגב' MARIANNE WOLFSON (יהודיה בריטית שמאלנית ואנטי ציונית).

3. העתונות מדווחת הבוקר על החלטת איגוד הבמאים הבריטים התומכת בזכות המחזה להיות מועלה על הבמה, המביעה צער על הצנזורה על המחזה והתנגדה את הנהלת ומועצת התיאטרון ROYAL COURT על שהורידה המחזה מעל בימתו.

מנור

אף

תפ: ממנבל, אירב, אביטל, תרבות, הסברה

1. The first part of the report

is a summary of the

work done during the last year.

It is a very short

summary of the work done

during the last year.

The second part of the

report is a summary of

the work done during the last year.

It is a very short summary of the work done

during the last year.

The third part of the report is a summary of

the work done during the last year.

It is a very short summary of the work done

during the last year.

The fourth part of the report is a summary of

the work done during the last year.

It is a very short summary of the work done

during the last year.

The fifth part of the report is a summary of

the work done during the last year.

It is a very short summary of the work done

during the last year.

The sixth part of the report is a summary of

the work done during the last year.

It is a very short

summary of the work done

during the last year.

The

seventh part of the report is a summary of

the work done during the last year.

It is a very short summary of the work done



ח' באדר תשמ"ז
9 במרץ 1987
- 370

321.2

דוא

אל : מד אביחור מנור, לונדון

מאח: מנהל הפרוצד

הנדון: פושעים נאציים בבריטניה
למכתבד 1524 מ- 4/3.

קראתי בענין רב דווחד ותאורד המאלפים על המחרחש בבריטניה טביב משפט דמניוק ופרשה פושעי המלחמה. אודה שאני די מופחע וכמובן מודאג מהחגובות השליליות עד הריפות של החקשורה הבריטית על המשפט המחרחש עחה בירושלים ועל חוסר הרגישות לחוכן ולדברים הנוראים המחגלים שט.

עוד יוחר מרגיז היחס העויין-כמעט של העיחונות הבריטית לנושא פושעי המלחמה. יכולים להיות חילוקי דעות על צורה עבודתם של מכון וויזנטל ושל פעיליו, אך מכאן ועד כינויים כגון ZEALOTS או INSATIABLE NAZI-HUNTERS יש מרחק רב, דבר הגובל כמעט בהפיכת הקורבן לפושע. ההחטדות הנודפת מהנסיון להחפז בשוחוח לגליסטיות כדי למנוע הענשת הפושעים, מורה על קהות. אני מבין שבקהילה היהודית יש בענין זה מחלוקת כלשהי ונשמח לקבל דווח מפורט בנדון.

ב ב ר כ ה,

ל

גדעון חדמור

העחק: מד י. ענוג, ס/מנכ"ל
גב' ק. אביטל, ראש אמיח"ק
לשכת המנכ"ל
ד"ר דב שמורק, משפט דמניוק
מד אהוד גול, מע"ח

שמו

נכנס **

**

**

**

הוצע: 2860/3

אל: המשדד

מ-: לונדון, נר: 70, תא: 050387, דח: 1500, דח: מ, טג: ש
נד: ש

שמו/מיד

אל: אירופה 2 הסברה קשתומי

מאת: עתונות לונדון

המחזה PERDITION - נליה

1. CHANNEL 4 מתכוון להקדין קטעים מן המחזה ולקיים עימות טלוויזיוני במסגרת תוכניתו DIVERSE REPORTS המוקדשת לנושאים קונטרברסיאליים. התכנית בת שלושים הדקות תתחלק לשלושה חלקים:
 - א. בחינת השאלה האם היה שפי נאצי - ציוני.
 - ב. האם יש במחזה שקרים.
 - ג. האם יש להציגו בתיאטרון.

3. בעימות שלאחר שידור הקטעים ישתתפו המחזאי JIM ALLEN והבמאי

של המחזה KEN LOACH מצד אחד ומצידו הועלו שלוש הצעות: פרוץ יהודה באור, ואוכן דפני מיד ושם ופרופ' מול גונסון הביע נכונות להשתתף. מרטין גילברט הבטיח כל עזרה בהכנות לעימות אן מסוב להשתתף.

4. את הצד שלנו מרכז טרבור צין בציאום מלא עם השגריר ובטיועו הפעיל. הוא ניהל שתי שיחות עם אייזקס ובנסיון להניאו מקיום התכנית. כשיחה שניה אמש השתתף עם צין גם דייוויד וולפסטון.

5. כאמור אנו משתתפים פעולה מלאה בעצה ומעש עם צין

MEMORANDUM

TO: SECRETARY

FROM: ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

SUBJECT:

RE: [illegible]

1. [illegible]

2. [illegible]

3. [illegible]

4. [illegible]

5. [illegible]

6. [illegible]

7. [illegible]

8. [illegible]

9. [illegible]

10. [illegible]

11. [illegible]

12. [illegible]

13. [illegible]

14. [illegible]

15. [illegible]

16. [illegible]

17. [illegible]

18. [illegible]

19. [illegible]

20. [illegible]

21. [illegible]

22. [illegible]

23. [illegible]

משרד החוץ-מחלקת הקשר

והאחרים הכוללים בענין. יחד עם זאת הערכתנו היא שלא
נוכל להזיז את גרמי איזקס מהלסתו במטווח משרט ואיתו
בנושא מבחן לחונש הצגת נושאים קונטרוברסיאליים
בציבור. נרנז מאמצינו להכין היטב את הצד שלנו מבחינה
ענינית ולהשיג את ההרכב האישי הטוב ביותר האפשרי.

מנור.

א

תפ: מנוג, אירב, אביטל, הסברה, תרבות

XX
XX
XX

63002
משרד החוץ, ת"ר 57
1000000

נכנס

בלמט

הודעת: 1348/3

אל: המשרד

מ-: לונדון, נר: 41, תא: 030387, דח: 1600, דח: מ/מ/סג: ב

נד: 8

7.2 ת.2

בלמט/מידוי

אל: אירופה ב' המרכז הסברה מעת' לעת' חסין/הסברה תמוצות

מאת: יועץ עיתונות לונדון

דוח' תקשורת. 3 דנא.

1. נושא החוץ העיקרי הוא ההצעה הסובייטית לצמצם הנשק הגרעיני. פגישת אנשי מכון ויזנטל עם שר הפנים מבוטה בהרחבה.

2. הנאצים בבריטניה.

א. הנושא מבוטה בכל התקשורת כאשר הטלויזיה משדרת קטעים ממסיבות העתונאים הנפרדות שקיימו הארד ואנשי ויזנטאל. הטיימס כותב שהארד השיב פני אנשי מרכז ויזנטאל ריקם בטענה שלא הציגו הוכחות מסמכות. אנשי המרכז הודו שהפגישה לא היתה קונסטרוקטיבית. שאר העיתונים מציגים הנושא בצורה חיובית יותר: באינדפנדנט שהארד מוכן לשקול שינוי החוק הבריטי לפשעי מלחמה ולהעמיד החשודים למשפט בתנאי ותהיינה הוכחות מבוטסות. בגודיין שממבריטניה עשויה אף לשקול הטגות החשודים לישראל או רפגי (אן לא ברהמי). בזווילי טלגרף שהארד יפתח מחדש את תיקי ההגירה של החשודים ויבדוק כיצד הגיעו נאצים לבריטניה. בכל העיתונים האלה על הערכה אנשי מכון ויזנטאל שהפגישה היתה קונסטרוקטיבית.

ב. בטיימס מאמר מערכת כנודון. עמדת שר הפנים הרחמנית צזכה לגינויים. אולט השיטה הבריטית דורשת צדק ולא

MEMORANDUM

TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DATE

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT

RE: [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

משרד החוץ-מחלקת הקשר

נקה. כל עוד אין הוכחות מוצקות יש להוריד הנושא מסדר היום. טוב שיהודי בריטניה מבחינים גישה זהירה.

3. הסורים בלבנון.
בטיימס (פיסק) על אנזיות הסורים, ריבוי אנשי הביטחון והמודיעין הסורים, מאסרים של אנשי מילוציות והיעלמויות מחנה מאסר שהוקם באנג'אר. המאזן של פיסק: אירן המסירה בעוד ישראל וארה"ב זכו בתוצאה מהתערבות סוריה. כנפי חיזבאללה ואנשי קוצצור. הסורים וראי מצפים לתמורה מהמערב עבור מעשיהם, אין ספק שאם בני הערובה יוחררו תחדש בריטניה היחסים. בכל העיתונים על תכנית השלום הסורית, שזנתה לתמיכת ההנהגה המוסלמית וגם ג'מייל מקבל את רובה. בניכנשל טיימס (בוטטאני) שגמיל מטתיג מהנקודה על בניית צלב. סוריה מעונינת במבנה מסוים של צלב שישמור על השכנתה על צלב ועל יחסיה המיוחדים עם לבנון. הצעות סוריה מדגישות השוויון בין נוצרים למוסלמים. כדילי טלגרף (קופלינג) שתכנית סוריה הנוכחית מתונה יותר בדרישותיה מהנוצרים מתכנית העבר. בשאר העיתונים דיווח סוכנויות בנושא.

4. משפט דמיניוק.
בטיימס, גארדיין ואינדפנדנט כתבות מאת כתביהם בארץ. בדילי טלגרף ויווה סוכנויות. הדגש על נוכחות רה"מ שמיר בישיבה ועדות רוזנברג.

5. משפט עבדאללה.
בפיכנשל טיימס שתוצאות המשפט משמעותיות לצרפת: ממשלת צרפת לא תוכל יותר להוציא מהרשות השיפוטית גזרי דין בהם היא מעונינת וצרפת גם לא הצליחה לממש הכטחתה לסורוסטים ולהביא לשחרור עבדאללה.

6. בגארדיין (בלאק) על התקרית בשכם בה נהרג פלסטיני. הפגנות לזכר רצח אל-מאסרי.

מנור

חא

תפ: שהח, רה"מ, שהבט, מנכ"ל, המנכ"ל, ממזר, אמן, קלוורי, מעת, הטברה, לעמ, דוצ-ים, דוצ, מזכו, אירא, אירב, תפוצות

1. 1990年12月15日，在北京市召开的“中国城市经济体制改革十年回顾与展望”会议上，江泽民同志指出：“十年来，我国城市经济体制改革取得了重大成就，为建立社会主义市场经济体制奠定了坚实的基础。今后，要坚定不移地推进改革，使社会主义市场经济体制更加成熟和定型。”

** נכנס

שמור

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הודעת: 3/1605

אל: המשרד

מ-: לונדון, נר: 40, תא: 030387, דח: 1500, דח: מ, טג: ש

נד: 2

שמור/מידע

אל: תמוצות הביטחון

מאת: עתונות לונדון

נאציס בבריטניה.

א. כפני הפולמוס תוכן הצעת תיקון חוק CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL

ובמסגרתה תינתן סמכות לשר הפנים לעשות עסקות אד-הוק עם מדינות שונות בתחום ההסגרה.

ב. האינדוקטנט מ-3 ונא מתבסס על הצעת התיקון הזו בהעריכו ששר הפנים נועל לתיקון החוק כן שיתאפשר להסגיר החשודים בפשעי מלחמה לישראל.

ג. נודע לי מעיתונאי ששוחח עם מקידי משרד הפנים באן כי הגרסאות של האינדוקטנט מבוססות על קריאה לא מדויקת של הצעת תיקון החוק והערכת העתון על כן רחוקה מלהיות מדויקת ונכונה.

ד. הדבר אולי משכיר את ההבדלים בהערות על פגישה הארד-אנשי ויזנטאל בין היטיימס לבין שאר העיתונים כולל האינדוקטנט.

מנר.

אן

משרד החוץ-מחלקת הקשר

ת.פ. : שהח, מנכ"ל, ממנכ"ל, תכנון, טיוב, משפט, תביעה, אביטל, הסברה,
ענוג, אירא, אירב

משרד החוץ-מחלקת הקשר

1295

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אצ

10 ד

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אל: לונדון, נד: 529, מ: : המשרד
דח: מ, סג: ס, תא: 020387, רח: 1600

76 2 ות

10 די/מידי מפל

מנור לשלך 263 ו-295 נאצים בבריטניה

1. ישראל סבורה שפושעי המלחמה צריכים לתת הדין על פשעיהם.
2. לדעת ישראל חלה החובה הראשונית על שפיטתם על ארצות מגוריהם

3. בין ישראל לבריטניה קיים הסכם הסגרה לפושעים מ-1960 אולם
ישנן בעיות משפטיות סבוכות אם וכיצד ניתן להחיל ההסכם לגבי
פושעי מלחמה.

4. בקשר לענין הספציפי שהתעורר עתה בבריטניה לאור פרסום רשימת
הפושעים, ובמידה ותישאלו לגבי אפשרות הסגרה לישראל, יש
לומר שנדון בכל מקרה לגופו.

5. הנושא כולו מורכב מאד מבחינתנו וכל תשובה מפורטת מדי עלולה
לסבבנו.

לכן מוצע שבמענה לשאלות תשתדלו להסתפק באמור בסעיף 4
תפוצות - תביעות

מף

תפ: שהח, מנכל, ממנכל, סייבל, משפט, ענוג, אירא, אירב, תביעות,
תפוצות, אביטל, הסברה

משרד החוץ-מחלקת הקשר

13326

תאריך 28.02.87

נכנס **

שמו

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חוזם: 2,13326

אל: המשרד

מ-: לונדון, נר: 295, תא: 270287, זח: 1500, דח: מ, סג: ש

נד: א

שמו/מיד

אל: תפוצות משפט תביעות

דע: מעת

מאת: יועץ העתונות לונדון

נאצים בבריטניה

לשלנו 263

ביום ב אחהץ יקיימו אנשי מכון ויזנטל מסיבת עתונאים בנושא. גם אתמול והיום נשאלנו לגבי כוונות ישראל הסכמי הסגרה בין ישראל ובריטניה ודעתנו על הנושא. צפוי שלקראת ואחרי מסיבת העושים תיגבר ההתענינות. טרם קיבלנו כל תשובה למברקנו שבסימוכין. אנא.

מנור.

א

תפ: שהח, מנכל, ממנכל, תפוצות, ענוג, אירא, אירב, סייבל, משפט, תביעות, גולדמן, אביטל, מעת, הסברה

06.2.87

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over V 351.2 6.7

Syria seeks renewed ties with UK

By DAVID HOROVITZ

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON. - Syria has launched a concerted behind-the-scenes campaign to restore diplomatic ties with Britain, offering to lift out its ban on British Airways overflights, and to give assurances about the type of embassy it would maintain in London if allowed back, it was reported yesterday.

The report in yesterday's *Independent* newspaper added that "Britain says it does not want to continue on a 'confrontational' course with Syria."

The article quotes a Syrian businessman, "speaking with the authority of the highest ranks of the Syrian government," as saying that "the authorities in Damascus pri-

vately concede that Britain was right" to sever ties in the light of conclusive Syrian involvement in the Hindawi El Al bomb plot last year. Former ambassador to Britain, Loutof al-Haydar has been punished, the paper said.

Syria's desire to restore ties stems from its assessment of Britain's influence both in the EEC and with the U.S., the report stated. Damascus is working hard to secure the release from Beirut of three British hostages including Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, the paper added, but is by no means strong enough in Lebanon to guarantee their freedom yet.

But, as of yesterday, there was no sign whatsoever of a softening in the British stance.

Tories trail in critical by-election

By DAVID HOROVITZ

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON. - Voters go to the polls today in the Greenwich by-election, widely regarded as a critical indicator in the run-up to a general election later this year.

In the 1983 elections, Greenwich was held by Labour with a majority of over a thousand, with the Conservatives second and the centrist Alliance a distant third. Yesterday, however, bookmakers were quoting Labour and the Alliance as joint favourites to take the seat, with the Tories well behind at the end of one of the dirtiest campaigns in recent

memory.

Nobody is quite sure who initiated it, but Labour's Deidre Wood appeared to have been the victim of a carefully-orchestrated smear campaign, including allegations that she behaved with heartless brutality towards an alcoholic father. In addition, her hard left-wing reputation has scared many traditional Labour voters into the camp of Alliance candidate Rosie Barnes.

Conservative candidate John Antcliffe has failed to capture either headlines or the voters' attention and is trailing in a distant, dismal third place.

Won't prosecute Nazis, Home Office declares

By DAVID HOROVITZ

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON. - Although the Home Office here has established that at least six alleged Nazi war criminals are alive and well in Britain, the legal technicalities it outlined in a note to MPs on Tuesday effectively rule out any possibility of the six being prosecuted in the UK.

Four months after the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre sent Premier Thatcher a list of 17 suspected Nazis in Britain, Home Secretary Douglas Hurd finally announced on Tuesday that six of those named were indeed here, another two probably were, three were dead and six more untraceable.

Hurd accompanied that announcement with a detailed, three-page legal note to the All-Party War Crimes Group, which stated, essentially, that the alleged Nazis could not be prosecuted here, nor extradited to the Soviet Union or Israel, and could probably not even be deported.

In the light of the document, said War Crimes Group chairman Merlyn Rees, himself a former home secretary, "our best line is probably deprivation of citizenship." Rees explained that if it could be proved that the alleged Nazis had acquired British citizenship "by fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact, and that it would not be conducive to the public good for the person to remain British," then citizenship could be taken away.

Fellow War Crimes Group member Greville Janner threatened yesterday to use parliamentary privilege to name the six if the government did not take further action. Janner has already used parliamentary privilege to name one of the

men listed, Antanas Gecas, and he told *The Jerusalem Post* that he would name others if he became as convinced by the evidence against them as he was in Gecas's case.

Two representatives of the Wiesenthal Centre are due here on Monday for meetings with Hurd and the all-party group. If the two are not satisfied with the efforts of the Home Office, they may well decide to make the list of names public, *The Post*, was told.

The suspicion that the Home Office document is the first stage in a government attempt to wash its hands of the whole affair was heightened by the inclusion of a final paragraph in which the government denied that it had operated a policy of non-pursual of Nazi criminals since 1948.

The paragraph stated that the Scottish TV programme which levelled this charge had mistakenly interpreted government documents.

The 1948 British government instructions to end war crime trials and extradition requests applied only to the UK zone in Germany, the Home Office stated, and not to the UK itself.

War Crimes Group insiders were not convinced. As one source put it, "We've all seen the 1948 government documents, and I think we all know which areas they applied to."

The Board of Deputies of British Jewry urged the government yesterday to investigate and take action against the six alleged Nazis. "It cannot be a seven-day wonder or brushed under the carpet," said Hayim Piller, the board's secretary-general, "...because we are dealing with people alleged to have committed murder and mass-murder."

"Goro ofyng"

(98)

Yehudi Menuhin receives top royal honour

LONDON (AP). - Violin virtuoso Sir Yehudi Menuhin has been made a member of the Order of Merit, one of the highest honours conferred by the British monarchy, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

Seventy-year-old Menuhin, New York-born and a dual U.S.-British national joins other artistic luminaries such as actor Laurence Olivier and novelist Graham Greene in adding OM to his name.

The Order of Merit, founded in 1902 by King Edward VII to honour special achievement, consists of 24 members at any given time. Menuhin's appointment fills one of the vacancies created by the death of sculptor Henry Moore and former prime minister Harold Macmillan.

משרד החוץ-מחלקת הקשר

11881

תאריך: 25.02.87

נכנס

שומר

חוזם: 2,11881

אל: המשרד

מ-: לונדון, נר: 263, תא: 250287, זח: 1500, דח: מ, סג: ש

נד: 3

7-2
21.2

שומר/מיד

אל: תפוצות, תביעות, משפט

מאת: עתונות לונדון

נאצים בבריטניה.

א. שר הפנים אישר שלפחות שישה חשודים בפשעי מלחמה נאצים חיים בסתר בבריטניה. גרגיל ג'אנר אמר שחקירה החלה בעקבות חומר שנמסר ע"י מכון ויזנטל והכולל 17 שמות של חשודים בבריטניה.

ב. נשאלתי האם ישראל מתכוונת לפתוח בהליכי הסגרה. אנא הנחייתכם כיצד להשיב.

מנור

יור

תפ: שהח, מנכל, ממנכל, ענוג, אירא, אירב, סייבל, משפט, תביעות, גולדמן, תפוצות



כג' בשבט תשמ"ז
22 בפברואר 1987
91

די 2/2

אל : גב' עליזה אשד, לשכת השר

מאת : ס/מנהל אירופה 2

הנדון: שאילתה 2961 של ח'כ בן שלמה
למזכרך מה-11.2.87

בעצה אחת עם ראש אגף הסברה ועם שגרירנו בלונדון, אנו מציעים את
התשובה הבאה:

לשאלה 1: לא.

לשאלה 2: צדיקים מלאכתם נעשית בידי אחרים.

לשאלות 3 ו-4: כיוון שהתשובה לשאלה הראשונה הינה שלילית, אין
מקום להשיב.

לידיעתכם: אנו ממליצים על תשובות אלה כי עדיף שמעורבותה
הדיסקרטית של השגרירות לא תידון בפומבי.

ב ב ר כ ה,

איתן מרגלית

העתק: ראש אגף אירופה
ראש אגף הסברה
השגריר, לונדון

התאריך 20/2	אל: חנאס
תיק מע'	מאת: אויס
	הנדון: סרבי

קולט ממונה את כלל פא יאקסן
באם למינס אלגה בער גמלאס אנק?
~~אא אלגה אלגה~~



ירושלים, יט' בשבט תשמ"ז
18 בפברואר 1987

ש מ ר

אל: סגן מנהל אירופה 2

מאת: ראש אגף אמית"ק

הנדון: שאילתא 2961

Perdition המחזה

למכתבך 49 מ-15/2

1. בנוסח הראשון יש הודאה implicit של מעורבות, אף אם מאחורי הקלעים.

2. אם מהסיבות שהעלית בשיחתנו עדיף כי דבר מעורבותנו הדיסקרטית לא יידון בפומבי, עדיף לבחור בנוסח ב', בשינויים קלים:

לגבי (2) כדאי לרכך מעט את הנוסח.

לגבי (4)-(3) אני מציעה: כיון שהתשובה לשאלה הראשונה הינה שלילית איננו מחוייבים להשיב.

עם זאת, יש להדגיש בעקרוך כי קיים הבדל בין חופש הדיבור לבין סילוף ההיסטוריה; ולו הייתה שגרירות ישראל בוחרת להתבטא, לא היה בכך משום "סתומת פיות" של אחרים.

ב ב ר כ ה
(מ.ס.)
קולט אביטל

התלך ה' ל' ח' תש"ח
התלך ה' ל' ח' תש"ח
Royal Court
אשר



טז' בשבט תשמ"ז
15 בפברואר 1987
49

716.2.433

שמור

אל : גב' קולט אביטל, ראש אגף הסברה

מאת : ס/מנהל אירופה 2

הנדון : שאילתא 2961 - המחזה PERDITION

רצ"ב נוסח השאילתא של ח'כ ש. בן-שלמה.

באגפנו הכנו, בתאום עם השגריר בלונדון, 2 תשובות חילופיות.
(ברור שאל לנו לחשוף בפומבי את פעילות שגרירותנו בלונדון).

נוסח א'

ככל הידוע לנו על סמך הפרסומים בעתונות הבריטית
ודיווחי שגרירותנו, ההחלטה על ביטול העלאת המחזה
נחקבלה ע"י מועצת התאטרון ROYAL COURT ללא התערבות
השלטונות הבריטיים.
שגרירות ישראל בבריטניה ככל נציגות ישראלית אחרת, לא
היתה יכולה להיות אדישה לאפשרות העלאת המחזה השזור
בשקרים ועוותים ודיבה שפלה בנושא השואה.

נוסח ב'

(1) לא.

(2) צדיקים מלאכתם נעשית ביד אחרים.

(3)-(4) השאלות לא נועדו למשה'ח ולא מתבקשת תשובה.

נודה לך על חוות דעתך באשר לנוסח.

ב ב ר כ ה,

איתן מרגלית



הכנסת

חבר הכנסת
שמעון בן-שלמה.

ב"ה, ירושת"ו, כ"ו טבת תשמ"ז - 27.1.87

אל: שר החוץ שמעון פרס
מאח: חה"כ שמעון בן שלמה

002001

15/1/87 - 15/1/87

ש א ל ת ה

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9. יסערת רוחות התרגשה בלונדון בעקבות כוונת היאטרון "רויאל-קורט" להציג את המחזה "אברון" המחיימר להכריז כי "לא רק היטלר (ימ"ש) רצה לטבוח את המיליונים אלא גם הציונים".

בהקשר זה אודה לכב' אם ישיבני:

4. האם גם נציגי מדינת ישראל בבריטניה פעלו נגד העלאת במחזה?

2. אם כן - מה נכיצר?

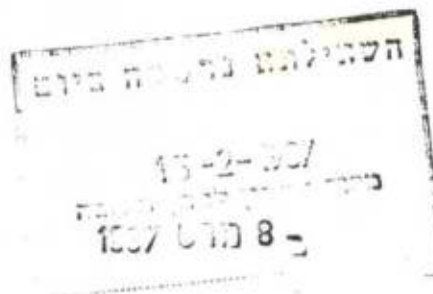
3. אם כן - האם אין התערבות זו, מהווה סחימת פיות ופגיעה בחופש הביטוי?

7. כיצד יש צידוק מוסרי לנציגי המדינה לפנות לבריטניה בבקשה שלא להציג מחזה אנטישמי בעוד כמדינת ישראל מוצגים מחזות שתוכנן אף הוא בגדר אנטישמיות?

4. האם עתה חסכים כי גם בישראל יש להפעיל את הצנזורה על המחזות ואין לבטלה בנימוק של חופש ביטוי וסחימת פיות?

בכבוד ובחוקרה

שמעון בן-שלמה, ח"כ



** כנס

שמור

**
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**

חוזם: 2,5860

אל: המשרד

מ: לונדון, נר: 130, תא: 120287, זח: 1400, זח: ר, טג: ש

נד: ג

דף 2 חזן

רגיל/שמור

אל: אירופה ב'

דע: קשתומ' מלנה בן יוסף כאן

מאת: ברוס קשון יועץ לעניני אירלנד השג לונדון

1. בתכנית הראיונות של טרי ווגן המשוזרת ברשת הטלוויזיה
בי בי סי היו אמורים להופיע השבוע ראש ממשלת אירלנד
דר גארט פיציגואלד ואחד השחקנים הכושלים במחזה PERDYTON
גבריאל ביירנס.

2. ברגע האחרון בוטלה הופעתו של השחקן באותה תכנית
בה השתתף ראש הממשלה האירי (הנמצא עתה בשלב האחרון
של מערכת הבחירות).

3. אחד מדוברי מטה מערכת הבחירות טען בשיחת טלפון
כי הביטול בא בשל לחץ ממשרד החוץ האירי ומטה הבחירות
של מפלגת השלנון פיינה גייל אשר היו בזעה כי הופעתם
של השניים באותה תכנית עלולה להזיק למערכת הבחירות
של ראש הממשלה שכן ביירנס קשור למחזה שהפך למרכזה
של מחלוקת תיגורית.

4. השחקן גבריאל ביירנס שמוצאו מאירלנד היה זה שניסה
ליזום את העלאת המחזה בדבלין לאחר שמספר תיאטרונים
בלונדון סרבו להעלותו. בשל זה גם בדבלין נתקלו בסירוב.

א

תפ: אביטל, תרונות, ענוג, אירב

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29. REF: 000000
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REF: 000000

נכנס **

שמור

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חוזם: 2,2470

אל: המשרד

מ-: לונדון, נר: 57, תא: 050287, חז: 1600, דח: ר, טג: ש

נד: 2

שמור/רגיל

אל: אירופה 2, קשתו י"מ, תפוצות

מאת: ברוט קשון, לונדון

הנדון: תמחזה PERDITION

בהמשך למבקינו הקודמים בנושא:

1. לאחר שפורטמה בלונדון החלטת התיאטרון "ירויאל קורט" שלא להעלות את המחזה כיסה צורת המחזה למצוא במה אחרת בלונדון, ללא הצלחה.

2. מאחר ואחד השחקנים הראשיים הינו אירי (השחקן היחיד שאינו יהודי) מנו לתיאטרון "אולימפיה" בדבלין.

3. הנהלת התיאטרון שקלה את הנושא במשך שלשה ימים, במהלכם התייעצה בין היתר עם ההסטוריון מרטין גילברט העתונאי דיוויד פרייס ג'ונס ועם שר החוץ לשעבר וכיום עתונאי אירי בביר קונור קרוז אובריאן.

4. בשוחת עתונאים עם מנהל התיאטרון, ג'רי סינסט. הוא ציין כי אינו מוכן שהתיאטרון שלו ישמש במה למטרות תעמולה, והזגיש כי לא היה תחת לחץ מכל סוג שהוא מצד הקהילה היהודית.

5. העתונות המקומית נתנה לנושא ביטוי בעמודים הראשונים כשהם מצטטים את חבר הפרלמנט היהודי ממפלגת העבודה מרווין טיילור וחבר ועד הנציגים ג'ו בריסקו.

ק"ל
2. חז.

משרד החוץ-מחלקת הקשר

6. תקהילה היהודית המקומית שהוטדה מאוד מהנרש, ואף ללמוד את חומר הרקע הקשור למחזה, אך החליטה להתמקד בראיונות העיתונאיים שפורסמו כל עוד התיאטרון פעל בקו הנכון, זאת כדי למנוע טענה באילו היה לחץ מצד גורמים יהודיים. עם זאת, הם היו מוכנים למעול נאט ויחלט להעלות את המחזה.

7. הנהלת התיאטרון החליטה שלא להעלות את המחזה, ובהודעה לעיתונות שהיתה כמעט זהה לזו שפורסמה ע"י התיאטרון בלונדון הבהירו כי עם כל כבוד לצורת המחזה, אין הם רוצים למנוע ברגשות גורמים מסויימים בקהילה.

מלכה בן-יורם, ברוט קעדן

777

תפ: שוח, מנבל, ענרג, אירוב, אביטל, תרבות, הסברה, מעט, תפוצות

1. THESE ARE THE FIRST RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH
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HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

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PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Written Answers to Questions

THE ARTS

"Perdition" (Play)

Mr. Marlow asked the Minister for the Arts, pursuant to his reply to the hon. Member for Northampton, North of 29 January, if he is satisfied that the decision of the board of the Royal Court Theatre to cancel "Perdition" was taken on artistic grounds.

Mr. Luce: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 29 January. This is not a matter for me but for the board of the Royal Court Theatre, which is responsible for decisions about what is to be included in its programme.

משרד החוץ-מחלקת הקשר

3304

יוצא

בלמיס

אל: לונדון, נר: 872, מ: המשרד
דח: ד, סג: ב, תא: 300187, יח: 1600

76.2 חז

בלמיס/רגיל

מלכה בן יוסף: המחזה PREDITION
בבונתנו לדוח על המקרה לנציגויותינו.
ההשתלשלויות והערבה לגבי ההשלכות לעתיד.

תפוצות

רד

חפ: מנכל, תפוצות, ענוג, אירא, אירב, שמורק, תרבות



EMBASSY OF ISRAEL

2 PALACE GREEN
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Telephone: 01-837 8050

יב' סיוון תשמ"ו
19 יוני 1986

שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

שומר
673

אל : הסברה/מרחבי
מאת : הסברה/לונדון

הנדון : אנטישמיות בקמפוסים וה-NATIONAL ORGANISATION
OF LABOUR STUDENTS

מכתבנו 526 מה-18.4

1. בחודשים האחרונים חשו הסטודנטים היהודים הגברה בנימה האנטישמית המורגשת לעתים בדבריהם ומעשיהם של חוגים מסויימים של השמאל בקמפוסים, נימה הבאה לידי ביטוי בעיקר תחת מסווה של אנטי ציונות. נסיון ה-BANNING ב-SOUTH BANK POLYTECHNIC (החלטת האסיפה הוכרזה בינתיים כבטלה ע"י הועד הפועל של היוניון), ההתרחשויות בועידת ה-NUS באפריל ודיון סוער לפני מספר שבועות באסיפת היוניון של המכון לחינוך בלונדון שהתמקד למעשה בנושא "ציונות - גזענות", תרמו כל אחד לתחושה הזאת. על מקרים אלו התווסף בימים האחרונים דבר נוסף - החלטת הסניף הסקוטי של ה-NUS שבשליטת NOLS לערוך יום עיון בנושא הבעיה הפלסטינית דווקא בשבת, יום שני של שבועות. בתכנון יום העיון, לא רק שלא התחשבו בסטודנטים היהודים לגבי קביעת המועד, הם גם לא הזמינו מרצים להציג את הגישה הישראלית.

2. לאור ההתפתחויות הנ"ל, הנהלת ה-UJS החליטה לצאת למערכה תקשורתית במטרה לעורר תשומת לב ציבורית לבעיה. אף כי האשמים בתופעות הנ"ל אינם גוף אחד בלבד (ב-SOUTH BANK המדובר היה בשחורים ובמכון לחינוך ב-"SOCIALIST WORKERS"), החליט ה-UJS להתמקד יחסית בגילוי וגינוי התופעה בקרב חוגים ב-NOLS, זאת בהתחשב במקומו המרכזי של הארגון בפוליטיקה בקמפוסים. התקווה היא שהפרסום יחייב את NOLS להפגין יתר רגישות לנושא האנטישמיות ואף לערוך בדק בית.



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סגרירות ישראל
לונדון

- 2 -

היריה הראשונה היתה מאמר שהתפרסם ב-3.6 בגרדיאן ושעורר סנסאציה קטנה בחוגי הסטודנטים ולא מעט מכתבים למערכת. בשבועיים מאז הופיעו כתבות בעתונים אחרים, מאמר מערכת ב-DAILY MAIL ויו"ר ה-UJS, אדריאן כהן, רואיין בשתי תכניות רדיו. (לעיונכם מצ"ב העתקי המאמרים ומכתבים וכן מזכר פנימי שערך ה-UJS המסקר את בעיית האנטיציונות ואנטישמיות בקמפוסים).

3. הפעולה בתקשורת היתה לעניות דעתי צעד נכון העשוי להביא את העניין, בצורה זו או אחרת, ל"סדר יומם" של ארגונים סטודנטיאליים שונים. אולם בעיתוי יש אירווניה מסויימת כלפי NOLS. בבחירות האחרונות להנהגת הארגון נבחרו לתפקידים מרכזיים שני בחורים אשר לא רק שמזדהים עם ישראל, אלא שרואים את עצמם כציונים. השניים הם ROB MINSHULL המזכיר הארצי החדש (מספר שניים בארגון) ו-NEIL USHER, חבר בוועד הפועל והאחראי לקשר עם ה-NUS. מינשול היה עד כה מזכ"ל היוניון בלידז ואשר היה סגן נשיא היוניון בהאל. שניהם ביקרו בארץ בעבר והינם חברי הנהלת "פועלי ציון" בבריטניה. הם אינם יהודים, אם כי אביו של מינשול יהודי והוא כנראה מתכוון להתגייר.

בנוסף לשניים הנ"ל, גם היו"ר החדש של NOLS, BEN LUCAS, ידוע כבעל גישה סימפטית לבעיותיהם של הסטודנטים היהודים. בזאת הוא שונה מאוד מקודמתו SARAH BOUYACK, שלא הסתירה את עוינותה.

4. משיחת היכרות עם מינשול התרשמתי שהוא מאוד כן בהזדהות וברצונו לפעול בעניינים ציוניים. אולם כאיש "השמאל" גישתו לממשלת ישראל ביקורתית.

3/...



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סגרירות ישראל
לונדון

- 3 -

בענין מבצע התקשורת שיזם ה-UJS המופנית בחלקה נגד NOLS, אמר מינשול כי פומבית עליו ועל חבריו בהנהגה החדשה להגן על הארגון (לתשומת לבכם מכתבים למערכת הגרדיאן ממינשול, אשר ולוקס), אך רמז שאישית גישתו אמביוולנטית. לצד התחמושת שהפרסומים בעתונות נותנים ליריבי הארגון, הם גם מחייבים את NOLS לעשות חשבון נפש ומאפשרים להנהגה לרדת על הקיצוניים - במיוחד הסניף הסקוטי.

5. כידוע מאז 1981 המדיניות המוצהרת של NOLS ביחס לסכסוך קוראת להקמת מדינה דמוקרטית וחילונית בכל שטחה של "פלסטין", אם כי בהסכמת העם הישראלי והעם הפלשתינאי. ראשי NOLS מודים בשנים האחרונות שמדיניות זו "מיושנת". בדרך כלל, בהתבטאויותיהם בנושא בפורומים ציבוריים, מדברים במונחים של שתי מדינות, אולם עד כה נמנעו מליזום שינוי במדיניות בוועידות השנתיות מחשש שתפתח "קופסת פנדורה". גישתו של היו"ר לשעבר JOHN MANN שהינו פרו ציוני, היתה "LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE".

בשיחתנו העריך מינשול כי היום, לאור הקונסטלציה החדשה בהנהגת הארגון ושיפור מסויים באוירה הכללית כלפי ישראל, קיימת אפשרות סבירה להעביר החלטה חדשה בוועידה, זאת במידה והיוזמה תהיה של הוועד הפועל. אך הוא הדגיש כי אם ינסו להעביר הצעת החלטה ברוח נוסחת "ההכרה ההדדית" בין העמים, יאלצו להוסיף גם "סעיפי איזון", כגון הכרה באש"ף כנציג העם הפלשתיני וביקורת על מדיניות ישראל בנושא החופש האקדמי בשטחים.

ייתכן ומינשול אופטימי מדי לגבי הסיכויים, זאת בהתחשב ב-TRADE OFFS שבפוליטיקה הפנימית בארגון והרכב הכוחות. אולם במידה ואפשרות ריאלית אכן קיימת להביא למפנה בגישה, רצוי לדעתי לעודד זאת, גם אם בהחלטה יהיו "סעיפי איזון" סבירים.

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סגרירות ישראל
לונדון

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6. מינשול ואשר שוקלים להצטרף לסיור בארץ מטעם פועלי ציון הצעירים,
טיול האמור להתקיים בחסות מכון משה שרת בין ה-19.7 ל-19.8.
בשלב זה טרם ידוע אם הסיור אכן יתקיים. במידה וכן, אני מציע
שיעל תנצל את ההזדמנות להכיר את השניים וכן את המשתתפים האחרים.
אעביר פרטים כשתברר התמונה.

ב ב ר כ ה,

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דוד בן רפאל

העתק /אירופה 2

תפוצות

יעל רובינשטיין - באמצעות מח' הדרכה.