

EX-CHAIRMAN OF HISTADRUT FUND JAILED

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- The economic wizard named to be the next Governor of the Bank of Israel, Asher Yadlin, was sent to jail for 15 days on October 19, shortly after his arrest on charges of accepting bribes and allegedly engaging in other illegal actions.

The arrest of Yadlin, former chairman of the Kupat Holim, the huge sick fund of the Histadrut, has rocked Israel. Two other persons allegedly associated with Yadlin were also remanded in custody and a fourth suspect who fled from Israel faces extradition proceedings.

At its regular meeting on October 17, the Cabinet decided to delay a decision on revoking Yadlin's appointment, pending disclosure of further information on the case. Yadlin had been scheduled to take up his new post, roughly equivalent to that of the chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, on November 1.

Yadlin's arrest was based on court testimony a day earlier, by Benjamin Ziegel, the chief police investigator, who testified there was sufficient evidence to charge Yadlin with receiving bribes, making false declarations to avoid payment of property improvement taxes, and violating foreign currency regulations -- all allegedly committed when he was Kupat Holim chairman. Ziegel said police had learned that efforts had been made to intimidate witnesses, which made Yadlin's detention essential to the continuing investigation.

The others arrested were Mordechai Ellison, a former department head in Solel Boneh, the Histadrut construction agency, and Shlomo Gory, an attorney who had worked for Yadlin. Elli-

son was understood to have offered to become a state witness in exchange for a promise of immunity, and reportedly confessed to various charges in the case. Immunity was refused.

Ellison and Yadlin allegedly accepted kick-back when the Kupat Holim bought for \$2.5 million an unfinished medical center said to be worth only \$1.4 million. Gory was accused of preparing false tax statements and false property registration for Yadlin to evade taxes. Persons questioned by police reportedly include at least one senior official who is director general of a ministry.

Under four days of questioning, Yadlin insisted on his innocence and asserted the charges stemmed from an act of vengeance by a former woman friend, Chava Ehrlichman, who he said he had refused to marry. The woman was allegedly connected with possible illegal property transfers by Kupat Holim. Israel's powerful Labor party, of the which the 55-year-old economist is a staunch member and which named him to the influential Bank of Israel post, sought to adopt a neutral stance "until all the evidence is in."

RABBIS URGE CHURCH COUNCIL TO DROP NAZI

Following is the text of a letter sent by the New York Board of Rabbis to the National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027:

"Gentlemen:
We should like to bring to your attention the matter of the so-called Bishop Valerian

D. Trifa of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, who is a member of your organization.

As you know, for many years evidence has been presented that Trifa was responsible for heinous crimes during World War II in Rumania. Many were killed brutally because of his collaboration with the Nazis; the evidence supporting this fact is overwhelming. He fraudulently concealed his role in these events in Rumania in 1941 when he applied for admission to the United States as an alleged displaced person after World War II.

It is shocking enough that a person such as Trifa should be allowed to remain in the United States and go unpunished for his war crimes, but to allow this person to assume the guise of a 'man of God' constitutes the bitterest of ironies.


It would appear to most people that Trifa's association with the National Council is a stain upon your name and does no honor to the Council. We would strongly urge that you reconsider his association with the National Council with the purpose of dropping him from your roster.

Surely, your Council, which has such an impeccable world-wide record for its efforts in world peace and in other areas of human endeavor, should not want to be associated with one whose hands are bloody from pogromist activities in Rumania. One who is guilty of all these crimes should not be able to hide under the cloak of the National Council of Churches."

The letter was signed by Rabbi Judah Cahn, President of the New York Board of Rabbis.

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