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Austria To Set Up Panel To Probe Waldheim's Wartime Activities

VIENNA (JTA) — Foreign Minister Alois Mock announced that Austria will set up a commission of historians to investigate the wartime activities of President Kurt Waldheim.

Waldheim himself intends to take legal action in response to allegations of his complicity in Nazi persecutions and atrocities. The allegations were the basis of the U.S. Department of Justice's decision, announced a week ago, to bar Waldheim from entry into the United States.

It is "time to respond to these slanders through legal channels," Waldheim said on a radio interview, but he did not specify what type of legal action he was considering.

Mock, who is Vice Chancellor and head of the conservative People's Party which ran Waldheim as its Presidential candidate last year, said the commission would be established after consultations with the President. He said it would comprise Austrian historians but could include foreign scholars approved by Waldheim. Mock also said that the "White Book" Waldheim commissioned to set straight details of his war record has been completed. He said it and the documents used to incriminate Waldheim, which the Austrian government has requested from Washington, would be made widely available.

Waldheim, who served for 10 years as United Nations Secretary General, has admitted to falsifying his military service record in his official autobiography. He claimed he was discharged from the German army in 1941 for a disability when actually he served as an intelligence officer in the Balkans. He has vehemently denied any involvement in atrocities against civilians or resistance fighters. But documents discovered in the archives of the United Nations War Crimes Commission state otherwise.

Wiesenthal Welcomes Panel Proposal

Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal said that he welcomed the idea that a panel of historians would investigate Waldheim's past but said it would have to be an international panel, not exclusively Austrian, if it was to have credibility.

Any conclusions the panel drew would have to be binding for both sides, said Wiesenthal, who previously said there appeared to be no concrete evidence to link Waldheim with war crimes. If Waldheim was shown to have been involved, he would have to resign, and if not, the United States would have to remove him from the so-called "Watch List" barring his entry as a private citizen, Wiesenthal said.

convened with the aim of seeking reconciliation and unity -- especially between the Syrian-outlawed Yassir Arafat's Fatah and the pro-Damascus Leftist and Communist factions -- indicated that the talks were saved from total collapse by the Soviets whose Ambassador to Algeria, Vasily Taratuta, according to a N.Y. Times dispatch, "sought to force the parties to end their dispute."

Times correspondent Paul Delaney noted that "several sources reported that the Russians, who attended the session as 'observers,' played a key role in convincing the divergent groups not to veer away from the objective of unity..."

We may ask: What kind of a "key role" did the Russian Ambassador play in uniting the factions and for what purpose? Also, what did he mean by calling upon them, the PLO murderers including Abu Abbas, the mastermind behind the hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise liner and the cold-blooded killing of Mr. Klinghoffer, "not to veer away from the objective of unity?" Certainly, the Ambassador and his bosses in the Kremlin are fully aware of the fact that the PLO's "objective of unity" is the destruction of the Jewish nation.

One of the several tests this writer offered in his recent column -- "Glasnost, Has It a Meaning for Israel?" -- for the sincerity of the Soviet "open door" policy was the Kremlin's withdrawal of support for the terrorist and murderous PLO whose avowed aim is the destruction of Israel, a

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Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations
By David Horowitz
A World—Union Press Feature

Moscow Behind Restoration Of PLO "Unity"

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — News from Algiers last week where the various constituents of the "Palestine National Council," who had been feuding with one another for several years,

UN member State. "Glasnost" and Moscow's opening of a trickle of Jewish emigration have no real meaning so long as the Soviets publicly support and encourage the PLO, a so-called "liberation movement" whose sworn goal is the final solution a la Hitler of the Jewish people, the end of Israel as a nation by force of arms, as Yassir Arafat made it quite clear at the Algiers confab of the conspirators. "This unity," he stated, "is a victory for our people. We will get together and return to Al Quds (Jerusalem)..."

With Moscow's role and that of the PLO being interchangeable, one may wonder whether Mr. Shimon Peres still feels the need for an international conference where the Soviet Union will represent the PLO to be followed by direct talks where the PLO will represent the Soviet Union.

Egypt was quick to see the truth. How long will it take Mr. Peres and the likes of him to learn the same lesson?

Interestingly, one positive development emerged from the Algiers confab. Because of Arafat's double-dealings, his concessions made to the anti-Egyptian PLO factions whose spokesmen blasted Egypt over the Camp David accords, Cairo lost no time in closing the PLO offices in both Cairo and Alexandria -- a surprise move that shook the PLO leadership.

Former UN Ambassador, Esmat Abdel-Meguid, now Egyptian Foreign Minister, after a crisis-meeting with President Hosni Mubarak, issued a statement declaring that "all PLO offices except those that deal with labor and women's affairs would be shut down because of the aggressive attitude of the Palestine National Council."

The statement added: "The PLO refused to recognize Egypt's sacrifices for the Palestinian people. The PLO leaders are men out to profit from intrigue and maneuvers..."

Few biblical scholars realize that most of the Psalms, though poetic, constitute prophecies depicting the future fate of peoples and nations. Psalm 83, one of many such prophetic psalms, speaks of the dire fate that will befall the enemies of the People of the Book. It even names those -- whose hateful voices were heard at Algiers -- who "hold crafty converse against Thy people, that say, 'Come and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance; against Thee do they make a covenant -- the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Gebal, Ammon and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Asshur who is joined with them... Who said: 'Let us take to ourselves in possession;' but Thou wilt make them as the whirling dust, as stubble before the wind..."

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(Continued from page 1)

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For more information, see pages 26, 27, 28 & 29 of this edition.