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CI/SO Summary on: Jewish Defense League

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18 Jan 72

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*Yisroel Jewish Defense League**18 Jan 72*

1. CONSULAR FILE ON RONALD LEGEAU AND DELORES ANN VESSA (ALIAS FOR CRISTINA L. CANZIANI) CONTAINS FOLLOWING ITEMS WHICH BEAR ON REF A INQUIRY:

A. HAARETZ, 7 JULY 71, CONTAINS ARTICLE BY DAN MARGALIT RE CONFISCATION BY U.S. CONSULAR OFFICER OF PASSPORT OF CRISTINA CANZIANI (ISSUED IN NAME DELORES VESSA). ARTICLE NOTES THAT NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY KNESSET MEMBERS ZVULUN HAMMER AND YEGUDA BEN-MEIR QUESTIONED THE LEGALITY OF THE CONSULAR ACTION.

B. HAARETZ ARTICLE BY MARGALIT ON 6 JULY 71 NOTES THAT CANZIANI LIVED IN HEBRON FOR A TIME AFTER ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL (Ces note:); HEBRON JEWISH SETTLEMENT IS EXTREME ORTHODOX GROUP WHICH IS PROBABLY SYMPATHETIC TO NATIONAL RELIGIOUS

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PARTY. ITS UNILATERAL ACTIONS IN REESTABLISHMENT OF JEWISH PRESENCE IN NEBRON HAS IN PAST CAUSED EMBARRASSMENT AND IRRITATION TO ISRAELI AUTHORITIES.) ARTICLE CONTAINS DETAILS OF INCIDENT NOTED IN PARA 1F REF B, STATING THAT NAHMAN KAHANA, DESCRIBED AS PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER OF RELIGIONS AND A RELATIVE OF RABBI MEIR KAHANE, TOOK CANZIANI TO MRS. YEHUDITH HUEBNER OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND INQUIRED FOR HER CONCERNING "PROSPECTS OF OBTAINING A VISA OR EVEN A PASSPORT SO AS TO AVERT MISS CANZIANI'S EXTRADITION." THE ARTICLE ADDS THAT, "AT CONSULTATIONS HELD IN JERUSALEM IT WAS SAID THAT IF THIS AFFAIR CAN BE KEPT QUIET, A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WILL BE FOUND." ARTICLE NOTES THAT CANZIANI FOR A TIME RESIDED AT BEITAR (MERUT) HOUSE IN OLD JERUSALEM.

C. MAARIV 2 JULY 71 HAS ARTICLE ON CANZIANI PASSPORT CASE WHICH STATES THAT KNESSET MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, YEHUDA BEN MEIR (NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY) TABLED URGENT MOTION DEMANDING IMMEDIATE KNESSET SESSION TO DISCUSS THE CONFISCATION OF THE PASSPORT BY FBI AGENTS (SIC) ON SUSPICION OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE JDL. BEN MEIR CHARGED THAT THE ACTION WAS AN EXPLICIT VIOLATION OF ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY AND DEMANDED THAT THERE BE

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NO RESPONSE TO ANY U.S. EXTRADITION REQUEST, SAYING SHE HAD DONE NO MORE THAN HELP THE JDL IN THE U.S. BEN MEIR, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED, INTENDS TO SPEAK TO THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND ASK HIM NOT TO TAKE STEPS TO HAND CANZIANI OVER TO U.S. AUTHORITIES. (COS note: [redacted]): THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WHICH IS INVARIABLY CONTROLLED BY THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY HAS THE FUNCTION, CONSIDERED VITAL TO THAT PARTY, OF REGISTERING ISRAELIS AS TO RELIGION. BEN MEIR IS A FORMER AMERICAN WHO MAY STILL RETAIN AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. HE BECAME KNESSET MEMBER IN 1971 FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER. AT THAT TIME HE CHANGED HIS NAME FROM ROSENBERG TO BEN-MEIR).

D. THE SAME MAARIV ARTICLE STATES THAT "LOCAL CIRCLES ARE TRYING TO ATTEND TO THIS MATTER (POSSIBLE EXTRADITION TO THE U.S. OF CANZIANI) ~~AND~~ SO AS TO ENABLE HER TO TRAVEL TO ANOTHER COUNTRY AND TO PREVENT, THUS, HER EXTRADITION TO THE U.S. AUTHORITIES, WHICH SO FAR HAVE NOT OFFICIALLY REQUESTED IT."

E. SAME MAARIV ARTICLE ALSO IDENTIFIES CANZIANI'S FRIEND AS SEYMOUR LECKER WHO, WITH TWO OTHERS, WAS ON TRIAL AT TEL AVIV DISTRICT COURT ON A CHARGE OF BLACKMAILING

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BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

LECKER,

AND ROBERT ERWIN FINE WERE ARRESTED ON APRIL 20, 1971 ON CHARGE OF EXTORTION, THREATS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST BAR ILAN STUDENTS. THEY WERE REPRESENTED BY KNESSET MEMBER SHMUEL TAMIR, FINE AND LECKER WERE FOUND GUILTY OF FORCIBLE BLACKMAIL AND ASSAULT, SENTENCED TO 6 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT AND ADDITIONAL 12 MONTHS SUSPENDED SENTENCE. LECKER IS A CANADIAN AND FINE IS AN AMERICAN. TWO OTHERS, DELORES VESSA (CANZIANI) AND JOSHUA JOFFE WERE FOUND NOT GUILTY. JERUSALEM POST, 23 JULY 71, RECORDS STATEMENT BY TEL AVIV DISTRICT COURT JUDGE SHULAMIT WALLENSTEIN THAT THE VICTIMS WERE INITIALLY AFRAID TO GO TO THE ISRAELI POLICE AND WENT INSTEAD TO MEYER LANSKY WHO TOLD THEM TO REQUEST HELP FROM THE UNIVERSITY. STILL HESITANT, THEY WENT TO THE POLICE ONLY AFTER BEING ADVISED TO DO SO BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

F. ABOVE 2 JULY 71 MAARIV ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT "THE EXTRADITION REQUEST MAY CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO OFFICIAL CIRCLES SINCE THE WOMAN BELONGS TO THE LEAGUE WHICH ISRAEL NEITHER WISHES TO AID NOR HARM."

2. THE ZEAL WITH WHICH MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY INCLUDING NAHMAN KAHANA (WHOSE NRP AFFILIATION IS PRESUMED BECAUSE OF TRADITIONAL CONTROL OF THE MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS BY THE NRP) INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN THE CASE, WOULD APPEAR TO JUSTIFY INCLUSION OF THE NRP AMONG THOSE ISRAELI ELEMENTS WHO BACK THE JDL. THE NRP IS, OF COURSE, A MEMBER OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT COALITION, BUT ITS ACTIONS AT TIMES CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT.

3. Consular Officer DISCUSSED THE CANZIANI CASE WITH COS AT THE TIME AND STATED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT HE WAS RECEIVING ONLY GRUDGING COOPERATION FROM ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. HE INDICATED THAT THE GOI SEEMED LESS THAN ANXIOUS TO ASSIST THE U.S. IN THIS CRIMINAL CASE WHICH INVOLVED AN AMERICAN WHO IS CONNECTED WITH THE JDL EVEN THOUGH THE LAW OF RETURN IS NOT INVOLVED.

4. THE CANZIANI CASE SEEMS TO BE AN INTERESTING EXAMPLE OF THE CONVOLUTIONS CAUSED BY THE IMPACT OF THE JDL ON INTERNAL ISRAELI POLITICS. EMOTIONALLY HELD VIEWS IN SUPPORT OF JEWS ANYWHERE IMMEDIATELY COME INTO PLAY IN ISRAEL

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AND HAVE STRONG DOMESTIC POLITICAL ECHOES ESPECIALLY
WHEN ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO TAKE ACTION.
THIS IS TRUE OF THE JDL AND OF THE MEYER LANSKY CASE.
THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT APPARATUS SEEMS INCLINED TO TRY
TO STAY OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE AND THIS APPARENTLY
MEANS ONLY THE MOST CAUTIOUS COOPERATION WITH THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT ON THE JDL AND ITS MEMBERS. GP-1.

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