

Adolf Eichmann Goes on Trial for Life April 11 in Israel

By ELIAV SIMON
United Press International
Jerusalem, Israel—(UPI)—The Jewish state of Israel is about to place on trial for life a man it regards as one of its most vicious criminals, possibly second only to Adolf Hitler.

He is Adolf Eichmann who, as chief of Hitler's "Jewish Program" is accused of being responsible for the torture, degradation and murder of millions of European Jews during the years 1939-45—the crime of genocide.

Israel wants to hang Eichmann, now 55, and probably will. But first, through the trial, scheduled to open April 11, it wants to spread before the world the whole ugly story of what the Nazis did to the Jewish people.

The Israeli government has prepared a 15-count indictment against Eichmann in which its agents found living in Argentina in May, 1960, and spirited secretly to Israel to answer for his wartime crimes before a court of Jews.

For 10 months Israel has prepared carefully for this moment. Thirty-nine witnesses, about 4,000 pages of documentary evidence and parts of the 4,000 pages of testimony Eichmann has given Israeli investigators are ready to be introduced in what will be, perhaps, the most internationally covered criminal trial on record.

80 Newsmen

A total of 80 newsmen have been accredited from 35 countries to report, photograph and film the proceedings. They represent six world agencies, including United Press International, 27 national agencies, 170 daily newspapers, 38 weeklies, 3 radio and television stations or networks, and 8 periodicals of all kinds.

Setting for the trial, expected to last at least two months or more probably five or six months, is the six-story, new community center on Jerusalem's western hills. Judges, counsel and the prisoner will occupy the stage of the main hall. Because of the heavy press representation there will be room for only about 300 other spectators in a balcony section. The seats there will be available to members of the Knesset (parliament) and distinguished foreign observers including diplomats and jurists. A few tickets will be available to local organizations for public distribution.

Extraordinary security precautions have been taken. A 15-foot wire fence has been thrown around the Community Center and some adjoining buildings. The fence is ringed with guard posts and everyone entering will be searched for hidden weapons. The defendant will view the proceedings and testify, if he does so, from a bullet-proof glass box.

The nation itself is in the grip of strong and conflicting emotions, an atmosphere one Israeli commentator compares to that which might exist if Pontius Pilate were on trial in the Vatican for the murder of Jesus Christ.

To one-quarter of Israel's population, Eichmann is the alleged murderer of parents, brothers, sisters, a husband or wife, a child. The Nazi atrocities to be presented in evidence are frightful personal history which many have tried to erase from memory. "I see Auschwitz plastered all over the newspapers and bookstores," cried one Israeli wife and mother whose arm still carries the blue tattoo of that death camp.

"How does it help me if they hang Eichmann now that I have started to have nightmares again?"

Refuge to Type

Some girl clerks in the Ministry of Justice, personally untouched by the terrible period and accustomed to criminal aberration, have refused to continue typing, after a few pages, the detailed specifications against Eichmann.

The government reasons, however, that full knowledge of the atrocities suffered by the Jewish people at the hands of the Nazis is both the birthright of the nation's children and the best preventive for a repetition anywhere in the world. It decided months ago, after considerable protest, to introduce the history of the period in the school curriculum, tempered with tales of Jewish heroism in the ghettos and the underground.

Israel accepts no argument as to its legal right to try a man of other nationality, whose crimes were committed in other places before Israel itself was a nation, and who was snatched without legal formality from a friendly country. The kidnapping of Eichmann by Israeli commandos from a Buenos Aires suburb, where he lived as Ricardo Klement and worked in an auto parts factory, is defended as the end justifying the means.

The trial of Eichmann is declared technically correct on the basis of Israeli law making Nazi membership and activity criminal offenses.

The offenses are spelled out in the 15 counts. They include "crimes against the Jewish people and against humanity, war crimes, and membership in hostile Nazi organizations."

Eichmann is accused of causing the deaths of millions of Jews—estimates have run from 3 million to 5 million—between 1939 and 1945 by means of torture, starvation and slavery in death camps, work camps, local concentration camps, and at the hands

of special detachments including the Gestapo in 21 European countries.

Under the heading of crimes against humanity he is charged with similarly inhuman treatment of civilian Poles, Czechs, Yugoslavs and kypsiens in the path of the German war machine.

One of the grimmer specific charges places at Eichmann's feet the murder of 100 children from the Czech village of Lidice which was wiped out and its entire population killed or deported in one of the most savage of all Nazi reprisals.

Eichmann is charged with the murders in his role as Chief of Hitler's Department for Jewish Affairs of the Gestapo in Berlin, and as head of the Eichmann Special Operation Unit in Budapest in 1944.

He will be tried by a three-man court. The presiding judge is Moshe Landau, a member of Israel's Supreme Court, appointed for the trial by Chief Justice Isaac Olshan. The other two judges are Benjamin Halevi, president of the Jerusalem District Court, who raised a storm of controversy by appointing him-

self, and District Court Judge Tizhak Olan of Tel Aviv, also named by Halevi. Halevi was criticized for his own appointment because he had participated in an earlier highly controversial trial involving Eichmann's activities.

Chief defense counsel is Dr. Robert Servatius, a 65-year-old Cologne lawyer and one of Germany's so-called "Nuernberg group" of lawyers who defended Nazi war criminals during the post-war Nuernberg trials.

Chief prosecutor is Israel's attorney general, Gideon Hausner, a balding, 45-year-old Polish-born lawyer who pleaded before Eichmann went into the dock that this would be no "lynch trial," but an orderly, careful and legal "presentation of the facts—that is Israel's duty."

Procedure for the trial was established in eight special laws enacted by the Knesset. These laws among other things provide that any death sentence in the case be carried out by hanging, and that no guilty plea will be accepted.

39 Witnesses

The prosecution has announced the names of 39 witnesses, all Jews residing in Israel or European countries. Many of them had personal dealings with Eichmann in his Nazi role. The first will be Inspector Abner Loess of the Israeli Police who took Eichmann's 4,000 pages of pre-trial testimony. Another will be Joel Brand, who during the war negotiated with Eichmann on behalf of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in an attempt to exchange 1 million Hungarian Jews for 10,000 motor vehicles. Brand's wife, Hansi, who also took part in those negotiations, will testify.

Another major witness will be Phillip von Freudiger, who headed the Jewish community of Budapest at the time of the Nazi conquest. Other witnesses will include Jews who were expelled from Hungary and Czechoslovakia into work and death camps, Jews who suffered at Nazi hands in Germany and elsewhere, and persons who are prepared to testify as to first-hand knowledge of acts carried out on Eichmann's orders.

Documentary evidence will include copies of 120 specific orders issued by Eichmann dealing with extermination of Jews. Also to be introduced are minutes of a Nazi meeting on Jan. 20, 1952, at which Israel charges the decision was taken to destroy all Jews in all countries occupied by the Germans.

A major point of the evidence, Hausner has said, will be to prove that Eichmann did more than simply carry out the orders of his superiors, one of the claims it is anticipated his defense will make. Eichmann, it is believed will not disclaim knowledge of final fate of people he sent to death camps. It is thought, however, that he will claim what happened to such people was not his responsibility, that his responsibility was simply to organize expulsions from ghettos and provide expellees with suitable transport.

According to advance indications, Eichmann also will claim that he concentrated Jews in camps and ghettos for their own protection and to enable them to "maintain an autonomous existence." He is expected to try to prove that he actually meant to spare the 1 million Hungarian Jews in return for 10,000 trucks.

He will claim, it is further believed, that at the time of the charged crimes the Jewish people were an "enemy" of his country and as such subject to treatment as foes. The trial procedure will be roughly the same as that in American criminal courts. There will be no jury and the verdict will rest with the three judges. But witnesses may be called by both sides, and will be liable to cross-examination by opposing counsel. There will be a morning session from 9 o'clock to noon daily and an afternoon session from 3 p.m. to about 5 or 6 p.m.

The language of the court itself will be Hebrew, but running translations via earphones will be available to everyone present, including the defendant, in a choice of three other languages—English, German and French.

Eichmann is expected to be his own chief witness. What other witnesses the defense may call is not known. Delicate Question

The question of witnesses for Eichmann is a delicate one. Israel has refused to guarantee immunity to any persons of Nazi background coming into the country. Servatius is believed to have been told, however, that testimony from any such witnesses will be accepted by sworn written statements. Up to shortly before the trial was to begin there was no public knowledge of any persons volunteering to testify on Eichmann's behalf.

Eichmann will be under heavy guard throughout the trial and between court appearances kept in a special cell in the Community Center. The bullet-proof glass and plastic box he will occupy in the courtroom is fitted with earphones through which he may follow the proceedings, and is open on the side facing the bench so that he may address the court. Two armed guards will be at his side at all times.

The trial is the climax to an intensive 15-year manhunt. Eichmann had been Jewry's "most wanted" man since the end of World War II.

At that time he held the rank of colonel in the S.S. and on or about May 8, 1945, was captured by American forces in Austria. But he had succeeded in changing into the uniform of an air force private, gave a false name and explained away his lack of identifying documents by saying he had destroyed them in keeping with orders of the German army. For some reason, the S.S. tattoo mark on his left hand was not noticed. Later his first captors sent him to another prisoner-of-war camp and then he changed his name and identity again, and assumed the rank of a lieutenant to explain his S.S. tattoo. In mid-1946 he escaped from a camp in Germany.

At that time Eichmann's wife believed he had been killed in the final days of fighting. He did not communicate with her, but made his way to northern Germany where he made contact with the brother of an S.S. man he met in prison camp.

Laborer's Job

This man was a forest warden and he gave Eichmann a job as a laborer. He lived in a hut and worked at cutting wood. For three years he lived that life without notifying his wife, then living in Austria. In 1950 Eichmann got out of Germany.

Israel sources say his trail was next picked up in Argentina in 1952. He then was reported to have lived briefly in Brazil and Paraguay. But in 1955 he was back in Argentina as Ricardo Klement. It was there three young Israeli special agents tracked him down last year working at a cheap job in an auto parts factory and living with his wife, Vera, and three of their four sons, the youngest born in South American exile.

The eldest son, Klaus, 24, went to Europe after his father was seized and was reported seeking, unsuccessfully,

Colorado Rockies Provide Clues About Life in Arctic

High in the Colorado Rockies—(UPI)—The whine of an Army Weasel climbing through snowdrifts toward the timberline breaks the silence of Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

Once at the height where trees cannot survive, its bundled occupants get out and begin hiking up the bare slopes, leaning into a 50-mile gale.

They are rugged outdoor men, but they didn't go up in the hills for sport. It was all in the interest of science.

The men—students and staff at the University of Colorado—were getting a sample of what it's like in the frigid Arctic region as they participated in the university's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research.

In reality, these men have discovered the Arctic in America's backyard, the Rocky Mountains. The higher one goes in mountain areas, the closer conditions approach those of the far North.

Institute Director John W. Marr estimates that each of the 1,000 feet up the mountains above mile-high Boulder, site of the university, is equivalent to traveling 500 miles to the north. The mountain environment at 12,500 feet is about the same as that at the outer rim of the Arctic Circle, 3,500 miles north of Boulder. The spruce and fir forests at 10,000 feet are the same as in northernmost Canada.

Location Is Charming

The charm of the institute is its location—only an hour from civilization. It has saved time, expense and discomfort for the armed forces and other researchers who sought Alpine environments.

Marr, an Arctic specialist in the U.S. War Department during World War II, has set up a series of stations to measure environmental conditions. The stations contain recording instruments to measure soil and air temperature, humidity, wind velocity, soil

moisture, plant growth and animal use of plants. They are scattered around the area, spotted in varying altitude belts corresponding to specific kinds of vegetation—7,000 to 8,500 feet, ponderosa pine and Douglas fir; 10,000 feet, spruce and fir; 11,500 feet, tundra.

The missions of the institute are several, but the main project is to determine the effect of environment on living organisms.

The institute also has collected data essential to the Quartermaster Corps' studies of warfare in severe weather regions. From this information the Army has set up tables to enable airborne observers to determine weather conditions in an unknown area merely by spotting the kinds of vegetation growing there.

Thus, the clothing a soldier must wear and the equipment he will need can be determined from a single aerial photograph of an unfamiliar region.

Another subject study is the effect of vegetation on the drifting snow in the mountains. This has an important bearing on irrigation and water supply.

Better Control

By learning what types of

mines of the type which explode only when disturbed by a weight of approximately 80-90 pounds.

Formerly, the sound of mines exploded by a wild hare was a common occurrence which kept the guards busy investigating. Now their solitary existence in their new reinforced steel watch towers is seldom disturbed, except when a man stumbles onto one of the wires attached to every mine.

The only remnants of an era of "freedom and friendship" are the simple stone border markers bearing the date of the freedom treaty of St. Germain, 1921. But as one Austrian border inspector noted, "There was once an other reich which was built to last 1,000 years."

In place of the bare wooden posts, the streamlined "curtain" is supported by narrow concrete girders sunk more than a yard into the earth, and topped by wooden logs which jut out, now left, now right, supporting the top rows of wire.

The old wooden towers, formerly 24 to 30 feet high, have been replaced by bigger models with sturdy steel scaffolding. Telephones connect each tower with the next central station.

Renewal Process

This renewal process has been in progress since 1957. Now, along the 250-mile-long border between Austria's Burgenland and Hungary, there are few places where the "old curtain" extends for any distance.

In many places the evidences of the old wire entanglements can still be seen in the grass. In some places the old and the new stand side by side.

That the "curtain" has been strengthened is unquestioned. Now wire entanglements are extended as far as 50 yards from the actual border to insure against blind spots where a man could cross unnoticed by Hungarian border guards.

To guard against the danger of the unsuspecting tourist wandering into Hungarian territory, Austrian authorities have erected six-foot-tall posts, striped red and white along the border. They are boldly lettered in red: "Attention Border."

Replant Fields

The Hungarians also are replanting the mine fields which lie just beyond the barbed wire. The old mines, set to explode with the slightest movement, have been exploded and replaced by tread-

shall live abundantly. How did the Master put it? "I am come that they may have life and have it abundantly. Turn your dark wilderness of despair into the green meadows of hope."

There is herein a universal principle for good and healthy living. Hug it and pull it closer to you than breath itself until your entire being pulsates from this health-giving, universal principle.

Security Tightened Along Iron Curtain

Vienna—(UPI)—The Iron Curtain is being given the "New Look" treatment. Even the watch towers along the tense border between Austria and Hungary have been renovated.

The reason for the renovation is security rather than spring.

Barbed wire fences are now seven feet high instead of four feet high and topped with eight rows of barbed wire. Ironically this is strung in a V form.

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