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**A Stunning Decision:****ONTARIO COURT REVERSES CONVICTION OF AN ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDIST****By Ben Kayfetz**

TORONTO, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- The Ontario Court of Appeals, in a move that stunned Jews and civil libertarians in Canada, has unanimously reversed the conviction of German-born anti-Semitic propagandist Ernst Zundel, who was sentenced in 1985 to 15 months' imprisonment for distributing a booklet entitled "Did Six Million Really Die?" a denial that the Holocaust occurred.

The court overturned the conviction on technical grounds but upheld Section 177 of the Canadian Criminal Code under which he was convicted -- "spreading false news" -- and allowed that a new trial may be ordered. The Attorney General has 21 days to challenge the Appeals Court ruling. He may appeal to the Supreme Court, order a new trial or drop the charges.

A new trial would give Zundel another public forum from which to promulgate his racist views and denial of the Holocaust and, as he made clear in an interview with the Toronto Globe & Mail, that is exactly what he had hoped for.

'The Worst Of Both Worlds'

Charles Zaionz, chairperson of the Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario chapter, and Rose Wolfe, chairperson of its Joint Community Relations Committee, said that while it was gratifying that the Appeals Court upheld Section 177, "one recoils at the possibility of a second trial which would grant the accused a renewed opportunity to stage-manage a circus."

Alan Borovoy, speaking for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, said the decision was "the worst of both worlds." Not only "must Jews and (Holocaust) survivors be put through the agony of another trial, but Canada is stuck with a law that could have a chilling effect on ordinary citizens who might have opinions that run contrary to conventional wisdom," he said.

Zundel was not charged under Canada's anti-hate law, passed in 1970, but under an older statute which originated in English Common Law and was incorporated in the Canadian Criminal Code in 1892. It states that anyone "who wilfully publishes a statement, tale or news that he knows is false and that ... is likely to cause or causes injury or mischief to a public interest" is guilty of an offense punishable by two years in jail.

View Of Appeals Court Panel

The panel of five judges of the Appeals Court agreed that the "maintenance of racial and religious harmony is certainly a matter of public interest" requiring protection.

They found that Judge Hugh Locke, who tried the case, did not err when he rejected a defense request that all Jews and Freemasons be excluded from the jury. But he was in error when he failed to advise Zundel's lawyer that he could re-phrase his questions to prospective jurors.

"There is a denial of a fundamental right to a fair and proper trial where the accused is not allowed to challenge any number of jurors for cause ... Zundel was deprived of his right to have

a jury ... whose impartiality or appearance of impartiality could not be impugned," the panel stated in its ruling.

It also found Judge Locke to have been in error when he intimated to the jury that Zundel could be convicted if they decided he did not honestly believe his publications. In reality, the court said, the jury had to decide that he actually knew the booklet to be false in order to convict.

Zundel, 47, was elated by the court's decision. Comparing himself in "leadership" and "charisma" with his idol, Adolf Hitler, he told the Globe & Mail that he intends to enter Canadian politics because "if any time is ripe, it's now." He also boasted to a reporter that he had "enticed the establishment" into giving him a new platform and is delighted with his success. He said he has invested \$50,000 in new machinery to publish his propaganda.

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO RECONSIDER APPEAL BY NAZI WAR CRIMINAL AGAINST HIS DEPORTATION TO THE SOVIET UNION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- The United States Supreme Court Tuesday declined to reconsider its December 1 refusal to hear an appeal by convicted Nazi war criminal Karl Linnas against his deportation to the Soviet Union. The court's action prompted demands by prominent Republicans and Democrats that Attorney General Edwin Meese carry out Linnas' deportation as soon as possible.

In 1981, the Federal District Court on Long Island, NY, stripped Linnas, now 67, of his U.S. citizenship, after finding him responsible for multiple acts of murder committed during his wartime service as chief of the Nazi concentration camp at Tartu, Estonia.

According to the Justice Department, more than 12,000 persons were murdered at the camp. Linnas was ordered deported in 1983 and has been held since April 1986 at the Metropolitan Correction Center in New York City.

Reactions To The Court's Decision

Praising Tuesday's Supreme Court decision for "upholding the laws of our nation and bringing to justice a man whose actions are directly responsible for some of the most brutal murders of our time," Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) declared that "Linnas must and will be deported from the United States."

Also urging Meese to act swiftly was Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman, who as a Democratic Congresswoman sponsored the 1978 federal legislation that specifically authorized the deportation of Nazi war criminals.

She said Tuesday that the Supreme Court's final decision "brings to an end Linnas' effort to forestall the inevitable -- his deportation from this country. The United States should not provide a safe haven even one day longer for this Nazi criminal," she said.

Reacting to the Supreme Court decision, World Jewish Congress vice president Kalman Sultanik, himself a Holocaust survivor, declared: "At long last, justice has been done. There is no

statute of limitations on crimes against humanity." The Justice Department has not disclosed what, if any, transportation arrangements have been made for Linas. His deportation papers must in any event be signed by or on behalf of Meese before the expulsion can actually be carried out.

UN CHIEF TELLS ISLAMIC SUMMIT THAT MIDEAST SETTLEMENT MUST INCLUDE PLO PARTICIPATION AND ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED AREAS By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, addressing the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait, Monday, warned that failure to resolve the Middle East conflict could lead to a wider conflict, including nuclear war, and that a comprehensive settlement must include the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The text of the Secretary General's speech to Arab leaders attending the meeting of the 46-member Organization of the Islamic Conference was released here Tuesday. It was also announced that de Cuellar's meetings with Arab leaders included one on Tuesday with PLO chief Yasir Arafat. He has also met with President Hafez Assad of Syria and President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon.

The situation in the Middle East endangers the peace of the world, the Secretary General told the conference. "The conflict jeopardizes not only the future of all the people living in a vital and central region of the world but the wider peace as well," he said.

He warned that as long as the Middle East conflict remains unresolved, "the situation in the region will continue to be highly volatile and breed extremism and violence." There is also a danger of nuclear war if the situation is allowed to fester, he declared.

According to de Cuellar, a comprehensive settlement in the area must involve all parties concerned, including the PLO. To reach a settlement, he said Israel must withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied in June 1967. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in the region must be recognized. And the Palestinian problem must be resolved, based on the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, "including self-determination," he said.

The Secretary General added that the question of Jerusalem must also be settled.

NEW ECONOMIC PACKAGE ACCORD SIGNED By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- A new economic package agreement, to remain in effect until March 1988, was signed by the government, labor and management Tuesday. It is intended to maintain economic stability in face of price increases triggered by the recent devaluation of the Shekel and government moves to cut public spending.

The principal signatories were Finance Minister Moshe Nissim; Yisrael Kessar, Secretary General of Histadrut; and Dov Lautman, head of the Association of Manufacturers and Employers. Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres,

a key figure in negotiations that led to the accord, will add his signature when he returns from his current trip to Europe.

The package deal was approved by the Cabinet more than two weeks ago and was to have been signed then. But a dispute with Histadrut over government funding for its sick-fund, Kupat Holim, delayed the labor federation's endorsement until Tuesday.

It was made possible after the Treasury agreed to contribute 47 million Shekels to Kupat Holim for higher pay to nurses and to keep abreast of its needs. Kupat Holim provides health insurance and medical care for about 85 percent of the population.

Features Of The Package

A main feature of the new economic package is withholding 2.7 percent of the next cost-of-living increment to wage earners in order to prevent a new inflationary spiral resulting from the reduced value of the Shekel. The full increment will be added to national insurance payments.

Other features of the package are: price controls on many consumer goods to remain in force until March 1988; no rise in the prices of subsidized goods and services, apart from public transportation; income tax reform, mainly lowering the top bracket to 48 percent from 60 percent; capital market reform, with reduced government involvement in the market effective April 1; and government efforts to lower interest rates.

RABIN: ISRAEL WILL BE CANDID WITH U.S. REGARDING ITS SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday that Israel will be absolutely candid with the United States regarding its relationships with South Africa.

Rabin, briefing the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, referred to a Newsweek magazine report that he visited South Africa recently to warn the Pretoria government that Israel would have to curtail its relations because of pressures from the U.S.

The U.S. and Western Europe have adopted a policy of sanctions against the apartheid regime. In the case of the U.S., Congress overrode a Presidential veto of sanctions and requires the Administration to report by April on any military supply relationships between countries receiving American aid and South Africa.

According to reports leaked from the Knesset committee, Rabin observed that acts of Congress are "stricter than resolutions of the United Nations because they are backed by real sanctions." Israel is the recipient of \$1.8 billion a year in U.S. military assistance and cannot afford either to alienate Congress or embarrass the Administration.

Rabin said the issue was complex for Israel and it must maintain, above all, its ties of trust with Washington.

Israel's relations with South Africa have become increasingly controversial. Likud members of the Knesset committee criticized Yossi Beilin, Director General of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs and a close advisor to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, for pressing his view that Israel must distance itself from Pretoria.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

A NEGLECTED GROUP IN THE STUDY OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK Jan. 27 (JTA) -- In studies done till now on the Holocaust and its victims, one group has been neglected. They are the survivors who were children at the time. It is only within the last six years that a cumulative study has developed to deal with the traumatization of those who were no older than 13 when World War II began.

In Sands Point, Long Island, a quiet suburb of New York City, a privately-funded study began in 1981 compiling testimonies of the children who came through the Holocaust, reaching out to archives and private individuals in Europe, Israel and throughout the United States and Canada in search of written accounts of memories.

The Jerome Riker International Study of Organized Persecution of Children has to date collected 500 interviews with child survivors. Volunteer interviewers continue to ferret out these people and record their personal experiences before, during and after the Holocaust.

Basis For Interest In Child Survivors

Specific interest in child survivors arose from the work of a husband-and-wife team directing the Riker Study, Milton and Dr. Judith Kestenberg. Milton Kestenberg is a New York attorney whose work in challenging refused West German reparations claims by Holocaust survivors who claimed psychological impairment led him to question the reasons for the refusals.

In working on these claims, he found they had been refused because German-authorized psychiatrists contended they could not validate that the stated psychological problems were actually induced by the Holocaust. As Kestenberg questioned survivors about their experiences in order to refile their claims with the German government, the information he gathered made him increasingly aware of the psychological makeup of child survivors and the emotional legacy passed on to their own children.

Dr. Judith Kestenberg, the Riker Study project director, is a psychoanalyst specializing in child development. In 1972, she founded Child Development Research (CDR), a non-profit organization, whose purpose is the prevention of emotional disorders in children. CDR runs a center for parents and children, babies, pregnant women, mothers with babies and/or toddlers up to age four.

"Through these years," she said, "we have learned to communicate with these babies and have taught parents to communicate with them. We invented methods of communicating with children non-verbally before they could speak fluently." CDR therapists work with movement, art and music therapists in order to study non-verbal communication with children.

"It is this experience that gave us a new understanding of how babies think. These observations enabled us to begin to study on a new key how children felt when they were traumatized by the Holocaust," Dr. Kestenberg explained.

Impact Of The Holocaust Minimized Or Ignored

Dr. Kestenberg repeatedly noticed that in therapy, the Holocaust experience was not factored into the behavior of survivors and their children as a contributing element.

Moreover, psychotherapists conceded that they themselves were guilty of minimizing or ignoring altogether the Holocaust as a major contributing factor to mental illness, witnessed by the fact that therapists found it difficult to identify with the impact the Holocaust had on their clients. The result was that the therapist became what one called "a partner to the denial of the impact."

Psychotherapists in America, said Milton Kestenberg, shared the resistance to the Holocaust and its experience with the rest of America. "This was taboo," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, emphasizing that readiness to discuss the Holocaust is only recent. "It was quiet because we (the U.S.) didn't do anything about it."

The guilt was felt not only by America, he said, but by the survivors themselves, for having survived when others did not. This was fueled by a lack of sympathy from people regarding the survivors' Holocaust experiences.

Milton Kestenberg recalled a woman who had been adopted by an American family as a "second daughter" on condition that she never speak about her Holocaust experiences. She kept her promise not to talk about them, he said, "but she never forgot them, either, and their memory constantly gnawed at her. She nurtured these memories inside her and she developed a neurosis."

A Relief To Talk About Experiences

Eva Fogelman, a psychotherapist who is a research associate and Board member of the Riker Study, said that during her work with groups of children of survivors she found some parents who were themselves only children during the Holocaust.

Fogelman said that therapists, in interviewing the child survivors, found that these people had not previously had the opportunity to talk about their experiences. "It's such a great sense of relief to finally share it with somebody and get a chance to talk about it," she said.

A Whole New Field In Psychology

Most people, said Fogelman, don't ask child survivors what they went through during the Holocaust because they feel they don't remember, that children couldn't have a memory of such things. "It's as if they didn't see anything, hear anything, feel anything," Fogelman observed. On the contrary, said Fogelman, "they are completely left with nightmares and the horrors that they experienced."

Fogelman told JTA that child survivors have actually related in the interviews that their parents said to them, "You were too young to remember anything." But in reality, Fogelman said, child survivors, with the guidance of experienced interviewers, have a lot of memory that is pertinent to how children experience trauma. "They have a lot to teach us about how children cope under stressful conditions," she said.

Until now, Fogelman said, there has been no systematic research on the effect of the massive psychic trauma on children as compared to adults. But now, 40 years later, "we are trying to understand from a psychological perspective from people who had different kinds of experiences" what varied reactions arose from experiencing childhood during the unprecedented persecutions of the Holocaust.

"We don't know a lot of this. Today in psychology there is a whole new field on stress

and coping, but even in that literature there's no differentiation between children and adults," Fogelman explained.

She said that during the interviews with child survivors, many of them said they felt they didn't belong anywhere. They felt they did not belong with the second generation because they didn't go through the Holocaust. And they are constantly being told by those who were adults then that they couldn't remember. As a result, child survivors have felt isolated, alienated from a group of people with whom they share a common historical background.

Over and over again in interviews with child survivors, said Fogelman, interviewers were asked, "Am I the only one or do you know any other people I could meet?" Therefore, meetings were set up for child survivors to have an opportunity to meet with each other to share not only their experience of the past, but also how they feel today, as well as their creative responses to coping with losses and trauma.

In these groups, Fogelman explained, the child survivors encounter a sense of family, community, heritage, culture, language -- exactly those things they lost during the Holocaust. There are now child survivor organizations in several major U.S. cities. The first of these groups was begun a year-and-a-half ago in Los Angeles. This past Simchat Torah, the Los Angeles group met and danced with the Torah together. They also celebrate Passover communally.

"These organized meetings," said Fogelman, "are not only self-help kind of groups where people share their feeling, but they have become for many people an extended family, a Jewish community that they feel they didn't belong to, a re-creation of a sense of belonging." Fogelman said that child survivors in these groups have repeatedly said, "This is the first time I feel like I belong somewhere."

WOMAN WHO SHELTERED DUTCH JEWS IN HER HOME DURING WWII RECEIVES YAD VASHEM MEDAL OF THE RIGHTEOUS By Rochelle Saidel

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- A 93-year-old great-great-grandmother received a Yad Vashem Medal of the Righteous here, with four generations of her descendants attending the ceremony at the Israel Consulate. Wilhelmine Asbeek Brusse, who sheltered many Dutch Jews in her home during World War II, was presented with the Yad Vashem certificate and medallion by Moshe Yegar, Consul General of Israel.

One of Asbeek's two daughters, Marian Leisen, had married a Jewish doctor before the war. She was 25 when the Nazis occupied Holland. Dr. Leisen was a leader of the Dutch underground, and the entire Asbeek family was active in the resistance movement. In an act of defiance against the Nazis, Marian and her sister Wilhelmine (later Esther) converted to Judaism in 1941.

Asbeek's underground activities started as early as the beginning of the war in Holland, when she took Jewish refugees into her home. She also performed dangerous tasks outside her home for the resistance movement. She hid not only people but their possessions. After the war, she returned to Jewish friends the valuables she had hidden for them in her attic. Asbeek, whose code name was "Tante Cos" or "Oma," was arrested for

her resistance activities. After escaping from Westerbork Concentration Camp on September 3, 1944, she continued to shelter Jews until liberation in May 1945.

After the war, Asbeek's daughter Esther married Manfred Klafter, one of the Jews her mother had hidden. The couple's adopted son, an orphaned concentration camp survivor, made aliya in 1967. The Klasters followed him and moved to Israel, where Esther died six years ago.

Asbeek now lives in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, as does her daughter, Marian, her granddaughter Daisy Wexler, some of her five great-grandchildren, and some of her six great-great-grandchildren. As all of these generations watched, Asbeek, the only non-Jewish member of the large family, accepted her Yad Vashem medal.

In remarks before the presentation, Consul General Yegar said there were now about 3,000 names of the Righteous registered at Yad Vashem. "These people show it could have been different," he said. Saving Jewish lives under those circumstances "called for a special kind of character. Mrs. Asbeek has such character, and her actions preserved human dignity."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA TREES ARE GROWING IN THE NEGEV WHERE THEY HAVE NEVER GROWN BEFORE By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- Trees are growing in the Negev desert in areas where they have never grown before, thanks to the efforts of Hebrew University Prof. Aharon Yair.

Yair has developed a method of "water harvesting" that allows trees to be grown in areas where there are only four inches of rain a year.

Water harvesting is not new. It was used extensively by the ancient Nabatean people who farmed the Negev 2,000 years ago. They planted their crops in the small areas of soil at the foot of hills using runoff water that they directed through channels from the rocky hill tops.

Yair and his colleagues at the Hebrew University and at the Blaustein Institute of Desert Research at the Ben Gurion University in the Negev found that more water is in fact caught in the middle of slopes, in a "fertile belt," where most of the runoff water from the rocks at the top of the ridge is absorbed and held at depth without evaporating.

The water collected in this belt is equivalent to some 10-12 inches of rainfall, and would suffice to grow trees in areas with only four inches of rain a year.

Four years ago, the Jewish National Fund helped Yair conduct an experimental planting of carob and pine saplings in basin-like furrows he designed in the fertile belt below a rocky ridge near Sde Boker, David Ben Gurion's kibbutz.

The first two years of the experiment were drought years and the runoff was the sparsest in 25 years, yet the saplings developed well without irrigation, and grew as well as trees planted in more northerly and wetter regions.

The JNF is planning to unveil Yair's grove of trees as part of the Ben Gurion centenary celebrations, and is planning to use the technique for growing several thousand trees, including trees of economic value such as olive trees, on hitherto uncultivated slopes in the Negev.

BOMB ON ISRAELI BUS WOUNDS 9 PERSONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- A bomb planted on a bus traveling from Haifa to Jerusalem ripped through the vehicle leaving nine persons wounded Sunday, one of them seriously. The blast occurred at 10 a.m. as the bus made its way past Hadera on the coastal road. The wounded were taken to Hadera Hospital. It was the worst attack on an Israeli bus since six persons were wounded last February when a bomb exploded on a commuter bus in the Tel Aviv suburb of Bnei Brak.

The explosive charge was probably placed on the bus before it left the Haifa central bus depot for its two-hour trip to Jerusalem. The driver, who was himself hurt in the explosion, insisted, however, that he had checked the bus before beginning the trip. The bus had arrived in Haifa from Jerusalem where it began its day's schedule.

Eyewitness reports said the charge seemed to have been placed under the driver's seat. He himself was thrown from his seat by the blast but he managed to guide the vehicle to a relatively smooth standstill without crashing into the highway dividers. There were 52 passengers on the bus.

ISRAEL DENIES ROLE IN OR KNOWLEDGE OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM U.S.-IRAN ARMS DEAL TO SWISS BANK ACCOUNT MAINTAINED FOR NICARAGUAN CONTRAS

By David Landau, Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Israel flatly denied Sunday that it had any role in or knowledge of the transfer of funds from the U.S.-Iran arms deal to a Swiss bank account maintained for the Nicaraguan rebels known as Contras.

The statement was in response to allegations in a Senate committee report that funds for the transaction were placed in an "Israeli account" in Switzerland from which it was transferred to another Swiss bank account controlled by retired U.S. Gen. Richard Secord who handled aid to the Contras at a time when Congress banned such aid.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres received over the weekend copies of the report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence which was released in Washington last Thursday.

Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, said in a prepared statement Sunday that the monies from the Iran arms deal were paid "by the Iranian representative directly into the account specified by the Americans and no sum of money transferred by the Iranians remained in Israel's hands or went through Israel or its representatives."

Conflicting Statements

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in an Army Radio interview Sunday, categorically denied that Israel had sent weapons to the Contras. But the newspaper Maariv quoted senior security sources Sunday as saying that after intense lobbying by Lt. Col. Oliver North, a National Security Council (NSC) aide subsequently dismissed, Israel agreed in October 1986 to send a shipment of several hundred Soviet-made rifles to the Contras.

According to Maariv, the shipment was recalled before it reached its destination because the Iran arms deal had been exposed.

Maariv on Friday published what it said was the number of the account at the Credit Suisse bank in Geneva where the U.S. deposited funds from the Iran arms sales for diversion to the Contras.

Maariv claimed that the account, No. IS 386430, was registered under the name "Lake Resources" and served for transferring money to suppliers of various services, including the Israel Defense Ministry. The account was administered by Secord and North, Maariv reported.

Israel's Role To Be Investigated

The immediate reaction here to the report by the Senate Select Committee was that it was lacking in important details because several key American witnesses had refused to testify.

The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee is expected to take up the matter later this week. Committee chairman Abba Eban said over the weekend that the committee would have to investigate all aspects of the Iran arms deal to determine exactly what Israel's role was in the affair.

Israel has maintained from the outset that it acted solely as an intermediary at the specific request of the Reagan Administration to help secure the release of Americans held hostage by pro-Iranian elements in Lebanon.

According to Defense Ministry sources, members of the U.S. National Security Council asked Rabin several times that Israel sell arms to the Contras but Rabin absolutely refused. The Maariv report Sunday quoted senior officials as saying that "Oliver North drove us crazy with requests to supply weapons to the Contras."

A Series Of Requests

The first American request was directed to Rabin when he visited Washington in May 1986 by Col. North, then a member of the NSC. Others were present at the meeting and minutes were taken, Maariv reported. Rabin is reported to have turned down the request a second time when he was in Washington in September 1986. At that time, North made a specific request to transfer captured Soviet weapons to the Contras. Minutes were also taken at that meeting.

Rabin replied that he would not transfer weapons to the Contras but would be willing to consider the transfer to the U.S. of captured Soviet weapons to do with them what they pleased, Maariv reported.

The report went on to say that North claimed the Congressional ban was about to be lifted--which it was in October 1986. He agreed that the transfer to the Contras would be done through him and not directly by Israel.

He noted that Israel was known to possess many Soviet rifles and asked that they be given to him to be sent to the Contras. Rabin asked for payment for the weapons but North pleaded he had no funds.

Sources in Israel stress that North's reply would not have been accepted if Israel knew at the time that North was transferring funds from

the Iranian arms purchases to finance equipment to the Contras. But Israel did not have this knowledge and Rabin and others at the meeting, among them the Prime Minister's adviser on counter-terrorism, Amiram Nir, accepted North's statement. For two weeks North called Nir almost daily to have him urge Rabin to transfer the rifles.

Rabin finally agreed and the rifles were loaded aboard a ship at Eilat. Israel did not accept payment. The ship sailed for a destination determined by North but was recalled to Eilat before reaching its destination, according to the report published in Maariv Sunday.

The Swiss Bank Account

The Maariv report on the Swiss bank account Friday said it played a central role in the first and second phases of the Iran arms affair, beginning in 1985. In the first phase, payments were made via Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi, Iranian mediator Manucher Ghorbanifar, and Israeli arms dealer Yaacov Nimrodi.

About \$1 million were deposited in the account, apparently for 504 TOW anti-tank missiles transferred from Israel to Iran. The Maariv report said it was unclear why this money was received by the Americans. Senior sources here said this and other aspects of the deal's financing remain "unexplained blank spaces."

The matter resurfaced after Washington and Jerusalem decided at the end of December 1985 to halt the deal. But Israel took the initiative to revive it, at the insistence of Nir. He proposed to the Americans that they attempt to exchange Shiite prisoners held by the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) for American hostages.

Resumption Of Contacts With Iran

Following up on this proposal, discussions were conducted in Washington by the then National Security Adviser, Adm. John Poindexter, who prepared a memorandum for the resumption of contacts with Iran for President Reagan. Reagan approved it on January 17, 1986. The memorandum concerned the direct supply of American weapons to Iran with Israel serving only as a point of transshipment and as so-called "special envoys."

Nir's trip with American emissaries to Iran in May 1986 was approved in advance by Shamir, Peres and Rabin after consultations with security officials, Maariv said.

The paper said the TOW missile deal totalled about \$6.9 million of which \$6.7 million was transferred to the Defense Ministry which later paid \$3 million to the U.S. and at least \$500,000 to Ghorbanifar. An additional \$600,000 was paid to "moderate" elements in Iran and \$1 million was transferred to the U.S. Swiss bank account.

The report of the Senate Select Committee said that according to testimony and documents it received, Israel had a strong interest in promoting contacts with Iran and reportedly permitted arms transfers to that country as a means of furthering its interests.

A series of intelligence studies in 1984 and 1985 cited in the committee's report indicated Israel shipped non-U.S. arms to Iran as early as 1982 and Israeli middlemen were used to arrange private deals. According to the report, Poindexter's testimony confirmed the intelligence studies.

The report cited Secretary of State George Shultz's objections. He is quoted as having warned the then National Security Adviser, Robert Mc-

Farlane, that Israel's agenda regarding Iran "is not the same as ours" and that an intelligence relationship with Israel on Iran "could seriously skew our own perception and analysis of the Iranian scene."

RABIN: ISRAEL WON'T RANSOM FOUR HOSTAGES KIDNAPPED BY SHIITES

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin declared Sunday that Israel would have no part in ransoming four hostages--three Americans and an Indian national -- kidnapped by Shiite extremists in Lebanon.

The kidnappers said Sunday the four would be killed unless Israel releases 400 Palestinian prisoners within one week and places them on a Red Cross plane for Damascus.

Rabin said Israel had received no formal demand from any group and that he had learned of the ultimatum from the media. He identified the kidnappers as the Hezbollah, a pro-Iranian Shiite terrorist group in Lebanon. Foreign media reports said the demand was made by a group calling itself the "Islamic Jihad (holy war) for the Liberation of Palestine."

"Israel will not be the international bank of prisoners to which any terror group can apply for a price to be paid for hostages in their possession," Rabin said on an Army Radio interview.

The four hostages, all professors at Beirut University College in west Beirut, are Americans Jesse Turner, Robert Polhill and Alan Steen; and Mithileshwar Singh, a national of India who holds a U.S. resident's permit. They were seized by gunmen on the west Beirut campus a week ago. They are among 26 foreigners missing and believed to have been kidnapped in Lebanon.

Israeli sources said there has been no request from the U.S. for Israel to help obtain the release of the American hostages, nor was any expected. One Israeli official who was not identified noted, "We have a position on principle that there should be no dealing with terrorists."

WARNING SOUNDED THAT MOVES TO MAKE ISRAEL SCAPEGOAT IN IRAN ARMS DEAL CAN LEAD TO WAVE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The chairman of Governor Mario Cuomo's Task Force on Bias-Related Violence warned here Saturday that "moves within the Reagan Administration to make Israel the scapegoat in the Iran arms scandal could result in a wave of anti-Semitism in the United States."

Commissioner Douglas White, head of the New York State Division on Human Rights, spoke at a Conference on Anti-Semitism sponsored by the National Public Affairs Committee of the Workmen's Circle. He said that "by focussing attention on the alleged role played by Israel and Israelis and making Israel the scapegoat, the Reagan Administration has created an environment which divides rather than unites us."

The Commissioner, who is Black, also warned that "racism and anti-Semitism is deeply rooted in the psyche of this nation, and we are having trouble finding the tools to destroy the disease."

He said he was concerned "about racism among some young Jews and anti-Semitism among some young Blacks." He observed: "Presumably enlightened parents have permitted their children to slide into the mire of bigotry."

Other speakers at the conference, Irwin Suall, director of the fact-finding department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and Harold Applebaum, special assistant to the executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, revealed that half of the 209 cases reported to the Human Rights Division in November 1986 were "anti-Jewish in character and ranged from vandalism to physical violence."

They also reported that according to statistics, Blacks rank first and Jews second as victims of bias-related violence in New York State, outside New York City, Nassau and Suffolk counties.

SHAMIR: LIKUD NOT BOUND BY PERES' ADVOCACY OF MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir made it clear at Sunday's Cabinet meeting that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' advocacy of an international conference on Mideast peace does not bind the Likud side of the national unity government. Peres, for his part, made it equally clear that he would not cease this advocacy. And both men indicated that they are not seeking a head-on collision over this issue at this time.

The Cabinet discussion climaxed several days of Labor-Likud tension over the international conference idea, strongly championed by Peres during his recent European trip, and strongly rejected by Shamir and other Likud leaders in public statements implicitly critical of Peres.

Peres, reporting to the Ministers on his trip, maintained that Israel, Egypt and Jordan agree on key points regarding an international conference: that it will not have the power to impose a solution, that it does not replace direct negotiations, and that it will convene only after all parties agree on participants and procedure.

"I am not sure that with such an international forum we can reach peace, but I am pretty sure that without it the peace process will come to an end," Peres said.

Shamir said Israel would be isolated at such a forum. He questioned whether the Arab side in fact agrees to all the conditions indicated by Peres. He said the Foreign Minister had the right to put out feelers but he had no right to say that without an international forum there could be no peace.

In recent public statements, Shamir has pointed up the U.S. Administration's unenthusiastic attitude towards an international peace conference. But Peres maintained at the Cabinet discussion that his views were coordinated with Washington.

Rabin said there was only a 20 percent chance of an international conference getting off the ground -- but Israel ought to support it as the politic stand to take.

SHULTZ REITERATES U.S. POSITION ON USSR IN MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz reiterated on Thursday U.S. opposition to the participation of the Soviet Union in Middle East peace talks as long as it does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Shultz was responding to a question from an Israeli reporter in an interview on the U.S.

Information Agency's "Worldnet" program. He was interviewed here by reporters from Bonn, London, Paris, Tel Aviv and Tokyo.

"Furthermore, I know people in Israel feel strongly and so do people in the United States, and I personally do, that the Soviet record in the treatment of people pursuing their religion inside the Soviet Union is bad and we see now a record on Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union is at an extremely low level," Shultz added.

The Secretary stressed that "attention should be given to those matters as evidence of good intent on the part of the Soviet Union before they take part in something."

Jordan has insisted that it could conduct negotiations with Israel only as part of an international conference or forum in which the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council participate. But two of them, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, do not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Basis For Eligibility

"To truly be eligible to take part, countries involved should have diplomatic relations with both countries, with both Jordan and Israel, or to the extent that some direct negotiations with Syria might at some point occur, both Syria and Israel," Shultz stressed.

But the Secretary reiterated that the basic U.S. position is that the Mideast conflict should be resolved "through direct negotiations between the parties involved," as Israel and Egypt did.

"That basic peace treaty has remained through all of the ups and downs of the situation," Shultz said. "It is there. It is a rock."

Shultz said the next step is direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan which would include "appropriate Palestinians. There have to be Palestinian representatives if you are going to negotiate about something that affects Palestinians so much."

Arms Sales Proposed For Arab Countries

In his "Worldnet" interview, Shultz indicated that the U.S. would propose arms sales for Arab countries, although he did not say which ones. "I think that as you look at the situation in the Middle East and particularly in the (Persian) Gulf, at least I take comfort from the fact that we have been able to help our friends, such as Saudi Arabia, to provide themselves with better equipment and learning how to use that equipment in their self-defense," he said.

It was reported later that the Administration had notified Congress last week that it plans to sell Egypt 40 F-16C and F-16D planes at a cost of \$1.3 billion and 12 F-16 fighters to Bahrain for \$400 million. This is the first time the highly-sophisticated F-16 has been sold to the Persian Gulf emirate.

Meanwhile, the State Department is assessing the results of the recent trip to the Mideast by Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. In visits to Jordan and Egypt, Murphy found continued insistence on an international conference.

The January 30 Bulletin was inadvertently misnumbered. It should have been No. 20, not 19.

JEWISH WOMEN IN MOSCOW ORGANIZE TO FIGHT FOR THE RELEASE OF POCs

LONDON, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- For Jews in the West to fight for the release of Prisoners of Conscience and the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate is natural. For a group of Jewish women in Moscow to take a lead in doing this is remarkable.

Such a group exists -- "Jewish Women Against Refusal." They are refuseniks and the wives of refuseniks, many of them trying for more than a decade to obtain exit visas, reports Martin Gilbert, a prominent British historian who is the biographer of Winston Churchill.

Their husbands are among the leaders in the struggle for emigration rights, and, as a result, they and their families have suffered isolation and hardships. But two years ago they began to take action, in the Jewish tradition of self-help, which in Russia dates back to the time of the Czarist pogroms.

Twenty-three refusenik wives in Moscow and Leningrad sent a letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev shortly after he took office on behalf of Anatoly Shcharansky, then serving a 10-year sentence in Soviet prisons and labor camps. When Shcharansky was finally released in February 1986, they took up the cudgels on behalf of Dr. Iosif Begun, who has completed more than two-thirds of a 12-year prison sentence. His wife, Inna, has not been allowed to visit him for over a year.

"Jewish Woman Against Refusal" has written to the International Red Cross in Geneva asking that food and clothing be sent to the prisoners and that the world be kept informed of the state of their health and "that they are being humanely treated," Gilbert reported.

'We Have Sat Here Enough'

One of the signatories, Elena Dubianskaya, has been waiting nearly 10 years for an exit permit. Another is Ida Taratuta of Leningrad who, with her husband, Aba, and son, Misha, have been regularly refused exit visas since 1974.

Gilbert said that when asked why the women have organized now, one of them, Oksana Kholmiansky, replied, "We have sat here enough." Kholmiansky, her husband, Michael, their son, Maxim, and her brother-in-law, Alexander, are 10-year refuseniks.

Alexander, an "unofficial" Hebrew teacher, recently completed an 18-month sentence at a labor camp.

Two years ago, the personal intervention of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher helped two refusenik wives, Evgenia Utevskeya and Polina Gorodetsky, to emigrate. Both are living with their families in Jerusalem.

Thatcher will visit Moscow this spring. It is hoped that she will intervene again, successfully, for these refusenik wives, Gilbert said.

WEST EUROPEAN JEWISH LEADERS TO MEET WITH HIGH-RANKING CATHOLIC DELEGATION ON CATHOLIC CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- West European Jewish leaders are due to meet this month with a high-ranking Catholic delegation to try to find a compromise solution to the future of the Car-

melite convent erected on the site of the Auschwitz death camp. The meeting, which will be held in Geneva, is to be attended by four Cardinals: Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, who heads the Crocow Diocese; Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris; the Archbishop of Belgium; and the Cardinal of Lyon who nominally heads the French Catholic Church. It will be the second such meeting since last summer.

Jewish communities in Western Europe, and particularly in Belgium and France, are protesting against the very presence of the convent on the site where more than three million Jews were murdered. The Catholic Church, on the other hand, claims that the presence of the convent and the prayers of the dozen Catholic nuns who live there should be seen as an act of penitence for World War II crimes.

A three-man French Jewish delegation left Paris for Poland at the invitation of Macharski, whose See covers the Auschwitz camp site. Macharski also attended the first Geneva conference on this subject and two weeks ago visited Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

The delegation consists of French Chief Rabbi Rene Samuel Sirat; Prof. Adi Steg, president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle; and B'nai B'rith representative Sam Hoffenberg.

Stefan Grayek, the president of the World Federation of Jewish Resistance Fighters and Deportees, Sunday condemned the visit and the forthcoming Geneva meeting. Grayek, who returned last week from Warsaw, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency "There should be no talks with the Catholic Church to seek a compromise solution on this question. The only solution is for the convent to close down and for the Church to respect Auschwitz as the site where three-quarters of the victims were Jewish and where the Nazis murdered over three million Jews."

Grayek said that any talks with Catholic representatives only tend to encourage the Vatican to believe that a solution can be found which would ensure the continued presence of the convent at the Auschwitz camp site. Grayek said that a Catholic chapel has recently been opened at the site of the former Sobibor camp where only Jews were put to death.

JOHANNESBURG MAYOR VISITS ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Mayor Harold Rudolph of Johannesburg arrived in Israel last Thursday on what the Tourism Ministry hoped would be a secret visit. But his visit became a public affair when the municipal council of Rishon LeZion issued a press release about his visit to that city in which a number of new immigrants from South Africa have settled. Rudolph, who is Jewish, is active in Jewish Federation activities in his city.

According to Maariv, which first published the story of Rudolph's visit, the Tourism Ministry tried to persuade newspapers not to publish news of the South African's visit in view of the tense situation surrounding relations between Israel and South Africa over apartheid and in view of the U.S. threats to restrict aid to countries not joining in the policy of sanctions adopted by the U.S. and Western European countries. Israel is the recipient of \$1.8 billion a year in U.S. military aid and cannot afford either to alienate Congress or embarrass the Administration.

**ISRAEL CONCERNED THAT IRAQI AIR FORCE
WILL POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO ISRAEL
ONCE THE WAR WITH IRAN IS CONCLUDED****By David Landau**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Israel is increasingly concerned that the battle-hardened Iraqi air force will pose a serious threat once Iraq's war with Iran is ended.

Israel Air Force Commander Gen. Amos Lapidot told a group of foreign military attaches Tuesday that Iraqi pilots are currently flying "hundreds of sorties per day." He said Israeli and outside observers have discerned a significant improvement in the quality of Iraqi air power.

Their planes attack at much lower levels than before and their bombing and ground support is more accurate, he said. Though some outside observers maintain that foreign, mainly Pakistani, pilots are flying for Iraq, there is no confirmation of such reports.

Lapidot said the improved capabilities of the Iraqi air force would enable it to fly sorties against Israel in a future war from Iraqi territory without the need for bases in Jordan or Syria.

The Iran-Iraq war is now in its seventh year. While Iran, with much greater manpower, appears at the moment to have the edge on the ground, Iraqi air power is considered superior to Iran's by most experts here and abroad.

According to foreign sources, however, the advanced anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons sold to Iran covertly by the U.S. and Israel, has been able to blunt Iraq's superior air force and armor.

Peres Defends U.S.-Iran Arms Deal

Meanwhile, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres strongly defended Israel's role in the U.S.-Iran arms deal, at a press conference in Jerusalem Tuesday. He maintained that it was less of an arms deal than mutual probing for "pragmatist" elements in Iran who might one day succeed the aging Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, an avowed enemy of Israel and the West.

It was "a window of opportunity," Peres said, adding that there was nothing wrong with exploring the possibility of a more friendly Iran in the future.

Peres also insisted that the value of arms shipped to Iran in 1985 did not exceed \$5 million to \$6 million, a drop in the bucket compared to the \$400 billion Iran has spent in its war with Iraq over the last six years.

Peres reiterated that Israel agreed to facilitate the American arms shipments to help secure the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian elements in Lebanon.

Peres leaves for Europe Wednesday for meetings with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, President Francois Mitterrand of France and with the Foreign Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) in Brussels.

At his briefing for foreign military attaches, Lapidot also spoke of the potential menace of the Syrian air force which is expected soon to absorb Soviet MIG-29 combat aircraft. He said Israel is studying the capabilities of the MIG-29s in order to develop counter-measures. He said Syria's anti-aircraft defenses have not limited Israel's freedom

of movement in the skies over Lebanon, but the Israel Air Force now has to be "more careful than in the past."

IDF PATROL KILLS THREE TERRORISTS**By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force patrol killed three terrorists Monday night near Markabe village in the central sector of the south Lebanon security zone. According to a military spokesman, the terrorists were encountered about a mile from Kibbutz Manara in Upper Galilee where they apparently intended to infiltrate across the border into Israel.

The incident brought to seven the number of terrorists killed in the past 24 hours. Four were killed Sunday night in a clash with the IDF just north of the security zone.

IDF sources told Israel Radio Tuesday that the latest interception probably averted a "major incident," as the terrorists were heavily armed. Kalachnikov rifles, revolvers, hand grenades, rockets and a quantity of explosives were discovered near their bodies.

During the past 10 weeks, the IDF killed 12 terrorists in the security zone or just north of it. All apparently were attempting to infiltrate into Israel.

**RABIN ORDERS INVESTIGATION
INTO POSSIBLE MISUSE OF FIREARMS
BY JEWISH WEST BANK SETTLERS****By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered an immediate investigation Tuesday into the alleged misuse of firearms by Jewish settlers in the West Bank. His order followed a briefing he was given about an incident Monday evening in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus.

According to reports, Jewish settlers driving to prayers at Joseph's Tomb on the outskirts of the city were stoned by Arabs. The settlers gave chase, entered the refugee camp and fired three shots into the air. Security forces rushed to the scene and demanded that the settlers leave. Rabin said he wants a thorough investigation to determine whether the settlers used firearms according to regulations.

The Defense Minister also spent Tuesday morning in Nablus meeting with heads of Arab universities in the West Bank to discuss the increasing incidence of student violence. While he was touring Nablus, a stone was thrown at Rabin's convoy. The assailant was caught and held for questioning.

Stresses Non-Interference Policy

During his meeting with Hafez Toukan, the Israel-appointed Mayor of Nablus, and the headmasters of five universities, Rabin stressed that Israel does not want to interfere in academic affairs but that he would not permit the campuses to become centers of unrest for the entire area. According to Rabin, the universities have replaced the refugee camps as the main source of disorder in the West Bank during the past five months.

Two students were fatally shot by Israeli soldiers during a riot at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah on December 4. A-Najah University in Nablus has been shut down periodically because of student violence. It was ordered closed again Monday for four days in anticipation of violent demonstrations said to be planned by students.

Hikmat al-Masri, chairman of the university's board, complained that A-Najah was the target of discrimination because Bir Zeit has been allowed to remain open. Rabin explained that the latest closure order was a preventive measure.

He said at a press conference later that it was not necessary to wait until violence breaks out before taking measures to avoid it. Rabin also maintained that there was no political significance in the fact that a ranking Cabinet Minister held meetings with Palestinians in the West Bank.

He said there is no independent political leadership in the territories at present willing to enter into negotiations because they fear terrorist reprisals by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

SOVIET DECISIONS ON TWO CANCER PATIENT REFUSENIKS By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- The Soviets have made disparate decisions on two critically ill refusenik cancer patients who have been struggling for many years to leave the Soviet Union for treatment and reunification with family in the West.

Inna Meiman, 54, of Moscow arrived Sunday in Washington, D.C., to undergo evaluation and treatment of a recurrent neck tumor. Meiman arrived at Dulles Airport accompanied only by a nurse provided by the American Embassy in Moscow. The Soviets would not allow her husband, Naum, 75 and ailing, to accompany her, and would only grant Inna a temporary visa for one year's stay. Naum is an 11-year refusenik and human rights activist.

However, Leah Maryasin, a 16-year refusenik from Riga who suffers from multiple myeloma, received an exit visa Monday, along with her husband, Alexander, and daughter, Faina. The 61-year-old woman is expected to join her sister and brother-in-law, Mara and Eugene Katz, in Toronto in two weeks, according to B'nai B'rith Canada.

Meiman, describing her own prognosis as "very grim," told the crowded press conference convened by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, "I haven't come to America to die; I have come to recover and to help others to get out of the Soviet Union."

Left USSR With Mixed Emotions

Admitting that she had left the USSR, and her husband, with mixed emotions, Meiman said she was "delighted" to help others to leave and to prove "We are not slaves but people with rights," yet dismayed that her husband, her son and his family were not permitted to join her. "My arriving alone shows how bad things are in the Soviet Union. People are just desperate. If I had been allowed to come three years ago, my chances would be better."

The arrival of Meiman, and the expected release of Maryasin, brings to four of a group of five the number of cancer patient refuseniks who have received visas since October.

The other two are Tanya Bogomolny, who now lives in San Francisco with her husband,

Benjamin, who as a 20-year refusenik made the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest refusenik on record; and Rimma Bravve, who arrived in Rochester, NY, in December with her husband Vladimir after waiting nearly eight years to emigrate.

The remaining member of the International Cancer Patients Solidarity Committee is Benjamin Charny of Moscow. Charny suffers from severe cardiac problems as well as several forms of cancer, and has been unable to receive cancer surgery because of his cardiac condition.

Heartened By The News

Leon Charny, Benjamin's brother, said he was heartened by the news that Maryasin had been given a visa and saw a good omen in it for his brother's chance to join him in the Boston suburb where he lives.

Leon Charny told JTA that "any positive development should be positively acknowledged. I am very happy for the Maryasins and happy for Inna that she has a new chance for treatment. But of course, I am especially anxious to see the same happening for my brother's family. And frankly, I am hopeful that Inna's family will be able to join her too."

PRAVDA EDITOR CRITICIZES SOVIET EMIGRATION FOOT-DRAGGING By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- A rare public remark by an editor of an official Soviet newspaper, chastising bureaucratic foul-ups in the emigration process, casts a ray of hope for Soviet Jews awaiting exit visas.

According to press reports from Moscow, Pravda editor-in-chief Viktor Afanasyev has criticized Soviet emigration policy by saying that delays in the processing of exit visas were creating negative publicity for the Soviet Union in the West.

Afanasyev's remarks in the official Communist Party newspaper are seen as another instance of "glasnost," the campaign of public openness put into effect by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in an alleged attempt to make a change in social and economic problems facing the Soviet Union and causing negative publicity in the West.

Afanasyev's comments were made Monday in a report on his recent visit to Canada, where he said the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration was raised in a "sharp" discussion of human rights with about 20 Canadian Parliament members.

'All Is Not Right Here'

"It seems to us that all is not right here," wrote Afanasyev in Pravda. Afanasyev, who is a member of the Communist Party Central Committee and holds other official positions in addition to his editorial position, remarked that "Bureaucratic behavior has penetrated here as well. Questions are not always resolved smoothly and quickly."

Afanasyev said, "We are dragging out, dragging out decisions about the departure of a dissident." Although refraining from specific mention of any dissident, he nevertheless said that people wishing to leave the Soviet Union acquired "hero status" in the West as their requests for emigration visas were prolonged. "Having thoughts about it for a long time, sometimes too long," Afanasyev

said, "we release this 'great person' and provide an occasion for the next round of anti-Soviet campaigning."

O'CONNOR AND JEWISH LEADERS MAKE UP **By Margie Olster**

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders and Catholic Archbishop of New York John Cardinal O'Connor have closed another stormy chapter in the book of Vatican relations with Israel in a lengthy exchange on controversial issues Monday.

The controversy that began before O'Connor even set foot in Israel for the first time earlier this month was not the first eruption between O'Connor and the Jews over Middle East politics. Last summer he disturbed Jewish leadership by calling for a Palestinian homeland after visiting Lebanon.

The Vatican's continued refusal to recognize Israel diplomatically and to accept Jerusalem as Israel's capital will most likely prevent the events of the past month from being the final chapter in that book.

Cautiously-Worded Statement

Although a cautiously-worded joint statement issued Monday by O'Connor and eight leaders of major Jewish organizations, following a three-hour meeting at the Cardinal's home, dealt little with the issues, Nathan Perlmutter, director of Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said "not an issue was avoided."

Nevertheless, the joint statement highlighted agreements, not disagreements.

"The meeting underscored the fundamental agreement of both the Cardinal and Jewish representatives on Israel's right to secure and recognized boundaries, on the importance of addressing the Palestinian problem and the plight of the refugees as well as the need to move toward peace in the region," the statement said.

The statement also noted that the Jewish leaders recognized the restraints placed upon O'Connor by Vatican policy and expressed appreciation for his apology over cancelled meetings with some Israeli leaders. O'Connor did, however, meet with President Chaim Herzog and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in their homes.

"The Jewish leaders regard the Cardinal's visit as a helpful contribution toward greater understanding between the two communities," the statement said.

The Jewish leaders explained that they were concerned over O'Connor's calls for Palestinian self-determination and over a statement about the Holocaust which struck a raw nerve among many Jews.

O'Connor Elaborates On His Statements

O'Connor elaborated on the context of some of his statements in trying to explain clearly his intended meaning, Perlmutter said. For example, O'Connor told the leaders that there was a widely reported statement by him concerning Palestinian self-determination delivered in a church in Jordan. What was not widely reported, O'Connor said, was that he followed up this call by stressing the importance of any kind of solution not endangering Israel's security in any way, Perlmutter said. O'Connor also elaborated on his intended meaning in his statement upon visiting Yad Vashem in Jerusalem that the Holocaust was "an enormous gift that Judaism has given the world." O'Connor had explained earlier that suffering in

Catholic theology brings people closer to the Almighty.

Perlmutter also said O'Connor told the Jewish leaders that he would have preferred for them to draw their conclusions about his trip after first discussing it with him instead of from newspaper reports. He was referring to a critical statement issued by 53 Jewish organizations on his trip before he even returned to New York. The ADL was not a signatory on that statement.

O'Connor cancelled a scheduled press conference Friday to meet with the Jewish leaders before issuing any public statements.

Jewish leaders attending Monday's meeting were: Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, president of the New York Board of Rabbis; Theodore Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress; Rabbi Henry Michelman, executive vice president, Synagogue Council of America; Lester Pollack, president, New York Jewish Community Relations Council; Rabbi James Rudin, director of interreligious affairs, American Jewish Committee; Rabbi Ronald B. Sobel, Temple Emanu-El.

"Both parties wanted to put the differences behind," Perlmutter said. "The Cardinal is not the Vatican and American Jews are not the Israeli Cabinet. The importance of what took place yesterday (Monday) was to put Catholic-Jewish relations back on the track," he said.

There was a danger that the concern exclusively with the Vatican's recognition of Israel would overshadow other important issues of Catholic-Jewish relations, Perlmutter said. He said he would like to see the focus return to issues of curriculum in schools, teaching non-Jews about Jews, and cleaning up hundreds of years of anti-Semitic literature and teachings.

WAITE BLAMES ISRAEL FOR THE HOSTAGE SITUATION

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Terry Waite, personal assistant to the Archbishop of Canterbury who is in Beirut trying to negotiate the release of hostages, appeared Tuesday to lay blame for the hostage situation squarely on Israel's doorstep.

Speaking in an interview from Beirut with NBC-TV's "Today Show," Anglican Church envoy Waite alleged that the Middle East policies of the United States and Israel either caused, exacerbated or prolonged the situation of Palestinian refugees that were the root cause of the hostage-taking dilemma.

Then, zooming in more specifically on Israel, Waite said that "this Jewish nation" was often "excessively hypersensitive" to criticism of the Palestinian situation, and that Israel failed to be adequately sensitive to the needs of the Palestinians.

Waite expressed surprise that a nation of people who had themselves suffered oppression and persecution should be inured to the suffering of the Palestinian refugees in camps in the occupied territories.

Panning a backdrop of footage of Palestinians picking their way amidst the rubble of an indeterminate refugee camp, NBC interviewed Waite, speaking from another location, who said that until the problem of the Palestinians was solved, the world could expect further instances of hostage-taking and terrorism.

DISMAY EXPRESSED OVER ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTRY'S TRAVEL BAN

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Three prominent American Jews have expressed dismay over the Israeli Defense Ministry's decision last week not to issue travel passes to two leading Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to attend an international symposium on the Middle East at the San Diego State University.

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, vice president of the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Rita Hauser, former U.S. delegate to the United Nations, and Stephen Shalom, said in a joint statement that the decision not to allow former Hebron Mayor Mustapha Abd A-Nabi Natshe and Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu-Rahme to join them in high level meetings to explore ways to move the Mideast peace process forward harms the cause of peace and damages Israel's image as a serious seeker of peace.

They noted that, ironically, Abu-Rahme is one of two Palestinians who was approved by the Israeli government as a potential Palestinian representative in peace talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. "If he was acceptable then, why is he a security risk now," the three asked.

Israeli security sources said the two Palestinians were denied travel permits because there was a concern they would use the occasion to meet with hostile elements, but did not elaborate.

'A Political Not A Security Act'

"Denying travel permits to these Palestinians because of 'hostile elements' with whom they might meet does not seem to constitute sufficient ground for such action," the joint statement said. "Barring Palestinians known for their moderate voice from participating in a constructive dialogue appears to be a political and not a security act."

The San Diego conference, which had been scheduled to take place January 19-23, has been postponed, as all participants, including the Israelis, felt that Palestinian participation from the West Bank and Gaza Strip was essential to such discussions, Hertzberg, Shalom and Hauser noted. They expressed the hope that the Defense Ministry's decision "would be reversed and that it would not constitute a precedent for future actions."

Natshe and Abu-Rahme were to have been part of a large Israeli delegation. The invitees included Knesset members Abba Eban, David Libai and Shulamit Aloni; Prof. Shimon Shamir, a leading expert on Mideast affairs; Hanna Seniora, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic daily El-Fajer; Hatem Abu-Ghazale, a Palestinian educator from Gaza; and Dr. Sare Nusseibeh of Bir Zeit University in the West Bank. The latter three Palestinians were apparently not subject to the Defense Ministry's travel ban.

Other scheduled participants in the conference were former U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis; former Assistant Undersecretary of State Harold Saunders; former Israeli Justice Minister Haim Zadok; Israeli writer and journalist Amos Elon; a number of American Palestinians; and six leading Egyptians, some of whom are currently in the government.

The conference was to have been hosted by the Fred Hansen Institute for World Peace. The Institute, established at the San Diego State University in 1979, has been a major initiator and sponsor of joint Israeli-Egyptian collaborative

ventures in the fields of oceanography, marine biology and arid lands agriculture.

UIA GETS \$25 MILLION REFUGEE SETTLEMENT GRANT FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT; \$125,000 ALLOCATED TO ETHIOPIAN OLIM

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- The United Israel Appeal has received a U.S. government refugee resettlement grant of \$25 million for 1987. This grant, the latest to UIA since 1973, was again initiated by Congress and is twice the amount provided in 1986. The announcement was made by H. Irwin Levy, chairman of UIA's U.S. Government Relations Committee, at the organization's recent Board of Directors meeting in New York City.

Henry Taub, UIA's chairman, stated that thus far UIA has received 12 refugee resettlement grants totaling \$310.077 million to assist in the absorption of refugees in Israel.

The grants, which are supported in both Houses of Congress and in the State Department and the White House, reflect the U.S. government's desire to link its support of refugee resettlement in Israel directly to the philanthropic support of Israel by the American Jewish community, Taub said.

He said that during the same period the grants were made, some \$4 billion was given to Israel by American Jews to assist the country with these immigration and absorption programs.

Taub called the grant program "one of the most successful such programs ever funded by the U.S. government." He pointed out that in recent years the absorption of Ethiopian Jews has been much more costly than the absorption of any other group thus far, thus justifying the need for additional financial support.

Allocation Of The Grant Funds

Levy said that the 1987 grant funds will be used for refugee resettlement, as follows: en route care and maintenance; transportation; maintenance at absorption centers; hostels and ulpanim; maintenance at youth aliya institutions; financial assistance to the needy or handicapped; maintenance and financial assistance for students and for vocational training; maintenance at homes for the elderly; construction and/or acquisition of apartments.

Irving Kessler, UIA's executive vice chairman, indicated that \$125,000 of grant funds will be allocated for the support of a grassroots organization of Ethiopian immigrants in Israel.

He noted that the organization's members and leaders, drawn entirely from the Ethiopian community in Israel, will strive to develop a sense of pride and achievement in the community, to assist with and further informal education among its membership, and to introduce Ethiopian Jewish culture to Israeli society-at-large.

Kessler said that the organization of Ethiopian immigrants operates with a small professional staff, as well as with volunteers, in Safed, Carmiel, Upper Nazareth, Maalot, Kiryat Shmona and Afula, all localities with large concentrations of Ethiopian immigrants.

He stated that UIA's special allocation will be used for organizational infrastructure and manpower needs, an Amharic-English-Hebrew newsletter, a speakers' bureau, a music-dance-drama performing troupe, a handicrafts project, and an interest-free loan fund.

NEAR EAST REPORT

WASHINGTON WEEKLY ON AMERICAN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

VOL. XXXI, NO. 4 JANUARY 26, 1987

EDITORIAL

A Routine Massacre

The story apparently was a one-day wonder, and late at that. On Jan. 13 the *Washington Post* printed a detailed account from Tripoli, Lebanon, of a massacre of Sunni Moslem fundamentalists by pro-Syrian leftists. More than 200 fundamentalists, relatives and friends died—nearly all shot in the head—after “fighters” from the Arab Democratic, Lebanese Communist, Ba’ath and National Syrian Social parties cordoned off their neighborhood on the night of Dec. 19–20 and, under the direction of Syrian intelligence, began calling names for murder.

The *Post* story carried no byline, perhaps to protect the reporter from reprisals by the Syrians or their allies. Damascus and its surrogates, accustomed to manipulating Western news media, probably did not care to publicize this particular action outside of Lebanon.

However, highlighting the example of Tripoli *inside* the country might suit Syria fine. According to the paper, Tawheed fundamentalists, also known as the Islamic Unification Movement, staged a crackdown in the city in 1984, dynamiting stores selling alcohol, beauty shops with male hairdressers and other bastions in the cultural holy war. They also killed at least 50 Lebanese communists and drove others out of the city. In addition, Lebanese Sunnis generally have shown themselves sympathetic to the mostly-Sunni Palestinians and to Yasir Arafat’s PLO, which Syria has sought to dominate.

On Dec. 18 Syrian soldiers, reportedly concerned about a possible new attempt by Tripoli fundamentalists to reassert their authority, arrested one of their leaders. Tawheed re-

sponded by killing 15 Syrians. Within hours, the poor Sunni neighborhood of Tabbaneh was surrounded and Damascus began conducting another of its trademarked exercises in political persuasion.

Lately, Syrian influence in Lebanon has been called into question, and not only by Islamic fundamentalists. The PLO continues to reestablish itself in spite of attacks from Syrian-backed Shi’ite Amal militiamen. Lebanese Christians are encouraged by President Amin Gemayel’s refusal, so far at least, to endorse made-in-Damascus “peace” plans and feel strong enough to assist their former PLO enemies against Amal. Even the Shi’ite Hezbollah, backed by Iran but complementing Syria’s anti-Israel policies in southern Lebanon, reportedly leans toward the PLO. Crushing Tawheed—of itself important to Syria—no doubt was meant as a reminder to the others.

There were no follow-up articles or editorials in the *Post* and there appears to have been little or no coverage of the Tripoli slaughter by other media.

That is unfortunate, because—like the 1982 Hama massacre, of which it is a faint echo—the events in Tripoli reveal much about Syria, its Lebanese allies and their fundamentalist opponents. They demonstrate once again how dangerous is the neighborhood in which Israel dwells and, by extension, they confirm some of Israel’s darkest fears.

Treatment of the Tripoli story spotlights the news media’s continuing Middle East double standard. By undercoverage, the media tacitly grant Arab radicals the benefit of the doubt. Through obsessive coverage, they imply that Israel is the problem. □

VIEWING THE NEWS

Meeting ‘Certain’

An Egyptian magazine reported “it is almost certain that Jordan’s King Hussein and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir Arafat will meet during the Islamic summit schedule for Kuwait” this week (*Al-Musawwar*, Jan. 14). The two will “discuss the revival of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee in charge of support for Palestinian steadfastness in the occupied territories” and the question of Jordanian-Palestinian diplomatic cooperation.

Plan Approved

After a marathon evening session, Israel’s Cabinet approved the 1987 budget

which includes “devaluation of 10% [the shekel will now be 1.64 to the dollar], an increase in the price of a number of subsidized goods, and the postponement of payment of part of the cost of living allowances” (*Kol Yisrael*, Jan. 13). To win support for the compromise plan from the Histadrut trade unions, the Cabinet “abandoned the idea of canceling a number of tax exemptions,” approved some income tax rate reductions and added a 10% surtax on monthly incomes of 9,000 shekels or more.

In addition, fiscal 1987 “will be the first year in almost a decade that military spending will not be cut” (*Jerusalem Post*, Jan. 14). However, the Defense Ministry wanted a 400-million-shekel increase, with 150 million shekels the “essential minimum. . . .”

Criticizing Murphy

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy’s recent trip to Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia “to demonstrate . . . ‘political activity’ calls to mind the activities of Gunnar Jarring [special U.N. Middle East envoy in the late 1960’s] in the distant past and of Philip Habib in the nearer past and all their ‘optimistic assessments’ that were always completely unfounded” (*Ma’ariv*, Jan. 14).

The commentary asked whether “Washington does not realize that nothing has changed and that it is impossible to pull the so-called ‘political process’ out of the mire as long as there is an effort to force Israel to cooperate with the PLO to that end.” □

OP-ED

Malaysia Chooses Anti-Semitism

Under Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, the government of Malaysia has adopted an increasingly anti-Israel, anti-Semitic policy. This first came to the attention of many Americans in 1984 when Malaysia refused to allow the visiting New York Philharmonic to play the "Hebrew Rhapsody" by Ernest Bloch.

Two years later an even blunter episode of official anti-Semitism occurred. In late September, 1986 two *Asian Wall Street Journal* reporters were expelled from the country. In a statement released by the official Malaysian News Agency, Mahathir claimed that "the well-known media organizations are controlled by the Jews, either as owners or as holders of key posts, including editors and journalists who are mostly citizens of Western countries."

The Prime Minister also denounced publications such as the "Zionist-controlled" *Asian Wall Street Journal* because, he said, they are trying to destabilize the Malaysian government. Ironically, Mahathir failed to mention that 7% of the *Asian Wall Street Journal* is owned by the Kuala Lumpur *New Strait Times*, which is controlled by his own political party.

When Israel's President, Chaim Herzog, toured the South Pacific and South East Asia in November 1986, Malaysia brought intense pressure to bear on Singapore to cancel President Herzog's visit.

The Malaysian government termed Herzog's visit to Singapore provocative and threatened to review its relations with the city-state. While the Israeli President was in Singapore, demonstrators outside the Singaporean High Commission in Kuala Lumpur burned effigies of Herzog

and Singapore's Prime Minister, Lee Quan Yew. Some Malaysian demonstrators called on their government to expel Singapore from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). While the Malaysian government has not taken up this suggestion, it did recall its High Commissioner from Singapore for the duration of the visit.

Michael Leifer, a faculty member at the London School of Economics, commented in the Oct. 9 issue of the *International Herald Tribune* that Malaysia has adopted an anti-Zionist, anti-Semitic stance as a diversion from its acute economic problems and the Islamic fundamentalist challenge posed by the opposition Pan-Malayan Islamic Party (PAS). The two *Asian Wall Street Journal* reporters had been expelled after their paper printed a number of articles revealing financial scandals involving high-ranking government officials.

To counter the threat of Islamic fundamentalism, Leifer noted that the Malaysian government had resorted to vitriolic attacks against Israel. Speaking at the conference of nations professing non-alignment in Zimbabwe earlier in 1986, Mahathir had asserted that "the expulsion of Jews from the Holy Land some 2,000 years ago and the Nazi oppression of Jews have taught them nothing. If at all, it has transformed the Jews into the very monsters that they condemn so roundly in their propaganda materials. They have been apt pupils of Dr. Goebbels."

As Leifer noted, "The introduction of [Nazi propagandist] Goebbels into Mahathir's polemic was more than unfortunate, coming shortly after the massacre of worshippers in an Istanbul synagogue. It

suggests a pathological view of Malaysia's alleged detractors and enemies that goes beyond support for the Palestinian cause and the need to counter Islamic fundamentalism at home."

Prime Minister Mahathir has alleged that Malaysian writers who support opposition parties such as PAS are assisted by Jewish-owned publications with the aim of destabilizing the Malaysian government. This is particularly ironic in light of the *New York Times* report, on Dec. 7, on the "Anti-Jews Day" speech by a PAS youth leader who claimed "that our determination is to destroy the Jews. . . ." Such statements highlight the Islamic radicalism which has swept across Malaysia.

Although PAS won only one seat in the August 1986 election, Islamic radicalism remains strong on Malaysian campuses. It has led to rioting in the state of Kedah in December 1985 and the downfall of a non-Moslem state government.

When Mahathir departed for New York last October to seek desperately-needed investments for his country and to attend the U.N. General Assembly, the *Asian Wall Street Journal* editorialized that "it seems timely to review the kinds of policies which keep such countries as Malaysia needlessly poor." But in view of the virulently anti-Semitic rhetoric emanating from both Malaysia's government and opposition leaders, a review of the political rationality of these figures might be more appropriate.

—Stephen Kenmar

Stephen Kenmar, former executive committee member of the Australian Union of Jewish Students, is an American Israel Public Affairs Committee intern. □

HEARD IN WASHINGTON

Banner Year for International Terrorists

Terrorist acts committed by Palestinian Arabs increased 200% in 1985, according to *Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1985*, a State Department report dated October 1986 but not released until Jan. 17. In general, the study showed that international terrorism jumped 30% from 1984 to 1985 and took many more American victims—38 killed, 157 wounded.

Iran, Syria and Libya again were singled out as states playing key roles in promoting international terrorism, the latter two

sometimes subcontracting to Abu Nidal. The study defined terrorism as "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine state agents, usually intended to influence an audience." International terrorism involves "citizens or territory of more than one country."

"International terrorists had a banner year in 1985," the report noted. They carried out more attacks, 782, killed more than

800 people, and wounded more than 1,200. These were the highest totals since the decade began. One incident—the midair explosion of an Air India plane, presumably by Sikh extremists—killed 329 people.

As security improved at government and military installations, terrorists turned to businesses and more accessible public targets. In doing so they "counted among their victims a record number of innocent bystanders. . . ."

(Continued)

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Eric Rozenman, Editor Jeff Rubin, Assistant Editor

Abby J. Stavitsky, Associate Editor Esther Chesney, Assistant I. L. Kenen, Editor Emeritus

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BACKGROUND

The Jaws of the Lion

For months, Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini has vowed to launch "the final offensive" in his six-year-old war with Iraq. On Jan. 9, Khomeini began his most serious campaign to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to date. "Khomeini has sent his troops into the jaws of the lion," said one analyst.

The latest fighting erupted when Iranian troops advanced on Iraqi positions in marshlands to the east of the Shatt al-Arab waterway on Iraq's southern border with Iran. The Iranian campaign threatens Basra, Iraq's second largest city. Western military analysts at first discounted the campaign as yet another Iranian test of Iraq's defenses and gave it little chance of escalating. But as the days wore on, Iran sent thousands of men into the marshlands to gain a foothold on several islands.

On the fourth day of the southern campaign, the Iranians opened a second front northeast of Baghdad which, analysts said, was intended to distract the Iraqis from the southern battle and stretch Iraqi resources. An air war erupted as the two sides pounded each other's cities with surface-to-surface missiles and airstrikes. Among the targets were the Iraqi capital of Baghdad and Iran's holy city of Qom, Khomeini's birthplace and the residence of his successor. Meanwhile Western correspondents reported that Iranian artillery were raining shells upon Basra at a rate of one per minute. Thousands of Basra residents fled west toward Baghdad.

Reports from the war zone at presstime indicated that the northern front was quiet. U.S. Defense Department officials confirmed that Iranian troops were within six miles of Basra, but were unable to cross the

Shatt al-Arab waterway on their approach to that city. The city's heaviest fortifications lay ahead. U.S. military officials estimated that 10,000 Iraqis have been killed or wounded, to Iran's 20,000 killed and 20,000 wounded.

Analysts point out that the southern offensive has played to the strengths of Iran. With its three-to-one advantage in troop strength, Iran has employed human-wave tactics against an Iraqi force unwilling and unable to commit large numbers of troops. Furthermore, the swampy terrain of the battlefield has prevented Iraq from taking advantage of its superiority in tanks. "Under these conditions, Iran is bound to make progress," said Prof. Adeed Dawisha of George Mason University. "But should Iraq lose on the dry-land approaches to Basra, using its tanks, it could prove to be a major morale problem for the army and the state."

Dawisha notes that the fall of Basra would make 75% of the country's oil reserves more vulnerable to Iranian attack than ever before. Moreover, it is likely that should Iran conquer the city, Khomeini would install a puppet regime and declare the establishment of an Islamic state in the predominantly Shi'ite southern region of Iraq, patterned after the government in Iran. In fact, Khomeini already has groomed a leader and council of religious figures.

According to Thomas McNaugher of the Brookings Institution, "This will reinvigorate the influence of fundamentalist Islam, which has been suffering setbacks of late. This will not just change Iraqi politics, but will change regional politics as well. What will the Egyptians, Jordanians, Saudis and

Kuwaitis do?"

Dawisha added that regardless of whether Basra remains in Iraqi hands, the destruction of the city has already had a significant impact on the country. "The influx of refugees from Basra into Baghdad will test the fabric of society. This will put pressure on the social and economic infrastructure of the country."

Dawisha contended that no opposition force exists within Iraq to challenge Hussein's leadership. McNaugher believes that as long as the war persists, the country is united in its opposition to Iran. "Saddam's problems will begin when the war ends," he says; "that's when Iraqis will begin to question their leadership."

Analysts said that the Iranian offensive was not linked with the sale of U.S. arms to Iran but was timed to take advantage of the rainy season. McNaugher asserts that U.S. arms and spare parts have had a "marginal" effect on the battle but adds that TOW missiles and spare parts for aircraft have contributed to the Iranian offensive.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz recently condemned the U.S. sale as "an act of aggression" and asserted that it cleared the way for the current Iranian campaign. In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, Aziz said that before the arms sale Iran feared that any move on Basra would be seen by the U.S. as threatening its interests in the Persian Gulf.

While the U.S. is officially neutral on the war, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger told *Washington Post* editors that an Iranian victory "would be a disaster for everyone."

□

—J.R.

HEARD . . . Continued

Palestinian Arab terrorism against what the report termed "Jewish targets inside Israel and the occupied territories skyrocketed to 170 from a total of 50 in 1984. . . . Outside the Middle East, symbolic Jewish targets, such as synagogues and Jewish-owned stores, were attacked 18 times."

Because it classified almost all acts of political violence in the administered territories as international terrorism, the report concluded that more than 220 of the Middle East's 357 such attacks occurred either in Israel or in territory under its control. "Much of the increase was the result of the activity of various Palestinian groups, both inside and outside the PLO, against Israeli and Arab targets—partly in competition with, or opposition to, each other and partly to demonstrate that they still constitute a force to be feared."

Although many incidents on the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) and Gaza Strip involved small-scale incendiary bombings against property, Israeli citizens were killed or wounded in a number of attacks, the report noted. In addition to terrorism by PLO splinter groups, "a pro-Arafat wing of the PLO, Fatah Force 17, also stepped up its activity. . . ." and the PLO "ended its self-imposed ban on violence outside Israel and the occupied territories. . . ."

Further, "radical Palestinians continued to assassinate more moderate Palestinians."

Overall, international terrorism took place in at least 72 countries in 1985 and involved citizens or property of 84 countries. Forty-five percent of the anti-U.S. attacks took place in Latin America, another one-third in Europe. □

Helms Steps Up

Sen. JESSE HELMS (R-N.C.) will be the ranking minority member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Senate Republicans elected Helms by a 24-17 vote over former Foreign Relations Committee chairman RICHARD LUGAR (R-Ind.).

The contest pitted Lugar's desire to continue to lead Republicans on the panel against Helms' seniority. The outcome was attributed to support for the seniority system. Helms, who two years ago chose to follow through on a campaign promise to chair the GOP-run Agriculture Committee, personally preferred the Foreign Relations panel. After Democrats won control of the Senate last November, depriving Helms of the Agriculture chairmanship, he opted to invoke his seniority on Foreign Relations.

BACK PAGE

Not To Go Unsaid

Israel's Embassy in Washington held its 4th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative observance on Jan. 14, drawing approximately 350 people—black and white, young and old, Christian and Jew—for an impressive program. From the opening songs by the Howard University Choir, through the presentation of a videotape documentary on Martin Luther King Day in Israel to Mrs. Coretta Scott King, to remembrances by Arnold Aronson—an organizer of the historic 1963 March on Washington—the commemoration evoked both King's singular mission and his universal message.

Nevertheless, something seemed to be missing. The connection between King and Israel was mentioned—in the tape when Prime Minister, then-Foreign Minister, Yitzhak Shamir noted the slain civil rights leader's support for Israel on the eve of the 1967 Six-Day War, and when Ambassador Meir Rosenne read a message from the current Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, which asserted that King "identified with the history, faith and ideals of the Jewish people" and was "a true heir of the prophetic tradition of the Hebrew Bible. . . ."

It fell to James Farmer, the still-charismatic former leader and founder of CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) to hint at what was left out. After commenting that "at least one-third of the Freedom Riders who packed the Mississippi jails were Jews," Farmer acknowledged that what he called "the alliance of sufferers in the past few years has experienced tension." It will do no good, he added, "for us not to take note of that and to know it is our responsibility—whites, blacks, Jews, Protestants and Catholics—to heal that split . . . so that the body of the movement can live and breathe again."

For most American Jews, Israel inescapably is a central concern. Its health, its security, is a barometer which measures—in the long if not the short run—their own. For most other Americans, including blacks, Israel remains a marginal issue.

Some blacks, especially the more politically active, may be sympathetic to claims by Palestinian Arabs that they are "the blacks of the Middle East." This propaganda device negates the Jews' identification with blacks—based on Jewish memories of their own suffering as a minority in Europe and earlier discrimination here.

King criticized the anti-Israel, anti-Semitic views of the 1960's new left "New Politics" convention in Chicago. But when several nationally-known civil rights leaders turned up in Beirut in 1979 singing "We Shall Overcome" with PLO leader Yasir Arafat, the victory of those new left views in at least some parts of the movement was plain.

At the start of the Democratic Presidential primary campaign in 1984, Rev. Jesse Jackson traveled to Syria to accept the release of a captured American Navy flyer. After a meeting with Syrian dictator Hafez Assad, a man with more than passing responsibility for international terrorism and the endless blood-letting in Lebanon, Jackson announced that the two of them had something in common, the experience of oppression. A segment of the civil rights movement was thereby hijacked on behalf of certain third-world foreign policy attitudes, the ones which go soft on radical dictatorships and chronically find fault with America and its allies—especially Israel.

And the 1984 Jackson campaign gave us Minister Louis Farrakhan as a national figure. In the early days Farrakhan's "Fruit of Islam" bodyguards provided security for candidate Jackson. Later Farrakhan himself served as a warm-up speaker, and soon his venomous anti-Israel, anti-Jewish attacks gained a national audience.

It is sometimes argued that Jews make too much of Farrakhan, that at bottom he is a fringe figure. Demands that responsible blacks leaders disavow him are said to be needless or even offensive. But fringe figure or not, he has drawn applauding audiences of 18,000 to Madison Square Garden, 14,000 to Washington's Convention Center, and so on—something mainstream black or Jewish leaders cannot duplicate.

For all the memorializing, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy has been fragmented. To put the body of the movement together again, as called for by Farmer, blacks and Jews will have to do more than agree to disagree about Israel. On anti-Semitism, on anti-Zionism, on the anti-Israel campaign—parts of one whole—they will need to rediscover King.

—E.R.

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8612(9)1/18*100892(1)
Mr. Max Green
The White House
197 OEB
Washington DC 20500



POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT CRISIS, SOVIET JEWRY WERE SHAMIR'S FOCUS ON LAST TWO DAYS OF U.S. VISIT

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir wound up his official visit to the U.S. Tuesday with summations of the major issues of concern to Israel and world Jewry that engaged him during the past 10 days here, and the possible government crisis facing him when he returns home Wednesday.

His last 48 hours in the country were packed with literally end-to-end meetings with national and local Jewish community leaders, Jewish youth, educators and religious leaders. He addressed himself repeatedly to the subject of Soviet Jews who immigrate to the United States rather than to Israel. And, mainly in response to the persistent questions of reporters, he spoke frankly of the serious rift between himself and Vice Premier/ Foreign Minister Shimon Peres over an international peace conference for the Middle East to which Shamir is adamantly opposed.

He hinted, on more than one occasion, that if not resolved, that issue may well bring down the Labor-Likud unity coalition government.

Busy As Speaker

Shamir spoke before the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations here Monday afternoon. On Monday night he addressed 1,500 young leaders of the New York Jewish community at Hunter College.

He described to both audiences his meetings in Washington last week with President Reagan and other top Administration officials, and spoke in glowing terms of the state of U.S.-Israel relations. It is "great, close and very friendly," Shamir declared.

He disclosed that he told Reagan at their White House meeting that, contrary to some reports, the U.S. has not lost prestige in the Middle East and is still the most important factor in that region.

"The Arabs know that without the U.S. nothing could be achieved in the Middle East," the Premier declared. He said he assured the President that the U.S. enjoys the confidence of Israel and most of the Arab nations. "I think that the Administration accepted my approach and my assessment" of the Middle East situation, Shamir told his audiences in New York.

He acknowledged that the Administration takes a different view on an international conference, but said he found many reservations in official Washington toward such a forum in which the Soviet Union would most likely participate. He stressed that in his opinion there is only one way to achieve peace for the Middle East -- direct negotiations. "The U.S. will go for an international peace conference as a way of bringing about direct talks between the parties," Shamir said.

Divisive Issue

The issue has divided the Israeli government. Peres advocates Israel's participation in such a conclave. In a briefing for Israeli journalists

Tuesday, Shamir indirectly accused the Foreign Minister of violating government guidelines.

"There have been and there are different opinions between the two parties (Labor and Likud) which make up the government," Shamir said. "In order to overcome that problem, we have basic guidelines of the unity government. If there are crises in the government, it is because someone is not adhering to the guidelines."

He said he knew of Peres' visit to Cairo, beginning Wednesday, to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. They will doubtless discuss an international peace conference, which they agreed to at their last meeting in Alexandria in September.

But nobody can impose a position that is not accepted by the Cabinet and the Knesset, Shamir declared. He indicated that if a crisis arises and is not solved, there is a possibility of new elections in Israel.

Spoke To Activists, Leaders

Shamir also spoke to Soviet Jewry activists and other community leaders here Tuesday. He is reported to have said that Soviet Jews who leave the USSR with visas for Israel but go instead to the U.S. "deceive" not only the Soviet government but the Israeli government. He said the Soviets have indicated they are thus reluctant to increase Jewish emigration. He said he had pressed the Administration in Washington to stop granting the special refugee status to Soviet Jewish immigrants which enables them to come to the U.S. instead of Israel.

The meeting was closed to the press. But several Jewish leaders who attended said afterwards that they disagreed with Shamir's approach to the issue.

At a meeting with 70 Jewish educators here Tuesday, Shamir observed that only 50 percent of American Jewish school-age children receive any kind of a Jewish education. "Jewish education makes a difference in the future of the Jewish people," he said. "The only way to save our people is by providing them with a Jewish education."

Shamir warned that the lack of Jewish education "is a cultural disaster. We are going to lose more Jews because of it than we lost in the Holocaust." He cited intermarriage, assimilation and the influence of other religions and cults on many Jews as possible consequences.

Invitation To Move

Shamir urged American Jews to come to Israel on aliya. He called specifically on Reform and Conservative Jews who complain of discrimination in Israel to live in Israel. There they can influence the decisions of the Knesset and government and participate in Israel's political life, he noted.

Shamir was scheduled to meet late Tuesday afternoon with leaders of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Judaism to discuss such issues as "Who is a Jew?" and the Law of Return.

Later in the evening he was to address businessmen at a meeting of the New York Economic Club. He will leave on his return flight to Israel sometime after midnight.

EEC MINISTERS BACK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- An international conference for Middle East peace was endorsed in principle Monday by the 12 member-states of the European Economic Community. It was the first formal statement of support for such a conference by the EEC Foreign Ministers, meeting here under the chairmanship of Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, current president of the EEC Council of Ministers.

The statement did not address the form or composition of such a conference, but suggested it be held under United Nations auspices with the participation of the parties concerned and any other parties that could make a positive contribution to peace in the Middle East and the region's economic and social development.

Tindemans disclosed that he received a message from the Soviet Union last week outlining its position on an international conference. He did not divulge the contents, but said he would convey the EEC's position verbally to the Soviet Ambassador in Brussels.

The EEC statement said an international conference should provide a suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the disputing parties and that it was prepared to contribute, both as an international body and as individual states, to bringing closer the positions of the parties concerned.

'IVAN' WITNESS, UNDER HEATED QUESTIONING, RECOUNTS HORRORS OF TREBLINKA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- A former inmate of Treblinka recited ghastly details of mass murder at the death camp under sharp cross examination Tuesday in the trial here of accused war criminal John Demjanjuk.

Pinhas Epstein, who electrified the court Monday when he pointed to Demjanjuk as the brutal camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible," continued his key prosecution testimony under relentless questioning by Demjanjuk's American attorney, Mark O'Connor.

The defense contends that the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk is a victim of mistaken identity. Its strategy is to demonstrate the fallibility of witnesses' memories more than 40 years after the events.

But Epstein did not falter when questioned about details of the camp's structure, the people in charge of the extermination process and such minutiae as where the laundry was hung.

He described the mass graves into which bodies were dumped. Chlorine powder was poured on the corpses to hasten their disintegration. "The powder sank down, causing blood to burst from the ground. Then they added more bodies and more powder," the witness said.

Epstein, who was brought to Treblinka at the age of 17, spoke of "the man in the white coat," known to inmates only as Erwin, who stood at the edge of the mass grave and ordered the killing of those victims not yet dead.

"When a wounded person was brought to the edge of the grave, Erwin used to order him to crouch on his hands and knees, naked at the edge of the pit. Then he would signal a Ukrainian guard to come over and shoot the victim through his head," Epstein said.

The trial, now in its second week before a three-judge panel of the Jerusalem District Court, has been marked increasingly by emotional outbursts from spectators, many of them Holocaust survivors. At a recess Tuesday, several survivors hurled oaths at the defendant's son, John Demjanjuk Jr. and against Ukrainians who were involved in the murder of their families. Police intervened to restore order.

Demjanjuk, 66, a retired automobile worker from Cleveland, Ohio, is the first suspected Nazi war criminal extradited to Israel and the first to be tried here since Adolf Eichmann 25 years ago. He is charged with several counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against Jews. If convicted he faces the death penalty. The trial is expected to last for three months.

At the end of Tuesday's session, the court thanked Epstein for the restrained and dignified manner in which he related the terrible events at Treblinka. On Wednesday, another Treblinka survivor, Eliahu Rosenberg, will take the stand.

SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN BEIRUT WORRIES ISRAEL, BUT NO MILITARY RESPONSE SEEN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- The intervention into Beirut this week of a substantial Syrian army force has put Israel on the alert, but so far there appears to be no intention to interfere.

The Syrian move was discussed at a meeting of the Inner Cabinet Tuesday, and the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee was briefed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the latest developments.

The Inner Cabinet, composed of 10 senior Ministers -- five Labor and five Likud -- convened under the chairmanship of Vice Premier Shimon Peres. A statement issued later said that while Israel objects to the expansion of Syria's involvement in Lebanon, it plans no action at this time, but will watch the situation carefully and will make sure the security of its northern borders will not be compromised.

Rabin said there is nothing that requires Israel to reach any decision now. Speaking to reporters after briefing the Knesset committee, he said there would be no "red line" drawn by Israel with respect to Syrian movements.

"Our position is clear. We are opposed to the expansion and deepening of the Syrian military involvement in Lebanon, that is, Beirut. We follow, by means of intelligence, everything happening in Lebanon. We reserve the right to act in case the direct interests of the State of Israel are harmed," Rabin said.

Keeping Close Watch

The Israel Defense Force meanwhile is keeping a close watch on the situation. Military analysts said if the Syrians do not make any unexpected moves in Lebanon they pose no danger to Israel.

It was noted here Tuesday that the Syrians have not deployed surface-to-air missiles in their new positions and there are no signs of any troop movements south toward the Israel border.

According to Israeli sources, Syria's motive in moving troops into West Beirut was not simply to restore law and order, but to use the inter-communal strife to its advantage. President Hafez Assad has reportedly allocated most of the Syrian force stationed in Lebanon to the West Beirut operation.

SHAMIR'S U.S. AGENDA ALSO INCLUDED YORDIM, SOVIET JEWS, JEWISH UNITY

By Andrew Muchin

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- The business of government was not Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's only reason for visiting the United States this week and last. He also came with Jewish concerns.

And as of Monday morning, when he met with a dozen editors of the Jewish press at the Regency Hotel here, Shamir said he had found willing listeners to his worries about Israelis and Soviet Jews going to live in the United States and the various branches of Judaism going at each other. "Since the last year I have tried to concentrate my efforts on Jewish problems," he explained.

The Premier said he offered to 1,200 "yordim" (Israeli emigrants) he spoke to Sunday in Encino, Calif., the services of the Absorption Ministry to help them find jobs and housing in Israel and cope with personal problems.

"It was a start of a campaign," he said. "It will not be the only meeting." He asserted that he hoped yordim could establish ongoing contact with Israeli consulates, which are working with the Jewish Agency.

Several hundred thousand Israelis are thought to live outside Israel. "We would like to get them back -- if not the parents, then the children," Shamir said.

He contended that living outside Israel was most painful for the children, who are uprooted from their native language and culture. Moreover, he claimed that many of the yordim of all ages would have a better lifestyle in Israel, as they're not doing so well financially in the United States and since the Israeli economy is on the rebound.

He admitted that Israelis, even the leaders, used to feel "a kind of contempt" toward the yordim. "We never spoke directly with them. Now we have determined that it's useless to ignore them."

Soviet Refugee Status

The Premier also reiterated his and his government's desire to have the United States stop granting refugee status to Soviet Jewish emigrants. That would mean all emigres would go directly to Israel, as their visas indicate. Shamir made this point publicly in Washington last week, and the Cabinet echoed him on Sunday.

About 80 percent of the most recent emigres have come first to the United States and stayed, he said. To allow this to continue undermines Israeli efforts on their behalf, according to Shamir. He said the Soviet government has "partially accepted" Israel's ongoing contention that Jews have no ethnic place in the USSR and instead belong in Israel.

Finally, the Premier said he was concerned about "the problem of the Law of Return and, as it is defined in Israel and here, 'Who is a Jew?'" The law allows all Jews citizenship in Israel; however, certain religious elements have sought to amend the law to define Jewishness religiously. The issue becomes especially volatile when focussed on non-Orthodox converts to Judaism.

Shamir recently appointed a ministerial committee, which he chairs, to examine solutions to the issue, and he said he would meet Tuesday with leaders of American Conservative, Orthodox

and Reform Judaism and invite them to make suggestions to the committee.

In response to questions, the Premier downplayed the differences between himself and the Reagan Administration on the prospect of an international conference to discuss peace in the Middle East.

He claimed that Administration officials have suggested the conference as only a possibility, and have not applied pressure. "They are very far from being enthusiastic about such a conference," he said.

He didn't indicate if his disagreement over the conference with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres could rupture the Labor-Likud government, as he did later Monday to another group of journalists (see February 24 Bulletin).

As for the Lavi, Israel's fighter plane that the Pentagon wants to discontinue because of cost estimates that exceed Israel's, Shamir said, "I think we will find another solution together with the American government."

The editors thanked Shamir for being the first Israeli Premier to hold an exclusive meeting with editors of the American Jewish press.

SOCIALIST-ZIONIST PIONEER BURIED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held Monday for Meir Yaari, co-founder of the Mapam Party and the Socialist-Zionist Hashomer Hatzair youth and kibbutz movement. He was buried in Kibbutz Merhaviva, where he died Saturday at the age of 90.

Yaari was regarded as one of the founders of the Jewish State. He served in every Knesset from the first in 1948 until his retirement from political life in 1973. His burial was attended by hundreds of mourners, including President Chaim Herzog, Vice Premier Shimon Peres, Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel and Cabinet Ministers and Knesset members of many parties.

At his request, no prayers were recited at the graveside. A eulogy was delivered by Mapam veteran Yaacov Hazan, who with Yaari was co-founder of the party in Vienna before World War I. He vowed that Yaari's comrades would continue on the political and pioneering path laid down by him.

Peres, speaking for the government, said the country would never forget Yaari the man and the mark he left on Israel. Before the funeral, Yaari's coffin lay in state in the main hall of Histadrut headquarters here. Thousands of people filed past to pay their last respects.

Born in Galicia in 1897, Yaari served as an officer in the Austrian army. He studied under Sigmund Freud and attended the Agricultural Institute in Vienna before immigrating to Palestine in 1923.

Friends and associates of Yaari described him Sunday as doctrinaire in his philosophical and political beliefs, but while he would not tolerate deviations from Mapam's teachings, he himself spearheaded change in his party's leftist orientation. Most notable was his break with Moscow, when he became disillusioned with Soviet attitudes toward Israel, Zionism and Jews.

Another anguished change, mirrored in his voluminous correspondence, was his abandonment of his early aspirations for a bi-national, Jewish-Arab State in Palestine.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: GRASSROOTS PEACE ACTIVISTS SPEAK OUT

By Margie Olster
(First of two parts)

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Some 200 leading Palestinian representatives and activists from American Arab and Jewish and Israeli Jewish peace camps met in a rare, grassroots dialogue here Sunday.

The dialogue, sponsored by American Friends of Peace Now, heard Palestinians and Israeli Zionists call for mutual recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination and Israel's right to security, an end to violence, and territorial compromise.

While some participants said direct negotiations for peace was the preferred method, most welcomed any opportunity for dialogue including an international peace conference.

The first half of the conference was devoted to presenting the long and short term views of peace and the obstacles. Prof. Galia Golan, a consultant to the Israeli Foreign Ministry and leading expert on the Soviet Union and a leader of Peace Now, and Avishai Margalit, a Hebrew University professor of political philosophy, presented the Zionist perspective.

The Palestinian points of view were offered by Hanna Seniora, one of two people accepted by both the PLO and Israel to represent the Palestinians in talks with the United States and editor of Al-Fajr, the Arabic daily widely read in the territories; and Jack Yousef Khazmo, a Palestinian author and publisher/editor of Al-Bayader Asiyasi, a weekly Arabic newspaper.

Lack Of Comprehensive Talks Assailed

Seniora said the Middle East peace process has largely failed because of attempts to make individual agreements in place of a comprehensive peace treaty in which the PLO, Syria, Jordan and Israel all would be included.

President Ronald Reagan's failure to endorse a preparatory committee for an international peace conference is another obstacle to negotiations, Seniora said.

But Israeli and Jordanian tacit control of the vital matters of daily life in the territories presents perhaps the biggest threat to any negotiated peace settlement, according to Seniora. "This harsh occupational policy prevents the Palestinian voice from being heard," Seniora said. "We won't accept the perpetuation of two masters over us."

Seniora also discussed dissension and factionalization within the Palestinian movement, a subject usually reserved for private forums. The Palestinian leaders are "working to reunite the inner Palestinian house," Seniora said.

Khazmo Blames Israel

Khazmo also catalogued the obstacles to an immediate peace. On the top of his list was Israel's lack of peace initiatives toward Palestinians coupled with Israel's occupation of the territories. He cited deportations, administrative detentions, house arrests, closure of Palestinian newspapers, censorship, closure of universities and expropriation of lands as policies which alienate Palestinians and catalyze the radicalization of Palestinian youth. "Everybody is losing hope" in the West Bank, Khazmo said.

The U.S. Administration presents a second obstacle to peace in the Middle East by providing financial aid to Israel without any conditions to

promote the peace process, Khazmo said. He also criticized the U.S. for refusing to recognize the PLO or the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

The third obstacle, as Khazmo saw it, comes from the Arab camp, where the extremists "are looking at the peace activists and laughing," he said.

Golan Focusses On Agreement

Golan also addressed these issues, focussing on areas of agreement. "The major obstacles that we are facing are years and years of hostility, mutual distrust and fear on the part of both peoples that has created stereotypes nurtured and cultivated by both sides," she said.

The continued occupation has led to the radicalization on both sides and "is corroding our values," she said.

"The only alternative today I believe is partition -- acceptance of the fact that there are two peoples with two claims to the land, two national identities, histories, two peoples . . . deserving their own rights and protection," Golan said.

Any settlement must address Israel's security needs and her right to exist, Golan said, as only this will mobilize support within Israel for a settlement. On the other side, the Palestinians' rights to self-determination must also be recognized, he said.

The Jordanians are not an appropriate partner in any peace settlement because the Palestinians see the PLO as their leadership, Golan said.

Golan suggested strengthening the moderates on both sides to demonstrate there are willing partners to peace negotiations. "The only alternative we are facing today is one of mutual destruction," she said.

Egyptian Involvement Recommended

Margalit said he agreed with the view of MK Ezer Weizman (Labor) that "the road to peace goes through Cairo." He recommended making the peace with Egypt more appealing to Israelis and to Palestinians and said Mubarak is a key figure because he is on good terms with the Palestinians.

Margalit supported a confederation of Jordan, Israel and a Palestinian "entity" in the territories as a solution to the conflict. But the process must begin by talking to each other, he said. "Dialogue is necessary to destroy the dehumanization of the conflict" in which Israelis are racists and Palestinians are terrorists, he said.

When asked to offer a concrete vision of a peaceful settlement, both Seniora and Khazmo pointed to an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank. Seniora said, "The Palestinians have realized the need for a political option to lead to a solution."

Golan said her model of peace was only: no threat of war and no fear. She said she would be happy if both parties would "sign on the dotted line that we are going to stop fighting each other."

Following the presentations, Seniora told the JTA he believes the grassroots peace movement can have an effect. "In the absence of formal initiatives for peace in various governments, these kinds of meetings help keep the glimmer of hope going among various parties," he said.

Next: Suggestions on how American citizens can promote Mideast peace.

**TALK OF UNITY GOVERNMENT COLLAPSE
INTENSIFIES AS PERES ARRIVES IN EGYPT**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres declared in Cairo Wednesday that he would represent the entire Israeli government in his talks there with Egypt's leaders.

But Likud leaders here reiterated Premier Yitzhak Shamir's warnings that the unity government could fall if Peres persisted in pursuing the option of an international conference for the Middle East.

Shamir himself was still en route for home, following a 10-day trip to the U.S., as Peres left for Cairo.

Peres' timing plainly was regarded by Likud as an open insult to the Premier, and political circles said Wednesday that the crisis between the two main coalition partners was at its deepest.

One important indication of the political atmosphere was a statement by National Religious Party leader Zevulun Hammer, Minister of Religions. Long an ardent supporter of the unity government, Hammer said Wednesday that with the two leaders so at loggerheads, it was "hard to see what the value of this unity is" and that perhaps the best alternative would indeed be elections.

The crisis will come to a head on Sunday, when the two leaders confront each other across the Cabinet table.

Peres will meet President Hosni Mubarak Thursday on the second day of his trip to Egypt. After his arrival he had talks with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid, and later visited the Cairo Synagogue.

**DULZIN SAYS HE WON'T SEEK REELECTION AS
CHAIRMAN OF JEWISH AGENCY, WZO
AS HE ESCAPES BLAME FOR BANK SCANDAL**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin announced Tuesday night that he would not seek re-election as chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives at the next World Zionist Congress in December.

Dulzin made that commitment after leaders of the United Jewish Appeal and Keren Hayesod, the principal diaspora fund-raising agencies, issued a statement that Dulzin had acted with "full integrity" in the recent scandal that shook Bank Leumi, Israel's largest bank, of which Dulzin is the nominal head.

The exoneration of Dulzin from any blame in the bank scandal followed several days of tension and acrimony at sessions of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors here, which pitted Zionist members of the Board against the non-Zionist members. Many of the latter demanded Dulzin quit on grounds that his connection with Bank Leumi damaged their fund-raising efforts and adversely affected the Jewish Agency's image.

Dulzin was vigorously defended by the Zionist half of the Board, notably its Herut and Mizrahi members. Other Zionist parties also made clear that they would not acquiesce in the non-

Zionists' bid to oust him. Bank Leumi is largely owned by the Otzar Hityashvut Hayehudim (Jewish Colonial Trust), a body appointed by the WZO. Dulzin, as WZO chairman, is the ex-officio Governor of the Bank, though he stressed repeatedly that he had no hand in the day-to-day operations of that institution.

Last month the entire Bank Leumi Board of Directors resigned, and was promptly replaced, after disclosure that Ernst Japhet, the bank's former chairman and chief executive officer, was granted \$5 million severance pay and a \$30,000 a month pension when he was forced to quit last spring.

Japhet was ousted on the recommendations of the Beisky Commission, a panel appointed to investigate the 1983 bank shares collapse which triggered a financial panic in Israel. The Commission found that Israel's five largest banks had, over a long period, illegally inflated the value of their shares to mislead the investing public. The heads of all the banks were ordered to resign and barred from holding positions of responsibility at any Israeli bank in the future.

Dulzin maintained that he learned of Japhet's severance terms only after they were approved by the bank's Board. Keren Hayesod Board chairman Mendel Kaplan of South Africa is credited with engineering the compromise that resulted in Dulzin's announcement and the exoneration.

In an emotional speech to the Board of Governors, Kaplan called for an end to the "blood-letting." He declared he was convinced that Dulzin acted in complete innocence and was not responsible for Bank Leumi's problems.

**SECOND WITNESS IDENTIFIED DEMJANJUK
AS TREBLINKA'S 'IVAN THE TERRIBLE'**

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- In a scene of anguish and unrestrained emotion, a second prosecution witness positively identified accused war criminal John Demjanjuk in Jerusalem district court Wednesday as the brutal guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" who operated the gas chambers at the Treblinka death camp.

Eliahu Rosenberg, 66, who was 21 when he was taken with his family to Treblinka from the Warsaw Ghetto, made the identification after clearly describing in detail how thousands of Jews were slaughtered in the gas chambers and later burned in mass graves. He related his own job as a member of a squad of inmates forced to clean the gas chambers and recalled Ivan's duty as operator of the death machinery.

He said he saw Ivan daily at the gas chambers. Later, when his task was to burn bodies that accumulated in the pit, he said he had occasion to fetch kerosene from where Ivan stood. Obviously overcome by the horror of his recollections, Rosenberg momentarily lost control and cried out that he could identify Ivan by his "murderous eyes."

But the climax of the session came when the prosecutor Michael Shaked asked the witness if he saw Ivan in the courtroom. "That is Ivan, I have not a shadow of a doubt," Rosenberg replied, pointing to the 66-year-old Ukrainian-born pris-

oner. Nevertheless, he asked that the accused remove his glasses. Demjanjuk asked the witness to approach him to make a closer inspection. They stared at each other for a moment.

Then the prisoner extended his hand. Rosenberg recoiled. "Murderer. How dare you hold out your hand to me, a murderer like you," he shouted. Bedlam broke out in the court. Rosenberg's wife Adina collapsed and had to be carried out of the chamber.

On Tuesday, Demjanjuk was identified by another Treblinka survivor, Pinhas Epstein, who was 17 when he arrived at the death camp.

BARBIE TRIAL SET FOR MAY 11

PARIS, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Klaus Barbie, "the Butcher of Lyon", will go on trial May 11 in that same city which he ruled and terrorized as gestapo chief during the German occupation of France in World War II, it was announced here Tuesday. He is charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Barbie has been confined to a maximum security prison, St. Luc Fort, in Lyon since he was taken into French custody after his ouster from Bolivia in February 1983. Over the past four years, several dates have been set for his trial, only to be postponed as prosecution and defense lawyers sifted through thousands of documents and battled over legal technicalities.

A turning point occurred last year, when the Supreme Court ruled that crimes committed against resistance fighters could be considered crimes against humanity, not subject to the 20-year statute of limitations.

Barbie is held responsible for the murder of a French resistance leader as well as for the deportation to death camps of 894 Lyon civilians, most of them Jews, including more than 100 children.

A special courtroom is being enlarged in preparation for the trial. It will accommodate lawyers, the media, more than 100 individuals who have filed private charges against Barbie and an estimated 700 spectators. Police said stringent security measures would be taken during the trial. Only people with passes will be admitted to the courtroom.

Barbie will be defended by Jacques Verges. He is presently defending Lebanese terrorist George Ibrahim Abdullah, who is on trial in Paris for masterminding the 1984 murders of Israeli diplomat Yaakov Barsimantov and Col. Charles Ray, who was deputy military attache at the U.S. Embassy in Paris.

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS GREECE MULLING FULL DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL

ATHENS, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias said Monday that Greece is seriously considering establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel, according to media reports from Brussels, where he is attending a meeting of the European Economic Community (EEC) Foreign Ministers. Israel is presently represented here only on the consular level.

The report quoted Papoulias as saying that such a move was under study and that action might be taken during the latter half of 1988, when Greece assumes the rotating chairmanship of the EEC Council of Ministers.

Papoulias also reportedly described as a bold political step the EEC's decision Monday to

support an international conference for peace in the Middle East, under United Nations auspices.

He said it was a significant move by the European community to seek an end to the Middle East conflict in view of the failure of the United States to find a solution. He said the EEC Council of Ministers also decided to offer financial assistance to the Arab population in the Israel-occupied territories.

ISRAELI SHIP PART OF ATLANTIC RESCUE

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- An Israeli cargo ship, braving mountainous seas and hurricane-force winds, is attempting to rescue surviving crew members of the Philippine trawler Balsa, which foundered Tuesday in the North Atlantic, about 900 miles northeast of Boston.

A spokesman for the Zim-American Israeli Shipping Co. here told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Zim Miami, commanded by Captain Simantov Yemini, was one of the first ships at the scene after responding to an SOS from the Balsa.

She arrived at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the position where the Balsa sank after capsizing. Eight crewmen were known dead and nine are missing. One was rescued by the U.S. Navy submarine Scamp, which also responded to the SOS.

The Zim Miami is attempting to pick up one seamen who was sighted in a lifeboat, and will search for the missing crewmen. According to reports received at the Zim Lines office here, the rescue effort is hampered by 50-foot waves and an 85-mph wind.

SWISS TEACHER RETAINS JOB

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Mariette Paschoud was not suspended from her job as a Lausanne high school teacher although she publicly announced she doubted the existence of the Nazi gas chambers during the Holocaust, but she can no longer teach history.

The Council of the Vaud Canton announced this decision of its inquest, begun seven months ago. The Swiss Army has suspended her from role as military judge in the reserves following her statement last August.

KAHANE RETAINS U.S. CITIZENSHIP

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- The American citizenship of Rabbi Meir Kahane, a Brooklyn-born member of the Israeli Knesset, has been restored by Federal District Judge Leo Glasser in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Glasser ruled Friday in a suit brought by Kahane that the State Department did not have the right to rescind Kahane's U.S. citizenship in 1985. The State Department has argued that by serving in the legislature of another country, Kahane was voluntarily relinquishing his citizenship.

Kahane founded the Jewish Defense League in the United States and the Kach Party in Israel. He immigrated to Israel in 1971.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Israel's 7,000 Ethiopian Jews announced that they will go on strike Sunday to protest what they say is failure to help the rest of their community stranded in Ethiopia.

ISRAEL'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM SEEN BY MANY AS SICK ITSELF

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Israel once prided itself on having one of the best and most comprehensive public health care systems in the world. But the system itself is now ailing, crippled by years of labor strife.

Strikes by doctors, nurses and other health service employees have broken out periodically, usually over wages and working conditions. Hospitals have been forced to operate on reduced Sabbath schedules for days at a time. All but the sickest patients are sent home. Only emergency surgery is performed. The skeleton staffs on duty are hard pressed to feed patients, let alone clean up and provide fresh linen.

These conditions are once again in the headlines. This week, 11,000 administrative and maintenance personnel at 29 government hospitals walked off their jobs in defiance of a Jerusalem labor court's back-to-work order. They are demanding higher wages.

Last Thursday and Friday, doctors at the same hospitals staged a 24-hour "warning strike" to protest cuts in the medical staff. Hospital nurses who have walked off their jobs at least a half dozen times during the past year are threatening to strike again.

Confusing Health Care System

Many outsiders are confused by Israel's health care system. It is not and never was a State-owned system. Even before the establishment of the State in 1948, it was based largely on a broad network of hospitals and clinics owned by Histadrut, Israel's trade union federation, and operated by Kupat Holim, the Histadrut sick-fund.

Kupat Holim runs a dozen or more hospitals, the largest being Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikva, and scores of clinics in virtually every city, village and kibbutz.

The government, in addition to providing large subsidies to Kupat Holim and several smaller health funds, operates 29 hospitals country-wide. Eleven of them are general hospitals, 10 are psychiatric facilities and eight are geriatric hospitals.

A number of these hospitals are maintained by the government in conjunction with the municipalities in which they are located.

Though dwarfed by Kupat Holim, there are several important smaller sick-funds. The Maccabi Sick Fund, founded by the Liberal Party but no longer affiliated with it, is second largest. Its clients largely are middle class and professionals, some of them members of Histadrut, who prefer the greater freedom of choice of doctors offered and the shorter waiting time for medical attention at clinics.

There also is the National Sick Fund, established decades ago by the Herut Party, whose members refuse to join Histadrut -- a prerequisite for membership in Kupat Holim. Maccabi and the National Sick Fund do not maintain their own hospitals, but both have a wide network of clinics. Their patients needing hospitalization are sent to government facilities.

Finally, there are two or three small and quite expensive medical insurance groups which reimburse their members for visits to private doctors or stays at the country's very few private hospitals.

Some say that the multiplicity of sick funds and private health insurance services is responsible for the plight of Israel's health care system. The situation has prompted anti-Histadrut activists to renew their demands for a comprehensive national state health system which would take over Kupat Holim.

Histadrut is strenuously opposed to the idea, which could result in a sharp decline of its membership. It is generally acknowledged that many Israeli workers join Histadrut only because of the health benefits. Monthly Histadrut union dues cover health care by Kupat Holim.

Basically, the same problems beset the Histadrut and the government hospitals. A four-month doctors' strike in 1982 was observed by the medical staffs of both. The same is true of the present strike by administrative and maintenance personnel. However, the 9,000 Kupat Holim workers did return to their jobs this week, but only after an impassioned radio appeal by President Chaim Herzog not to take out their grievances on the sick and helpless.

Seek Wage Parity

The government hospital employees were not persuaded. They claim they are paid little more than the national minimum wage and demand wage equality with their counterparts at the Kupat Holim hospitals and clinics.

The latter obtained improved wages in direct negotiations with Histadrut which is in the position of being both employer and union. The government hospital workers say the Treasury promised them equal pay for equal work months ago but so far has not honored its word.

They were further embittered when the labor court ruled they were acting illegally and threatened stiff penalties. The court levied a 250 Shekel (about \$150) an hour fine on four strike leaders arrested Monday. The fine was rescinded Tuesday when the court found that the strike leaders made a genuine though unsuccessful effort to get their colleagues back to work. The four were then dismissed by the strike committee. They still have to pay 10,000 Shekels (about \$6,250) in expenses.

The labor court hinted Wednesday that all penalties might be lifted if the strikers return to work. But that seems unlikely at the moment.

If the rash of strikes and walk-outs continues, many believe a State health service will have to be established, possibly to the advantage of no one.

TERRORIST HAD JEWISH 'HIT LIST'

ROME, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Lebanese terrorist Bashir Khodr, sentenced Sunday to 13 years' imprisonment for smuggling explosives into Italy, had five Jewish targets on his "hit list," two of them schools, according to papers found in a room he rented here before his arrest at Milan airport January 12.

The targets were the ORT Scientific School and Middle School; the editorial offices of Shalom, monthly organ of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities; the home of its editor; and the Jewish museum located in Rome's main synagogue.

Khodr was convicted after a one-day trial for attempting to smuggle 12 kilos of explosives concealed in picture frames, Easter eggs and a portable radio. The citation read at his sentencing stated that he intended to use the explosives for attacks on Jews. He also was fined two million lire.

SPECIAL TO JTA:
ISRAEL ESTIMATES 480,000 ISRAELI
IMMIGRANTS LIVE IN NORTH AMERICA
 By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- A new report by the Israeli Ministry of Labor puts the number of Israeli "yordim" (immigrants) in the United States and Canada at about 480,000, the highest ever official Israeli estimate.

The report, recently submitted to Labor and Welfare Minister Moshe Katzav by Consul Amos Haddad, head of the Labor Ministry Delegation in the United States, characterized the new estimate as "astonishing." It said that the number was derived from information supplied by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) authorities and files from the Israeli consulates in the United States and Canada.

According to the report, in December 1986 alone about 70,000 Israelis were registered at INS, awaiting the immigrant status that includes the coveted "Green Card" that will allow them to work. The report noted that INS data show that from 1966-79, 96,000 Israelis received the status of immigrants, while 30,000 more were granted the same status between 1980-86.

The new estimate of 480,000 yordim includes the American-born children of the Israeli immigrants and Israelis who immigrated to the United States and Canada after living for many years in other countries, former Israeli students and academicians who came to study here and then remained, and "many Israelis who live in the United States illegally," the report said.

The report claimed that about 50,000 Israeli immigrants are living in Canada in addition to "many" illegal Israelis.

'Indicate A Trend Of Mass Migration'

"These numbers (on the yordim), although they might not be completely accurate, indicate a trend of mass migration of Israelis, among them tens of thousands of the best of Israeli youths--Israeli-born, kibbutzniks and Israeli 'brains'--who cannot be replaced," the report stated.

As for North American yordim who returned to live in Israel, the report noted that 2,109 who lived in the United States and Canada from two-11 years returned to Israel in 1986. "This is an increase of 17.5 percent compared to 1985, during which 1,776 Israelis returned to Israel from the United States and Canada," the report stated. The yordim returned through the offices of the Labor Ministry Delegation in the United States, the report noted. The report also provided the findings of a 1986 survey among the yordim on their reasons for living abroad. The survey included 760 heads of Israeli families living in the United States and Canada, 562 of whom were academicians and 198 non-academicians. The reasons were: economic, quality of life in Israel, employment, Israeli bureaucratic red tape and educational opportunity. "None of the respondents cited Israel's security problems as a cause for yerida," the report stated.

The survey also found that about 60 percent of the Israelis who left Israel for America did so before 1980. About 33 percent left Israel between 1980-83 while 8 percent left in 1984. Information on the number of yordim after 1984 was not available.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
AMERICANS URGED TO GET INVOLVED
IN PROMOTING MIDEAST DIALOGUE
 By Margie Olster
 (Second Of Two Parts)

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Israeli and Palestinian peace activists are looking to the Jewish and Palestinian communities in North America to influence their leadership to support a negotiated peace in the Middle East.

To this end, the Israelis, Palestinians and American Jews and Palestinians who attended a peace dialogue Sunday sponsored by American Friends of Peace Now (AFPN) suggested activities to promote peace, dialogue and greater understanding between Jews and Arabs both in the Middle East and in North America.

Galia Golan, a leading figure in Peace Now, the non-partisan Israeli peace movement, and one of Israel's foremost experts on the Soviet Union, said the American Jewish and Arab communities can be instrumental in moderating both Mideast camps.

Hanna Seniora, editor of the Arabic daily Al-Fajr and one of two people approved by both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization to represent Palestinians in negotiations, said American Jewish and American Arab organizations could cooperate to defend their rights and prevent stereotyping of each group.

The second half of Sunday's conference focussed on activities for Americans to promote peace in the Middle East. The suggestions included:

* Dialogue groups -- small, intimate encounters with equal numbers of Arabs and Jews meeting regularly to discuss Middle Eastern conflicts. Professor Richard Schwartz of Syracuse University Law School, who started a dialogue group in Syracuse, NY, said "we want to meet in a living room, we want to meet as human beings. . . to communicate across the giant chasm between Palestinians and Jews."

* Research -- Steven Cohen, an author and professor of sociology at Queens College (NY), suggested a project to research Jewish and Arab images of each other in the Middle East and in North America. Cohen currently does an annual survey for the American Jewish Committee on American Jewish attitudes on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

* Coalition for dialogue -- Schwartz also suggested that the American Coalition for Middle East Dialogue, a confederation of six dialogue groups, extend its activities. He called on the group to reach out to the Congress and American Jewish and Arab leadership with ideas for dialogue and to seek support for a negotiated peace.

* Arab-Jewish reconciliation week -- This program would be aimed at breaking down the sense of alienation and separateness between Palestinian and Jewish activists, especially on the college campus. During the week, both communities would sponsor joint activities, films, lectures, and encounter groups.

* Media monitoring -- Citing a proliferation of anti-Arab and anti-Jewish stereotypes in the American media, Mark Rosenblum, AFPN executive director, suggested monitoring the American media and eventually creating a newsletter to review the results of the project.

SHAMIR TO TRY TO DISSUADE THE U.S. FROM SUPPORTING AN INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Wednesday that when he is in Washington next week, he will do everything he can to dissuade the American Administration and Congress from supporting an international conference for Middle East peace.

Shamir's remarks, at a briefing for diplomatic reporters, was seen by observers as his second direct rebuke to Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in less than 24 hours on this issue which could provoke a serious coalition crisis, on top of the ongoing bitter dispute between Labor and Likud over the national budget. (See separate story.)

Shamir told the Knesset Tuesday night that Peres' advocacy of an international peace conference "does not represent the government" and that the Foreign Minister should have made that clear when he addressed foreign countries on the subject. The Labor Party's Knesset faction promptly blasted Shamir.

He was apparently referring to remarks by Peres in London and Paris last month that Israel would accept an international conference under certain conditions. Peres insisted on his return to Israel that everything he said represented government policy and had the support of the Knesset.

Might Put Peres On The Spot

Political analysts said Wednesday that if Shamir publicly disputes with Peres during his American trip, the Labor Party leader would be hard put to maintain even the facade of unity that holds the coalition government together.

Shamir said at his briefing that the idea of the international conference was "stupid" from the standpoint of Israel's interests. He called it an "Arab-Soviet idea" which, if implemented, would result in Israel's total isolation.

The participants in an international conference would be the parties directly concerned and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council which include the Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China, neither of which has diplomatic relations with Israel.

Peres made clear that Israel would agree to Soviet participation only if Moscow moved to restore diplomatic relations with Israel and allowed Soviet Jews freedom to emigrate. He also said Israel would agree to Palestinian representatives as part of a Jordanian delegation only if they had no ties to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Another condition set by Peres was that the international conference could serve only as a framework for direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab adversaries and could not impose a solution to the Middle East conflict.

Differences Between Likud And Labor

Shamir, for his part, is convinced that the Soviet Union, The People's Republic of China, France or another permanent member of the Security Council would demand Israel's return to

its 1967 borders. He has said even the U.S. might go along with such a demand, supporting only minor border changes. In that case, he warned, Israel would be totally isolated.

But the Labor Party's view is that an international conference is the only means to bring Jordan to the negotiating table. King Hussein has made clear on many occasions that he could not safely negotiate with Israel outside such a framework.

BUDGET COMPROMISE DEAL FALLS APART

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11 (JTA) -- A compromise deal between Labor and Likud which set the stage for a vote on the 33 billion Shekel (\$23.8 billion) national budget Wednesday afternoon, broke down at the last minute in a turmoil of bitter recriminations between the two coalition partners. The budget debate was deferred until next week.

The compromise was put together at a late night meeting Tuesday by Labor MK Rafi Edri and Likud Finance Minister Moshe Nissim. The latter agreed that Likud would support the Treasury's loan rescheduling plan to help the debt-ridden United Kibbutz Movement which is affiliated with the Labor Party.

Labor agreed for its part not to filibuster in the Knesset plenum or in the Finance Committee against proposals by Nissim to allocate funds to Jewish settlements in the West Bank and to development towns, which were to be introduced immediately.

An Infuriating Interpretation

Labor Party Ministers and Knesset members caucused Wednesday and announced their endorsement of the deal. But they added an interpretation which infuriated Likud. The Laborites said they were obliged not to seriously delay consideration of funding for the settlements and development towns. However, as MK Haim Ramon, the Labor Party leader in the Finance Committee, explained, that did not mean that Labor was obligated to support funding for the settlements when it came up for a vote. Likud held its own caucus at noon and decided to reject the deal forthwith.

While political observers predicted that the budget dispute would yet be settled by compromise behind-the-scenes, they warned that the dual crisis over economics and foreign policy between the coalition partners could lead to dissolution of the unity government.

They were referring to the open conflict between Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the leaders of Likud and Labor respectively, over how to revive the peace process. Shamir and other Likud spokesmen have publicly accused Peres of misrepresenting the government on the issue of an international peace conference.

An Army Radio commentator observed Wednesday that "There have been many crises before, but this time the circle around Peres is indicating that they have had enough . . . they are tired of it."

SHAMIR SEEKS PROBE OF ISRAELIS WHO GAVE INTERVIEWS TO JORDAN TELEVISION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Wednesday that he would order an investigation into interviews given this week by four Israelis to Jordan Television. Two are Knesset members, Abba Eban and Yossi Sarid.

Shamir told a meeting of Cabinet Ministers that the investigation would find out whether Jordan Television has a representative in Israel and if Israelis who appear on Jordan Television are contravening the law.

Eban, a former Labor Foreign Minister and currently chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, has been accused by rightwing and nationalist activists of "consorting with the enemy." He was interviewed Monday for the Hebrew-language news service of Amman Television by an Arab journalist from Haifa. The interview will be broadcast next week.

It was conducted at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem because the journalist was not allowed in the Knesset building. Eban told Israel Radio Wednesday that he thought it was important for Jordanian viewers to learn of Israel's official viewpoint on current issues as well as those of the opposition. Sarid, of the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM), is an opposition MK.

Eban Rejects Accusation

Eban flatly rejected Gush Emunim lawyer Elyakim Haetzni's accusation that he violated the ban on contacts with the enemy. Haetzni and others have demanded the arrest of Ziad Darwish, a free lance Arab journalist from Acre who has been conducting the interviews with prominent Israelis.

Darwish employs the camera crews of an international news service for his reports from Israel. They are sent to Jordan via Cyprus after passing through Israeli military censorship.

Amman Television's Hebrew service program is widely viewed in Israel. Eban offered to be interviewed in Arabic, which he speaks fluently, to get his message across to the Jordanians. But the interviewer preferred Hebrew.

Eban responded to questions about an international conference for Middle East peace. He said Israel did not perceive such a conference as an end in itself but was prepared to go along if that was the only framework for peace negotiations acceptable to the Arabs.

JEWISH AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS TO PROTEST AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S TIES TO ASSOCIATION OF SOVIET LAWYERS

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Feb. 11 (JTA) -- Human rights and Jewish groups plan to converge on the American Bar Association's mid-year meeting this weekend in New Orleans to protest the ABA's ties to the Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL) which protesters called an anti-Semitic arm of the KGB.

The Task Force on ABA-Soviet Relations, Inc., a Phoenix-based group formed specifically to oppose the ties, has fought to dissolve a 1985 Declaration of Cooperation between the ASL and the ABA. The Task Force, some of whose members are attorneys, branded the ASL a puppet of the KGB whose attorneys were handpicked by the Soviet authorities.

Members of the Jewish community of Baton Rouge, LA, Ukrainian American groups and the Task Force members are among those expected to be represented at the demonstrations in New Orleans.

The Task Force will sponsor a forum on ABA-Soviet Relations simultaneous with the ABA convention and in the same hotel, the New Orleans Marriott.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Natan Sharansky and other Soviet Jewry activists have all opposed the ABA-ASL pact and have called on the ABA to abrogate the agreement.

Statement By Jewish Federation

The Jewish Federation of Greater Baton Rouge issued a statement saying "The Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL) is one of the more virulent arms of the Soviet regime and an instrument of repression of Soviet Jews and other activists. The American Bar Association's agreement with the ASL gives that organization a legitimacy it does not deserve and does nothing to promote the welfare of Soviet Jews or true U.S. Soviet understanding."

Richard Collins, ABA spokesperson, said the ABA debated the agreement extensively at an August meeting with critics in New York. In that meeting, Collins said, ABA members overwhelmingly supported continuing the agreement to keep a dialogue open. The members agreed there was a greater risk in not talking than in talking, Collins said.

Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who is an attorney, addressed the debate in New York saying he favored continuation of a revised form of the agreement on condition that human rights be high on the agenda of all contacts and that the agreement should only be maintained if there was some progress on human rights, Collins said.

With the exception of a few organizations, the "principle Jewish groups did not oppose the continuation of the declaration," Collins said.

The Task Force claimed that in a meeting with the President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Andrei Gromyko, in Moscow, former ABA president William Falsgraf and president-elect Eugene Thomas presented the issue of Jewish emigration as a "minority concern of Jewish groups" in the U.S. and of "Jewish members of the American Bar Association." A Task Force letter to the press said this was revealed in an ABA internal memo on the meeting.

Falsgraf has denied this report numerous times. Although there is no formal transcript of the meeting, Collins said the situation was never characterized in those words.

Task Force's Claim

The Task Force also claimed that ABA has failed to fulfill a commitment to put human rights high on the agenda of all contacts with the ASL.

But this, too, was denied by the ABA. Collins said human rights enters into the exchanges on many topics, including the right to earlier counsel and the laws on anti-State activities or "what Americans call freedom of speech," Collins said.

Collins also noted that the changes recently instituted in the Soviet Union seem to address those charged with anti-State crimes and the right to earlier counsel.

Also in the August debate, the Task Force letter said the ABA leadership acknowledged that the ASL is "similar to or maybe worse than the Goebbels Propaganda Ministry" of Hitler's Third Reich. Collins said a former member of the ABA Board of Governors, Federal Judge Frank Kaufmann, who was not considered a member of ABA leadership, did indeed make that comment. Collins added that Kaufmann favored continuation of the agreement.

A spokeswoman for the Task Force, Patience Huntwork, said the Soviets pressured the ABA into signing the agreement to use as propaganda.

PHIL DONAHUE AND SOVIET REFUSENIKS By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 (JTA) -- The 30-minute segment on Soviet Jewry shown Wednesday on Phil Donahue's syndicated television show demonstrated why it is difficult to carry out in the Soviet Union his normal format in which a controversial issue is debated by the audience.

Jewish refuseniks, with whom he met in a Moscow apartment, rejected an opportunity to explain their plight to the large audience of Americans that watch the "Phil Donahue Show," apparently because they did not trust Donahue since his week-long broadcasts from the USSR were in cooperation with Soviet television.

Other Jews, who, as Donahue pointed out, were selected by the Soviet government to appear on the program, refused to answer his questions about refuseniks and instead denounced conditions in the United States.

Donahue pointed out that he had gotten an agreement from the Soviets to have 50 official Jews and 50 refuseniks debate the issue of Jewish life in the Soviet Union. But the day after Donahue got the agreement of the refuseniks to this, the Soviets cut the number to 25 on each side. The refuseniks then declined to appear.

Donahue then met with the refuseniks in an apartment of one of them, stressing that he was using his own camera crew, rather than the Soviet television crew he used for all his other segments during the week he spent in the USSR at the end of January.

Fears And Anxieties

One refusenik said they had rejected the cut in the number of refuseniks because the "group should be representative." He said it had to include 11 wives of prisoners, five former prisoners, 12 Jews from cities throughout the Soviet Union, and longtime refuseniks.

One woman said she feared the Soviets would use the film against them on Soviet TV. She said the Jews "desire to live in Israel," but when Donahue asked her how long she had been waiting to emigrate, she refused to say. The group had agreed not to answer any personal questions.

Donahue said they were being preoccupied with the Soviet breaking of the agreement "at the expense of sharing important information about your situation with the American people."

He noted that some wives of prisoners had wanted to speak but went along with the decision of the group not to be interviewed.

Donahue stressed that before going to the USSR he had contacted them through the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ).

"With whom are you cavorting?" one of the refuseniks asked. Donahue said he did not understand this at the time, but later realized that this was a reference to his "partnership" with the Soviets during his week in the USSR. "It is clear for some of these refuseniks I cannot be trusted," he said.

Met With 25 'Contented Jews'

In his segment in the television study, Donahue met with 25 Jews who he called "contented Jews," who are "the Jews the Russians want the West to see." They were apparently members of the official Anti-Zionist Committee.

When Donahue noted that the NCSJ reports that 380,000 Jews want to emigrate, one of these Jews called the figure "absolute fantasy."

Another said he had no objection to those who wanted to leave to emigrate, but said "I don't feel there is any kind of problem" for Jews. Another declared that emigration is "not the major problem" for Soviet Jews.

When a writer suggested that Donahue ask about the life of the Jews present, the television host replied "I don't tell you how to write your books so you won't tell me what questions to ask."

Samuil Zivs, deputy director of the Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Republic the only Jew to be identified, claimed that 500 Jews had been given permission to leave in January. Less than 1,000 emigrated in all of 1986.

Arguments Turned Against the U.S.

Donahue was challenged by a Jewish military officer, who asked why he was not concerned about the Palestinians. "We are all internationalist; we all must be equal, the Americans, the Jew, the Palestinians."

Another said that instead of worrying about Soviet Jews "why are you not concerned about the fate of the poor Blacks" in the U.S. He charged that many of the Soviet Jews living in New York's Brighton Beach section "are suffering, they are hungry."

When another suggested that only 20 percent of the Jewish emigrants have gone to Israel with most living in New York and Canada, Donahue replied "why do you care?"

He said he was willing to concede that the Jews in the audience were "happy," free to pursue their careers and free of prejudice, but asked why they were angry when he raised the real plight of the Jews who wanted to leave and were being persecuted for that.

While Wednesday's broadcast may have revealed to some the Soviet Union's desire to hide the real situation of Soviet Jewry, whatever opportunity there was to demonstrate the real situation for thousands of Jews was lost. Perhaps there was never a chance since it is impossible to bring the give-and-take of the Donahue show to a totalitarian society.

* * *

BRUSSELS (JTA) -- President Kurt Waldheim of Austria probably will not be on hand to inaugurate the Austrian cultural exhibition, "Europalia Austria," when it opens here next September. He "discreetly and unofficially" sought an invitation from the organizers last year, but has since been "discreetly" informed that the Belgian authorities would not welcome his presence, the Flemish daily De Morgen reported this week.

U.S. URGES USSR TO RELEASE BEGUN**By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration urged the Soviet Union Tuesday to release longtime Jewish refusenik Iosif Begun from prison without him having to sign a statement agreeing not to continue teaching Hebrew.

"We are disturbed at the news that imprisoned Hebrew teacher Iosif Begun is not being released because he has refused to sign such a statement," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said.

"We call upon the Soviet government to release Iosif Begun and all other Prisoners of Conscience" and allow them "to resume the legitimate activities for which they were unjustly prosecuted," Redman added.

His statement was made as he expressed the Administration's "welcome" of the announcement that the Soviet government is releasing 140 political prisoners. But he noted that this was only 20 percent of the 750 political prisoners being held in the USSR.

Repeating a statement he made on Monday, Redman declared, "We hope that the Soviet government will now move to free all remaining political prisoners without requiring them to sign statements recanting their previous activities or agreeing to limit their future activities on behalf of human rights."

Begun, who has been seeking to emigrate to Israel since 1971, is in the Chistopol prison since being sentenced in 1983 to seven years in a labor camp and five years internal exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" for teaching Hebrew.

In a telephone conversation from Moscow to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry which was meeting on Capitol Hill last Thursday, Begun's wife, Inna said she did not believe her husband would be released because he would never sign the statement.

"I am very afraid for my husband's life," she said, since she believed he was continuing a hunger strike started three months ago. Inna Begun and Iosif Begun's son, Boris, joined by other refuseniks, have begun picketing in Moscow on Begun's behalf.

Inna Meiman's Death Mourned

Meanwhile, Redman expressed the State Department's regret at the death of Inna Meiman, 54, who died Monday at Georgetown University Hospital where she had been treated for cancer since coming here from Moscow last month. She was the wife of Naum Meiman, a founding member of the Helsinki Watch Committee in Moscow who had been refused permission to accompany his wife to Washington.

"Her passing is mourned by many Department employees who came to know her through her valiant struggle against the ultimately incurable illness that gripped her body and through her equally courageous effort on behalf of human rights in the USSR," Redman said.

He called on the USSR to allow her husband to attend her funeral and "to rejoin his only daughter (Olga Plum) who has long lived in the United States (in Boulder, Colo.) and is an American citizen." Redman also urged that Meiman's son and his family also be allowed to come to the U.S.

ISRAEL NAMES ARAB LAWYER AS ITS NEW CONSUL GENERAL IN ATLANTA**By Yitzhak Rabi**

NEW YORK, Feb. 11 (JTA) -- In an unprecedented move, the government of Israel decided to appoint a Moslem Arab lawyer from the village of Kafr Kara near Haifa, as Israel's new Consul General in Atlanta.

The decision to appoint Muhammad Masarwa as Israel's first Arab diplomat was confirmed Wednesday in Jerusalem by Ehud Gol, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, and in New York by Baruch Bina, a spokesman for the Israel Consulate.

Bina told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the 46-year-old Masarwa is expected to assume his new post this summer after being confirmed by the Israel Cabinet. He said that the young Arab lawyer, who was at one time the mayor of his village, will replace the present Israel Consul General in Atlanta, Yissaschar Katzir. Deputy Consul General Arthur Kol will continue his service under Masarwa, Bina said.

The new appointment was made by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the behest of Masarwa's mentor, Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman.

Peres and his advisors have been seeking for some time a qualified Arab Israeli, to join the Israeli foreign service, as part of Israel's efforts to accord the Arab minority more rights and privileges and to improve Israel's image abroad in regard to the treatment of its Arab citizens. There are about 750,000 Arabs living in Israel today.

INDIA WON'T LET ISRAELIS PARTICIPATE IN WORLD TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11 (JTA) -- After weeks of conflicting messages, the Indian government advised Israel Tuesday that it would not grant visas to Israeli players to participate in the world table tennis championship tournament in New Delhi next week.

The message was conveyed by the Table Tennis Federation of India (TIFI) to the Israel Table Tennis Association. For the past several weeks, TIFI has been informing Israel that its team would be allowed to participate and then that it would not be. India refused to allow the Israelis to come to the Ninth Asian Games in New Delhi in 1982 or to compete in the world table tennis championships in Calcutta in 1975.

Now, as in the past, the Indians were acting under Arab pressure. Teams representing six Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization said last month they would boycott the games if an Israeli team was admitted. They were backed at a meeting of 17 Arab Ambassadors and Consular officials at the Arab League office in New Delhi.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A Gush Emunim leader has been censured for insulting members of the United Kibbutz Movement in the course of a debate over budgetary allocations. The reprimand to Gush Secretary Daniella Wiess came from Amana, the Gush Emunim settlement department.



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KNESSET UNIT QUESTIONS TWO SENIOR OFFICIALS ON IRAN ARMS SALES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Two senior officials believed to have been closely involved in the U.S.-Israel arms shipments to Iran appeared before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee in closed session Tuesday.

Amiram Nir, the Prime Minister's advisor on counter-terrorism, and David Kimche, former Director General of the Foreign Ministry, reportedly supplied information to the Committee's Intelligence Subcommittee. They refused comment to reporters when they left. Nir will appear again Wednesday.

Israel Radio reported that the subcommittee members appeared satisfied with the evidence indicating that Israel acted in the Iran arms sale as a loyal ally of the United States and was only fulfilling an American request when it shipped weapons to Iran.

Committee chairman Abba Eban said earlier that the testimony of top officials was important in light of the report by the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence released in Washington last week. The report indicated that Israel had initiated the arms deal and the diversion of funds from it to the Nicaraguan rebels known as Contras.

Eban, meanwhile, has asked Premier Yitzhak Shamir for a written clarification of Israel's role. In a letter to the Premier he said that the various verbal reactions by Israeli leaders and spokesmen to versions of the affair published in the American media often left a negative impression. He said Israel needed a detailed report that would explain the government's actions and rationale on the subject.

SHAMIR: ISRAEL WILL NOT RELEASE ARAB PRISONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR HOSTAGES HELD BY EXTREMIST GROUPS IN LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir reiterated that Israel will not release Arab prisoners in exchange for hostages held by extremist groups in Lebanon.

In a Voice of Israel Radio interview Monday, Shamir rejected a demand that 400 jailed terrorists be freed to save the lives of three American and one Indian university professors kidnapped last month in west Beirut.

Shamir identified the kidnappers as Hezbollah, a pro-Iranian Shiite group. But most foreign media reports say the kidnappers are a hitherto unknown group which calls itself the Islamic Holy War for the Liberation of Palestine.

It has threatened to kill the hostages unless Israel releases its prisoners within one week. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday that Israel has received no ultimatum from any group. He said he learned of the threat from the media.

Shamir said, meanwhile, that Israel is looking into ways to free two Israeli infantry soldiers and an Israel Air Force navigator being held prisoner in Lebanon. Their captors are believed to be Amal, the mainstream Shiite militia.

SHAMIR AND REAGAN TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF THE LAVI JET FIGHTER

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington later this month has imposed a deadline on senior defense establishment officials to come up with recommendations about the future of the Lavi, Israel's second generation jet combat aircraft.

The officials are studying several American alternatives to the Lavi proposed by U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Dov Zackheim when he was here last month. The Reagan Administration expects a firm decision from Shamir when he meets President Reagan at the White House.

A team of experts from the McDonnell Douglas company, a leading American manufacturer of military aircraft, was here last weekend to promote alternatives to the Lavi. They reportedly presented the Israelis with a choice between the F-16, F-18 and the Harrier, all advanced flying machines.

These are under study and a report will be submitted to Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin within the next few days, to serve as a basis for the case Shamir will present in Washington.

The U.S. has been pressuring Israel for a year to abandon the American-financed Lavi on grounds that it is too expensive to produce. Israelis have disputed the Pentagon's cost projections. Menahem Eini, head of the Lavi project, has estimated that each Lavi fighter will cost some \$18 million, plus 51 percent for spare parts. An F-16 would also cost about \$18 million but spare parts would be between 65-80 percent above the base price, Eini said.

BAN BY A TOWN'S RABBIS AGAINST WOMEN ATTENDING FUNERALS EVOKES OUTRAGE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Israeli women are outraged by a ban imposed by the rabbis of Migdal Ha'emek against women attending funerals on grounds that they may be "unclean" and therefore responsible for the abnormally high number of deaths in that town recently.

Women attending a funeral there last week were ordered by officials of the burial society to "stay back." The two chief rabbis of the town, Avraham Menahem and Yitzhak David Grossman, ruled that women must leave after eulogies are delivered for the deceased and before burial.

Burial society officials, all Orthodox Jews, said the failure of many women to observe the laws of family purity made them unclean and their presence at funerals together with men was therefore undesirable. They were allowed to visit the grave only after the men had left. These included not only friends but the daughters, granddaughters and sisters of the deceased woman.

Tova Lichtenstein, adviser on women's affairs to the Minister of Religion, protested the ban. "Men and women were created in the image of God and should be treated equally," she argued. Rabbi Pinhas Peli, a professor of Jewish studies at Ben Gurion University, in an Haaretz interview

Tuesday, accused the Migdal Ha'emek rabbis of "a primitive and paganist approach."

According to the rabbis, they were responding to the large number of deaths recently. "The public demanded that we do something about all these disasters, and since it is written in the Zohar that women's attendance at funerals can cause disasters, we decided this was the best course of action," Grossman said.

The Zohar, a 13th century mystical work, is the principal book of the Cabala.

Masha Lubelsky, Secretary General of Na'amat, the Labor Zionist women's organization, wrote to Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer Monday demanding an end to this "new fanatical norm." Knesset member Shulamit Aloni of the Citizens Rights Movement called for the dismissal of the Migdal Ha'emek rabbis.

HIGH COURT ACTS ON CONVERSION ISSUE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court ordered the Interior Ministry Monday to show cause within 45 days why it refuses to accord Jewish status to persons converted to Judaism by Reform rabbis, despite a court order to do so in the case of Shoshana Miller.

The show cause order was issued by Justice Gabriel Bach on the appeal of a married couple in Kibbutz Mishmar Ha'emek who were converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi in Brazil before they immigrated to Israel in 1985.

The couple was wedded after converting and was given Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return. But the Interior Ministry has consistently refused to register them as Jews. They said they were told by Ministry officials that their application would have to await the outcome of the Miller case.

Miller, an immigrant from the U.S. who was converted by a reform rabbi four years ago, was denied registration as a Jew. She appealed to the high court which ruled in her favor and ordered the Interior Ministry to issue her an identification card as a Jew, without qualification.

Rather than comply, Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, resigned last month. The Ministry was taken over temporarily by Premier Yitzhak Shamir who indicated he would postpone issuing Miller an ID card as long as legally possible. Shas has threatened to quit the unity coalition government.

LABOR AND LIKUD CLASH OVER FINANCIAL AID TO KIBBUTZIM

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Labor and Likud clashed in the Knesset Monday night over financial aid to kibbutzim. The latest dispute between the coalition partners could delay approval of the new budget.

The Labor Party Knesset faction threatened not to vote for the budget when it comes before the plenum Wednesday unless the Finance Committee approves a decision by the Treasury to spread the 264 million Shekel debt of the Labor affiliated United Kibbutz Movement (Takam) over a number of years. The movement represents 55 kibbutzim.

The heads of the Labor and Likud coalition factions were scheduled to meet Tuesday night with Finance Minister Moshe Nissim to try to head off a crisis. A vote against the budget would be tantamount to a non-confidence vote in the

government. Likud says it is not opposed to helping the kibbutzim. But it will support easing the kibbutz debt burden only if similar treatment is accorded to development towns and Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Likud also wants a written promise from Labor that it will not only support the budget but will vote for legislation needed to impose the new education tax and to reduce the top income tax rate from 60 percent to 48 percent. Both measures are important features of the new economic program approved by the Cabinet.

REP. SALA BURTON DEAD AT 61

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Rep. Sala Galant Burton (D. Cal.), one of two Jewish women members of Congress, died Sunday of cancer. She was 61 years old.

Burton was elected to the House in 1983 to succeed her husband, Phillip, and was re-elected in 1984 and 1986. When she was unable to be present to be sworn in on January 6 to the 100th Congress, the House passed a resolution allowing her to be sworn in at her home. The oath was administered the next day by Rep. Don Edwards (D. Cal.), chairman of the California delegation.

Burton was born in Bialystok, Poland, and fled with her parents to the United States in 1939 ahead of the Nazi occupation of Poland. She said she learned from this experience that "politics is everybody's experience."

She grew up in San Francisco and represented a San Francisco district in Congress. In the House, Burton continued advocating the liberal policies of her late husband. She was also a strong advocate for the cause of Soviet Jewry.

OLDEST ISRAELI RESIDENT DIES AT 119

TEL AVIV, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- The oldest resident of Israel died Monday. Dib Ali Jordan of the Arab village of Jisr Zerka, south of Haifa, had a fruitful lifetime of 119 years and his descendants are said to number in the thousands. He fathered his youngest son at the age of 92.

Dib Ali had six children by his first wife, who died in 1932 and 14 by his second wife whom he married two years later and was 50 years his junior.

Villagers claim that about half the 5,000 residents of Jisr Zerka are Dib's kin. They say he had 200 grandchildren, 800 great grandchildren and several hundred great-great grandchildren.

According to some of his children, Dib led a clean, outdoor life. He did not smoke, or drink alcohol, was an avid hunter and took long walks daily until only a month before he died.

VIOLENCE IN THE GAZA STRIP

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Three Gaza high school students were arrested Monday night for allegedly splashing acid on a group of girl students who refused to join an anti-Israel demonstration. Twelve girls were hospitalized.

The three reportedly confessed to the incident which occurred Sunday and divulged the names of accomplices. The police are now searching for them.

The students had demanded that the girls join a demonstration against the recent deportation of Mohammad Yussuf Dahlan, 26, alleged leader of the El Fatah youth movement in the

names of accomplices. The police are now searching for them.

The students had demanded that the girls join a demonstration against the recent deportation of Mohammad Yussuf Dahlan, 26, alleged leader of the El Fatah youth movement in the Gaza Strip, and the fatal shooting of a young Arab by Israeli security forces during a riot in the Gaza Strip town of Kahn Yunis where Dahlan lived.

As unrest continued in the territory, enraged Jewish settlers blocked the main highway Monday at the Deir el Balah intersection to protest stone-throwing at Israeli vehicles. They removed barricades only after Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, commander of the southern region, personally intervened.

A group of settlers spent the night at a nearby orchard on the look-out for Arab stone-throwers and demonstrators.

FORMER NAZI WHO REPRESENTED EAST GERMANY ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS PANEL HAS BEEN REPLACED

GENEVA, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Hermann Klenner, whose wartime membership in the Nazi Party was exposed by Israel two years ago, has finally been replaced as representative of the East German Democratic Republic on the United Nations Human Rights Commission here.

Israel informed the Commission two years ago that Klenner joined the Nazi Party on April 20, 1944 and produced his membership card number, 9756141. Nevertheless, he continued to represent East Germany on the 43-member body and was elected one of its three vice presidents last year.

The Commission began its annual debate Monday which will continue through March 13. High on the agenda is the human rights situation in the Israel-occupied Arab territories "including Palestine."

GREEK OFFICIAL TOURS ISRAELI PAVILION AT AGRICULTURAL FAIR By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Minister of Agriculture Yiannis Pottakis toured the Israeli pavilion at the Agrotica-87 International Fair in Thessaloniki Monday, escorted by Moshe Gilboa, Israel's diplomatic representative in Greece.

Israel is the only Middle Eastern country participating in the agricultural fair which has exhibits from the United States, seven Western European countries, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

Gilboa, who holds the rank of Ambassador showed the Greek Minister sophisticated agricultural equipment designed and built in Israel and a modern poultry lay-out developed by the kibbutz industries in Israel for private and collective farming.

Gilboa will host a reception for Greek officials and representatives of the Thessaloniki Jewish community Tuesday night. It will also be attended by Ionnis Papadopoulos, a member of the Cabinet who is Minister of northern Greece, and by representatives of foreign countries.

NATAN AND AVITAL SHCHARANSKY GIVEN AWARDS BY THE WIESENTHAL CENTER

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- "He commands no armies, he holds no elective office. Yet

his weapon, truth, has made the mightiest of powers stand in fear." This was how Natan Shcharansky was described by William Belzberg, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, at a dinner where the former Prisoner of Conscience was awarded the Center's 1987 Humanitarian Award.

More than 2,000 government and community leaders, celebrities and international personalities attended the tribute. It was Shcharansky's first appearance in the western United States.

Avital Shcharansky, largely responsible for her husband's freedom, was honored in absentia by the Wiesenthal Center with its Woman of Valor Award. In presenting the award, Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Center, said, "One day when historians chronicle this period they shall write that it was a woman's staff that split the sea, a woman's voice that the Pharaoh heard, a woman's sacrifice that humbled him to say, let him go. . . let him go."

Accepting his award as well as Avital's, Shcharansky spoke of his experiences in the Soviet Gulag, the need for relentless public pressure on behalf of Soviet Jewry, and the recent death of Soviet dissident Anatoly Marchenko. He urged that everyone should continue to speak out for the remaining close to 400,000 refuseniks who are still confined within the Soviet Union.

The dinner was cochaired by Alan Casden, Rosalie Zalis and Belzberg, members of the Wiesenthal Center Board of Trustees. The event was emceed by Jane Fonda, who spoke of her work on behalf of Soviet Jewry, and her particular friendship and concern for Prisoner of Conscience Ida Nudel. Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles described Shcharansky as "a giant among men."

EAST JERUSALEM ARAB EDITOR QUESTIONED ABOUT SYMPATHY WITH TERRORIST GROUPS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Elias Zananiri, editor of the Arab-owned East Jerusalem English-language weekly Al-Awda, was detained by police Monday for questioning in connection with suspicion that he violated a law which prohibits expressions of solidarity with terrorist organizations. The publication's owner, Ibrahim Karain, was questioned on Sunday.

The questioning concerned an editorial written by Zananiri last March in which he said the only solution to the Middle East conflict was a Palestinian state established through the "only legitimate leadership," the Palestine Liberation Organization. Neither the editor nor the owner was told whether legal action would be initiated against them. Zananiri said his interrogation was part of a campaign aimed against all Palestinian journalists. He noted that the Israeli authorities recently expelled Akram Haniye, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic daily A-Shaab and that last year two other East Jerusalem newspapers were closed down.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Bank Hapoalim is seeking to expand its position as a key factor in the finance of U.S.-Israel trade. It said it plays a major role in financing the exports of American manufacturers to Israel through the Export-Import Bank, the American export credit institution. The bank also participates in arranging credit for the purchase of American-made equipment by Israeli companies.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW
THE 'DOUBLE EDGED SWORD';
NAZI P.O.W. AND JEWISH
By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Outside the German prison camp Bad Orb, on a frigid and windy December day in 1944, thousands of American prisoners-of-war held hands as a German commander ordered all Jews to step forward.

A "bell of doom" descended over Private First Class Daniel Steckler, but despite the German's threats and commands, the entire battalion stood immobile. "We had heard about death camps and ovens," Steckler told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Immediately after his capture during the Battle of the Bulge, Steckler had ripped off his dog tag with the Jewish name. But after repeated warnings from the Germans, he and 127 other Jews admitted their identity. "I stayed awake wrestling with my own conscience," Steckler remembered. "Should I deny myself, denying my very soul?"

Ultimately, he could not disregard his background. He was raised in a Conservative Jewish home of self-sacrifice in which his father worked hard to bring him, his four brothers and sisters and his mother through the Depression. But his commitment to remaining Jewish cost him four months of torture and almost his life.

After years of silence, the 62-year-old former P.O.W. emotionally recounts his painful memories -- which play in his head like a motion picture -- in the television documentary "P.O.W. - Americans in Enemy Hands: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam," created by Arnold Shapiro and written and directed by Carol Fleisher.

The two-hour special, produced by Arnold Shapiro Productions in association with USAA and shown on about 115 local stations in late January and early February, features nine former P.O.W.s and narrator Robert Wagner.

The P.O.W.s relate their stories of capture, torture, struggle, escape attempts and anxious relatives through insightful interviews. Also shown is rare film footage of the war, some never before seen on television.

Steckler is one of four Jews profiled, all from World War II, but the only one to have suffered because of his religion. "It was a double-edged sword -- a P.O.W. and a Jew caught up in the Holocaust," Steckler said.

At Bad Orb, the Jewish P.O.W.s were separated from the others. Their supposed transfer to a work camp with "better conditions" turned out instead to be Berga, the satellite labor camp of Buchenwald. Steckler likens his torture there to the enslavement of Jews in Egypt.

By this time, Steckler's 180 pound solid build had wasted to less than 100 pounds. Like many of the other P.O.W.s, he suffered from severe dysentery, among other diseases. He lost body fluids extensively. The 350 prisoners were fed about 200 calories a day, according to Steckler.

While not all those at Berga were Jewish, Steckler remembers "the Jewish boys got all the hell." They labored at night near eight deafening air hammers. Steckler believes this caused his hearing loss, for which he has recently begun to use a hearing aid. Steckler is heavy-set for his short stature, with a thin gray moustache, dark-rimmed eyeglasses and a rounded face capped by short gray hair. His voice exudes pain.

He shut his eyes and reenacted the harsh, but mandatory task of hoisting rails of "an impossible weight ... I can feel the weight on my shoulders and knees and legs now." "We did it," Steckler explained, "because if you failed, God help you." The Germans beat them often with rubber hoses, pick axes, shovels and whips. "How anyone survived is beyond me," Steckler said.

The Motto For Survival

Because of this work, Steckler is missing a disc in his back, suffers a heart condition that resulted in a heart attack about 15 years ago, experiences numbness of the knees and hands and swelling of the legs, and is still afflicted with Beri Beri, a Vitamin B1 deficiency resulting in inflammatory or degenerative conditions of the heart, digestive system and nerves. He walks stiffly and with a limp.

Through the mental anguish and physical abuse, Steckler survived by the motto, "Don't show the bastards the yellow streak in you." The P.O.W.s were not afraid to sing American patriotic songs and "Hatikvah."

Three of his bunk mates died, one from gangrene and another after an escape attempt. "I was becoming a jinx," Steckler said, suppressing his tears. "I had a guilt complex for years. Why did I survive and not them?" Steckler offered his own answer: "I had God to help me, I had faith in myself and I had faith in the people next to me."

Still Experiences Nightmares

When Berga was liberated, Steckler, lice-ridden and weighing just 85 pounds, received treatment in France and recuperated in the United States, but received no psychological counseling. He still experiences nightmares and his temper is short. "I was afraid to tell people," Steckler said. "I was afraid of the effects. Why involve them? It made no sense."

Each year, however, Steckler tells his horrible story at the Seder table, which now includes his wife of nearly 37 years and three children. But "P.O.W." is the first time he has presented his story publicly.

Steckler was found by Shapiro's office through a VA hospital in Boston, where he attends weekly P.O.W. therapy meetings. In June 1985, Steckler met two fellow P.O.W.s from Berga and last April 23 invited them to his Seder for the 41st anniversary of their liberation.

He participated in the documentary, he said, in the hope that his story will turn the experience into an instrument for peace and as assistance to others who have caged their own, similar horror stories. Last year, while filming the documentary, Steckler returned to Berga. He called the experience a "horror." But he plans to go back to the tunnels he slaved in sometime in April.

Not only does Steckler believe in facing reality. He feels he must return. "I want to be able to see the tunnels through the eyes of a free man," he explained.

* * *

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- About 150,000 Israelis of North African origin attended a memorial ceremony in Netivot Monday marking the third anniversary of the death of Baba Sali, the spiritual leader of North African Jewry.

**SUDANESE DETAIN 54 ETHIOPIAN JEWS**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Sudanese authorities have recently detained 54 Ethiopian Jews who crossed the border into Sudan, according to a Sudanese newspaper which was quoted here last Friday by Al Hamishmar. The Sudanese paper, All-Ittihad Al-Asbui, reported that the supervisor of refugee affairs in Sudan said the country's security authorities will continue to hold the Ethiopian Jews until a decision is made regarding their fate. There has been no independent confirmation of the detention.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER VANDALIZED

PARIS, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Vandals devastated a Jewish community center at St. German El Laye near Paris Monday. Community leaders estimate the damage in tens of thousands of Francs but said religious services will be resumed Friday. Torah scrolls were torn, prayer books were desecrated, furniture was broken and anti-Semitic slogans were daubed on the walls. Mayor Michel Perricard, who visited the scene, said the police have been ordered to use every resource to track down the vandals.

BEGUN'S RELEASE STILL NOT CONFIRMED

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Relatives of Iosif Begun in Moscow still had no word on his rumored release when contacted Monday afternoon, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported Monday.

Chaim and Zelda Tepper, cousins of Begun's in New York, who spoke with Begun's wife Inna in Moscow Monday, said they received the following message from Inna:

"Bad news from the penal officials. There is no statement about Iosef's liberation, not at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, not in Chistopol prison (where Begun is imprisoned). He is still in Chistopol. Mr. Arbatov told a lie. My husband has not been released and they are not going to liberate him. I have this from the chief reception desk of the Ministry of Internal Affairs."

Georgi Arbatov, a Soviet Central Committee member, said Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation" that Begun had been freed. The announcement followed a week-long demonstration in Moscow by Begun's family and friends to rally for his release.

Jacob Birnbaum, director of the Center for Russian Jewry and of SSSJ, said the announcement was probably intended to diffuse an "enormously embarrassing situation" for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The demonstrations in Moscow on behalf of Begun ended in violence and coincided with an international peace conference called by Gorbachev in Moscow.

The announcement of Begun's release may have been simply a propaganda ploy to ease criticism, Birnbaum said. But it is also possible that Gorbachev gave Arbatov the information on the release which has not yet trickled to the lower echelons of the prison system or the Internal Affairs Ministry. Begun's son Boris was scheduled to begin a 15-day prison sentence

Monday for heading up last week's demonstrations, SSSJ reported.

Demonstrations In The U.S. And Israel

In at least two U.S. cities Monday, Soviet Jewry activists demonstrated on Begun's behalf. In New York, a group undaunted by freezing temperatures gathered outside the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. A similar protest was staged at the San Francisco Soviet Consul by the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jewry.

Six of Begun's relatives, New York City Councilman Noach Deer and seven others were arrested for disorderly conduct when they attempted to march to the gates of the Soviet Mission. The protesters, blocked by police, sat down in the street in front of the Mission and then were arrested. About 100 people turned out for the demonstration.

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, six people demonstrating on Begun's behalf chained themselves to railings outside the Prime Minister's office Sunday. Police forcibly removed the demonstrators, who represented the Soviet Jewry Information Center in Jerusalem, headed by former Soviet Jewish prisoner Yosef Mendelevich.

Speakers at the rally excoriated the Israeli government for what they called a failure to express public support for the daily demonstrations in Moscow last week by Begun's family and friends.

Another rally was held opposite the Finnish Embassy in Tel Aviv by the Public Council for Soviet Jewry. Finland represents Soviet interests in Israel.

SHAMIR SAYS HE IS STILL WAITING FOR THE VERIFICATION OF BEGUN'S RELEASE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir said on his arrival here from Israel Monday that he is still waiting "for the verification" of reports that Soviet Jewish dissident Iosif Begun has been released from prison, but offered congratulations to Begun's family should the reports prove correct.

Shamir, here for a 10-day visit which will include a meeting with President Reagan at the White House Wednesday, pledged that Israel "will continue the struggle on behalf of Soviet Jewry." Asked to comment on the latest Soviet "gesture," the release, according to Moscow last week, of 140 imprisoned dissidents, the Israeli leader replied: "We are not interested in gestures. We are interested in meaningful change."

Shamir, asked by reporters if his talk with Reagan will include the Iran-Contra arms sale affair replied, "We will discuss many subjects." Pressed on that matter, however, he answered, "Maybe." Israeli sources here said the Shamir-Reagan meeting would deal primarily with bilateral issues, the Middle East situation and other topics, but they did not think Iran would be among them.

Now An Official Ally Of The U.S.

Before leaving Israel, Shamir declared that Israel is now "an official ally of the United States." Questioned about this here, he stated that

"Israel is a major non-NATO ally of the United States" but did not elaborate. According to reports, Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger asked Congress to grant Israel the status of an official, special ally of the U.S.

Israel has sought the status which is conferred upon non-NATO allies including Japan and Australia. The change will allow Israeli firms to bid for valuable defense-related projects in the U.S. which could garner Israel up to \$300 million in additional revenue. The step towards formalizing bilateral relations between Israel and the U.S. comes after the U.S. and Israel have already signed a strategic cooperation agreement to hold joint military exercises.

Shamir met at his hotel here with Governor Thomas Kean of New Jersey, whom he met when the latter visited Israel two years ago. Governor Mario Cuomo of New York is presently out of the State. Shamir also met Monday afternoon with Mayor Edward Koch of New York City.

Purpose Of Shamir's Trip

A spokesman for Shamir briefed reporters following the meeting with Koch. He said that the Mayor had asked Shamir the purpose of his present visit to the U.S., to which the Premier replied that since Israel has become a major ally of the U.S., he wants to clarify the definition and contents of this new relationship.

Shamir also discussed Soviet Jewry with Koch and expressed dissatisfaction that Soviet Jews come to the U.S. with refugee status. They are not refugees, he said, because they leave the USSR with Israeli visas. He said he would raise this matter with U.S. officials when he is in Washington.

The spokesman said Koch and Kean had both urged that Israel not enter into negotiations with terrorists for the release of hostages and that Shamir told them Israel has no intention of doing so.

Israel Seeks To Build Solid Economy

The spokesman said Shamir lunched Monday with members of the Jewish Task Force for the Economic Development of Israel, at the Regency Hotel. The meeting was chaired by David Hermelin, international chairman of the Israel Bond Organization.

Shamir told the group that Israel is very much concerned with building and establishing its economy on solid grounds. He said he has confidence in the goals of the Task Force and believes that if they are correctly implemented, Israel will stabilize its economy in 10 years.

According to the spokesman, Shamir is satisfied with the atmosphere surrounding his American visit, despite media reports about Israel's involvement in the Iran-Contra arms scandal. He leaves for Washington Tuesday and will remain there until Friday, when he leaves for Los Angeles. Shamir will return to New York on February 23 for meetings with Jewish leaders and student groups.

The Premier is accompanied on his trip by four senior aides: Avi Pazner, his communications advisor; Elyakim Rubinstein, Cabinet Secretary; Gen. Azriel Nevo, his Aid de Camp; and Yosef Ben-Aharon, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office.

DEMJANJUK TRIAL BEGINS IN JERUSALEM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The trial of John Demjanjuk opened in Jerusalem District Court Monday and immediately became embroiled in legal argument over the defendant's identity and the court's right to try him.

Demjanjuk's American attorney, Mark O'Connor, maintained that the accused is not the former Treblinka death camp guard who was known to the inmates as "Ivan the Terrible" because of his brutality and who was held responsible for the deaths in the gas chambers of 850,000 Jews and thousands of Gypsies.

Furthermore, O'Connor insisted, the Ukrainian-born retired automobile worker from Cleveland, Ohio, is a victim of evidence fabricated in the Soviet Union, the victim of a KGB plot; and that he was extradited from the U.S. on a murder charge but is now being charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against the Jewish people.

O'Connor also challenged Israel's right to bring him to trial because the alleged crimes were not committed on Israel's soil, were not committed against Israeli citizens, and were not committed by a citizen of Israel.

Judge Don Levin, president of the three-judge panel hearing the case, enjoined O'Connor repeatedly to confine himself strictly to the matter of jurisdiction and to leave the question of identity to a later stage, after the prosecution has presented its evidence. But O'Connor insisted that the issues were intertwined, and the court allowed him to present his arguments on both jurisdiction and substantial proof. In addition to Levin, who is a Justice of the Supreme Court, the panel consists of two Jerusalem District Court judges, Dalia Dorner and Zvi Tal.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) began legal proceedings in 1977 to strip Demjanjuk of his American citizenship on grounds that he lied about his collaboration with the Nazis when he entered the U.S. In 1984 he was ordered deported as a suspected war criminal. He was extradited to Israel for trial in February 1986, a year almost to the day before the opening of his trial.

The courtroom is a 300-seat converted cinema house. Its gallery was packed Monday with local and foreign reporters and television camera crews. The 66-year-old Demjanjuk, father of two, entered the prisoner's dock flanked by two policemen. He wore an ill-fitting brown suit and waved to the spectators.

Seated directly behind him was his son, John Demjanjuk Jr., and a Ukrainian Orthodox cleric, Bishop Antony, who came from the U.S. to attend the early stage of the trial and offer his assistance to the defendant. Ukrainian-American groups are believed to be financing Demjanjuk's defense.

The trial is expected to last at least three months. The proceedings are conducted in Hebrew and translated simultaneously into English and Ukrainian. Attorney O'Connor's words are translated from English to Hebrew by an interpreter at his side.

Assertion Is Rebutted

His assertion that the charges brought against Demjanjuk are inconsistent with the

charge of murder on which he was extradited from the U.S. was rebutted by State Attorney Yona Blattman, who noted that the American courts and the U.S. Department of Justice were fully aware of the crimes that Israel attributes to Demjanjuk and therefore the legal technicalities of the charge sheet were not relevant.

Blattman is assisted by State Attorneys Dennis Goldman, Michael Shaked and Michael Horovitz. O'Connor has an Israeli lawyer, Yoram Sheftel, assisting him on points of Israeli law. Sheftel told reporters before the trial opened that he was "eager to do battle" because he is convinced Demjanjuk is a victim of mistaken identity. He said he would not have taken the case otherwise.

Declared Purpose Of The Trial

A declared purpose of the trial is to acquaint the younger generation of Israelis with the terrible realities of the Holocaust. The Israel Defense Force and the Education Ministry plan to bring soldiers and high school students to attend the sessions, which will be held four days a week.

The proceedings are being broadcast live by Israel Radio. Galei Zahal, the Army Radio, is offering frequent updates, summaries and commentaries throughout the day. But Israel Television declined to broadcast the trial live on grounds that it is too expensive and there is insufficient public interest.

Demjanjuk is the first suspected Nazi war criminal ever extradited to Israel and the second to be tried here. Adolf Eichmann went on trial in Jerusalem 25 years ago and was executed as a principal organizer of the "Final Solution." Demjanjuk is being tried as an implementor. He faces a death sentence if convicted.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO DEPORT NAZI WAR CRIMINAL By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Rabbi Marvin Heir, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, criticized the U.S. Justice Department for failing to deport Karl Linnas, a convicted Nazi war criminal, to the Soviet Union.

"There is no reason for Karl Linnas, a man charged with horrific crimes, to spend an additional free day in the United States," Hier said at a press conference here last week. "It's an insult to democracy and an insult to the victims which he so callously and brutally murdered during the Second World War."

The press conference was held after the Los Angeles-based Center presented a list of 74 suspected Nazi war criminals living in the U.S. to Neal Sher, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), which investigates and prosecutes Nazi war criminals who illegally immigrated to the U.S. after World War II.

Hier, who was accompanied by Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the Center's associate dean, and Martin Mendelson, its Washington-based legal counsel, said Sher promised to "vigorously" investigate the cases along with the hundreds of other cases the OSI is now pursuing.

The Linnas case was linked to the 74 new names because the Wiesenthal Center does not want it to be a "signal to all of them" that they could stall legal proceedings for "a quarter of a century," Hier explained. He noted that the 74 ranged in age from 64 to 85.

Linnas, 67, was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1981 by the Federal District Court on Long Island, NY, after it found him responsible for the murder of thousands of people when he was chief of the Nazi concentration camp at Tartu, Estonia.

The U.S. Supreme Court last December and again last month refused to hear an appeal against the Linnas deportation order.

Hier said he was "very concerned" about the efforts of conservative groups to prevent the deportation. He said the issue of Nazi war criminals was not one in which conservatives and liberals should differ. He said the Wiesenthal Center and others would publicly fight any attempt to prevent the deportation.

The 74 names presented to the OSI included persons who were members of the Ypatinga Buras, a Lithuanian squad which murdered civilians; chief officers of prisons and concentration camps and officers and officials of the 11th, 12th and 13th battalions of the Lithuanian Security Police which was attached to the German SS, Hier said.

The list presented to reporters included birthdates, their war crimes, date of emigration to the U.S. and destination, but no names. Hier explained that the Center wants the persons listed to "be investigated by a government body. We do not want to try them in the press."

Hier indicated that most of the 74 are still alive, noting that 62 other names were eliminated because they had died.

He said this was only the beginning, since the Center had not completed its investigation of other war criminals from Lithuania, the Ukraine and Germany believed to have come to the U.S. He stressed that no ethnic group was being targeted, only war criminals.

Hier said that the Center has been able to conduct its investigation because it has legally acquired its own access to immigration data. He said previously these data were compiled only by international rescue organizations, such as the International Red Cross, which have refused to make them available.

This is the largest list compiled so far by the Wiesenthal Center, Hier said. Cooper said that in the past four months, the Center has provided 65 names to Australia, 44 to West Germany, 17 to Great Britain, 26 to Canada, 12 to Sweden, three to Venezuela and one to Brazil.

"This is not a question of an eye for an eye," Hier said. "Our future will be weak if the record reads you can be a mass murderer and a Nazi war criminal and live out the rest of your life in freedom."

APPROVAL OF BUDGET IN SIGHT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Likud and the Labor Party were reported to have reached an understanding Monday that might result in approval of the 33 billion Shekel (\$23.8 billion) national budget scheduled for its first reading in the Knesset Wednesday. But the fate of the budget still appeared to hinge on how the coalition partners will act on several matters in dispute between them.

One question that remains open is whether financial aid for the Labor-affiliated United Kibbutz Movement will be approved before the Knesset vote and whether Likud MKs will endorse it even if a parallel proposal for aid to Jewish settlements in the West Bank is not on the agenda by Wednesday.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW
AN HISTORIC AND UNPRECEDENTED MOVE
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- As it approaches the end of the 39th year since its founding, the State of Israel has made an historic and unprecedented move -- it has appointed a young Israeli Arab to an important and prestigious diplomatic post abroad.

Muhammad Masarwa, a 45-year-old lawyer from Kufer Kara village near Hadera, will be Israel's next Consul General in Atlanta, a post he assumes next summer. He will be the first non-Jew to head an Israeli diplomatic mission anywhere, and his appointment demonstrated Israel's confidence in itself and in its 750,000 Arab citizens.

Masarwa is Moslem. He speaks Hebrew with fluency and eloquence, as he does English and Arabic. He heads a successful law firm in Hadera and has often represented the mainstream of Israel's Arab society at public events. He combines boyish good looks and silvery curly hair with the shrewd intelligence often attributed to his profession.

Should Have Been Done Long Ago

Masarwa is not particularly excited by his elevation to the highest position ever held by an Israeli Arab. "This should have been done a long time ago, in other offices as well. The excitement is over the fact that after much talk something was done," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview after his appointment was announced last week.

Previously the highest position held by an Arab in Israel was Deputy Minister of Health, occupied until the early 1970s by the late Abdul Aziz Zuabi of Nazareth, a Mapam Knesset member. A Druze, Sheik Jaber Muadi, was Deputy Minister of Communications and Agriculture.

But there have been no Arabs in senior positions since 1977. There has been talk recently of appointing an Arab to the Supreme Court, but this has yet to materialize.

"There is no reason why an Arab should not be appointed Director General or Deputy Director General of a government ministry," Masarwa said.

But he does not favor a "symbolic" appointment of an Arab as a Minister or a Supreme Court Justice just because he is an Arab.

"I believe that Arab citizens of Israel should have an equal opportunity to put forward their candidacy to any civil service opening," Masarwa said. "Once this is done, I believe that Israel's Arabs will become full partners to the Jews in Israel and gain the place they deserve in the society."

Arabs Face 'Technical Limitation'

He is convinced there are plenty of Arabs capable of filling such jobs. But they face a "technical limitation" -- the condition often demanded by Israeli employers, public and private alike, that only veterans of the Israel Defense Force be hired.

Israeli Arabs are not permitted to serve in the IDF for security reasons. But Masarwa believes this is often used as a pretext not to employ Arabs. "One should do away with this barrier," he told the JTA.

Masarwa began his public life in 1963 as secretary of the Arab Student Union at the

Hebrew University in Jerusalem. At that time, there was a campaign to abolish the military government which had been in charge of Israel's Arab population since the war for independence in 1948. Masarwa was active in that campaign.

In 1976, he became the first -- and youngest -- Arab elected Mayor of his village when the system of direct elections was instituted. He held office for two years. He was elected Mayor again in 1983. Last May he resigned, in compliance with a rotation of power agreement, and now serves as Deputy Mayor.

Masarwa was not affiliated with any political party until Ezer Weizman invited him to join his new Yahad Party before the 1984 Knesset elections.

He was sixth on Yahad's list, but the party won only three Knesset seats. When Yahad merged with the Labor Party last month, Masarwa officially became a Laborite.

It is believed that Masarwa's appointment to Atlanta was due in large measure to Weizman's influence with the Foreign Ministry, headed by Labor Party leader Shimon Peres. He was one of four candidates considered for the post.

Masarwa says he and Weizman "have a lot in common, both on local issues and on Israel's foreign and peace policies." He does not see any possible conflict of interest between his private views and the official policy of the government he will be representing.

Reflects The Israeli Mainstream

"My views reflect the Israeli mainstream, and they were well known to those who appointed me to the job," he said. Although he has no previous diplomatic experience, Masarwa has a native diplomatic finesse.

He adroitly avoids such sensitive and emotionally charged questions as the demand for an independent Palestinian state which is shared by a majority of Israeli Arabs. For the record he said: "The Foreign Service, and the Foreign Ministry included, strive toward peace with the Arab countries, toward solving the Palestinian problem. This can be done through a number of venues."

On the controversial issue of an international conference for Middle East peace, Masarwa observed that: "Presently on the agenda is an international umbrella for peace talks. This is accepted by both the Arab countries and the Palestinian leaders." He made a point of not mentioning the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Nothing is guaranteed," he added. "We shall try different ways to reach some progress on the course to peace."

At least outwardly, Masarwa appears untroubled by the possibility that Palestinian propaganda in the U.S. might depict him as a traitor. He also has no qualms about his ability to communicate with the large Jewish community in Atlanta and the southern region of the U.S. that his Consulate covers.

"I think that I will achieve greater credibility because the person representing the State of Israel will be an Arab," Masarwa said. He will go to Atlanta next summer with his wife, Hitam, and their three children, Amir, 14, Bashir, 10, and Nazir, seven.

Masarwa said he has not yet decided whether as the new Consul General of Israel he will attend all local Jewish events. "I have not yet decided if I will attend Yom Kippur service. I will follow my conscience," he added.

**ISRAEL WILL ANSWER U.S. QUESTIONS
ON IRAN ARMS SALES, SHAMIR SAYS****By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir stressed Thursday that the Israeli government "will respond to every question and request to clarification" from Congressional committees investigating the Iran-Contra affair.

"It will become clear that Israel acted in accordance with its obligations as a friend and ally of the United States," he said in response to a question after his address at a luncheon of the National Press Club.

During his speech before some 300 persons, Shamir declared that "Israel was not involved in any way in the diversion of funds (from the sale of American arms to Iran) to Contras." He maintained that Israel's participation in the sale of arms to Iran was a result of its belief that Iran is a strategically important country and there is a need to influence its policies.

After Shamir met with some 60 members of Congress Wednesday, Sen. Daniel Inouye (D. Hawaii) and Rep. Lee Hamilton (D. Ind.), chairmen of the Senate and House special committees investigating the Iran affair, said the Israelis agreed to answer questions in writing and submit a chronology of Israeli financial transactions and contacts with Iran.

No Specific Answers

Shamir refused to answer any specific questions Thursday, such as whether President Reagan approved Israel's sale of arms to Iran in 1985. There has been a conflict in testimony on whether Reagan authorized the sale or not.

Asked whom he expected to win the Iran-Iraq war, Shamir shrugged his shoulders and replied, "I realize I come from Jerusalem, but I am not a prophet."

He said it was a "silly war" which "no one understands the reason" for, but which could continue for years. He said Iran has the advantage in manpower and Iraq in sophisticated arms, but it would be "a disaster" if either side won.

According to Israeli sources, Shamir was not asked any tough questions during his meeting with the members of Congress. But he got those questions at the National Press Club luncheon.

Asked about the case of Jonathan Pollard, the former civilian Navy employee who is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to spying for Israel, he again said this was a "painful experience" for Israel.

He stressed the operation was conducted by a small group of Israelis "against the policy" of the Israeli government. "We regret it very much," he added. He said Israel cooperated with the investigation and now that the case is in the U.S. courts, Israel "has nothing to say about it."

Won't Take Lead On South Africa

Asked about Israel investing or divesting in South Africa, Shamir replied: "We are looking for investments in Israel. We are looking for investments of Jewish people coming from South Africa to Israel." Shamir stressed that Israel opposes

apartheid, but in its relations with that country it must take "into consideration" the existence of an "important Jewish community."

He said Israel is a "small country" and cannot lead the struggle against apartheid. But he added, Israel's dealings with South Africa are less than those of many Black African and West European countries.

In his address, Shamir repeated his opposition to an international conference which King Hussein of Jordan wants to precede negotiations with Israel. He said the ideas were inspired by the Soviet Union, which wants to play a "major role" in the Mideast.

Shamir added that he would accept an international conference that would include only Jordan, Egypt, Palestinians and the U.S.

He again urged Jordan to agree to "face-to-face" negotiations, "if not in the region, which would be the most desirable, then right here in Washington or at Camp David."

Shamir said the U.S. can play host because it is "interested in peace and stability" in the Mideast and has "excellent relations" with both Israel and Jordan.

At the same time, Shamir said that despite his criticism of the Soviet Union, "we are interested in improving relations with Soviet Russia." He said it was not "normal" for the USSR to reject diplomatic relations with Israel.

He said that the first topic he would discuss with Soviet officials is Jewish emigration.

On Wednesday night, Shamir called for an end to the policy of providing "homeless refugee" status for Soviet Jewish immigrants that allows them to go to the United States and other countries rather than Israel.

"We are most anxious to put an end to the dropout phenomenon, which has caused much harm," he told some 600 Jewish leaders from the U.S. and Canada at an Israel Bond dinner at the Capitol Hilton Hotel.

During his three-days of meetings with the Reagan Administration, Shamir has urged that the U.S. no longer grant refugee status to Soviet Jews since their Soviet visas are for immigration to Israel.

But Administration officials have rejected this plea, arguing that the U.S. supports "freedom of choice."

"In Israel they are free to apply for a permit to go to any country of their choice," Shamir stressed to the Bond leaders. "Our State was not established for the purpose of enabling the transfer of Jews from one dispersion to another."

Noting that there are "rumors" of a change for the better in the Soviet emigration policy, the Premier said so far there is "no confirmation" of this. "We have to redouble our efforts to get the Soviet Union to let our people go and to do it right now," he said.

Invitation To Visit

Shamir urged American Jews to make a "pilgrimage" to Israel this year to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the State and the 20th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. "Send your children and grandchildren

to the country," he declared. "Let them see what has been accomplished in such a short time....Let them realize what yet remains for them to do in the years that lie ahead."

The Premier stressed that "never for a moment have the people and the leadership of Israel believed that Israel is an endeavor of Israelis alone. We have always considered ourselves as the vanguard of the Jewish people, forward scouts whose task is to pave the way for the return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel."

Shamir noted the economic reforms of the national unity government, stressing that the aim was to reduce inflation to less than 10 percent.

"We hope that all these measures will instill greater confidence in investors and entrepreneurs and encourage them to bring their capital, experience and skills to Israel," he said.

Shamir praised the accomplishments of the Israel Bond Organization, noting the record sale of \$603 million in bonds in 1986. David Hermelin, Israel Bonds international campaign chairman, said \$31 million in Bonds were sold for the dinner honoring Shamir.

FIRST WEEK OF 'IVAN' TRIAL FEATURES ATTORNEYS' CLASHES, DISPUTE OVER IDENTITY OF AMERICAN DEFENDANT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- The first week in the trial of John Demjanjuk, the only suspected Nazi war criminal ever extradited to Israel, ended Thursday with defense counsel challenging the ability of witnesses to identify the Ukrainian-born former automobile worker from Cleveland, Ohio. He is said to be the Treblinka death camp guard known to inmates as "Ivan the Terrible" because of his brutality.

The trial opened Monday before a three-judge panel of the Jerusalem District Court convened in a converted cinema. Much of the week was devoted to testimony by Yitzhak Arad, a historian of the Holocaust and chairman of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. He presented a detailed picture of day-to-day life at Treblinka, where nearly 900,000 Jews perished.

In contrast to the first three days of the trial, Thursday's session was electric with tension, marked by frequent sharp exchanges between the prosecution and defense that drew exclamations from the spectators.

The court intervened several times to reprimand one of the parties for unseemly behavior. At one point, it ordered the microphone removed from the table of Yoram Sheftel, an Israeli lawyer who is assisting Demjanjuk's American attorney, Mark O'Connor. Sheftel frequently interrupted the proceedings.

Is Identification Possible

The cross examination of Arad Thursday focussed on whether inmates could identify those who carried out the extermination process. The Treblinka Ivan, and another guard, Nikolai, ran the gas chambers. O'Connor questioned how an inmate who was "traumatized beyond belief in the history of man" could "look in the eye" and "stand and observe" the person who was beating him or operating the gas chambers.

Arad responded that he "had no doubt" that inmates used "in this terrible work for weeks or even months had the opportunity to look at the faces of the Germans and Ukrainians who en-

slaved them." He said inmates in the lower camp at Treblinka were aware of the events and people active in the upper camp where the gassings took place because they moved from one camp to another.

The court banned Arad from making a statement at the close of his testimony. He told the Army Radio later that he had intended to say that not all Ukrainians collaborated with the Nazis and that many joined anti-Nazi resistance forces and saved Jews.

Throughout the proceedings, Demjanjuk, 66, sat in the prisoners dock, stone-faced, as he listened to the testimony translated into Ukrainian.

SOVIET JEWISH DISSIDENT BEGUN PARDONED, SET FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, NCSJ REPORTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish dissident Iosif Begun will receive an unconditional pardon and be released from Chistopol prison 10 a.m. Friday, local time, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Thursday.

Jerry Goodman, executive director of the NCSJ, said Begun's wife, Inna was contacted Wednesday by Soviet Minister of Interior Aleksandr Vlasov. He said her husband's release was official and that she could meet him at the prison. She will be accompanied by Begun's son, Boris, Goodman said. He said his information came from NCSJ sources in Moscow.

Begun, a 54-year-old electrical engineer and mathematician was an activist for Jewish emigration rights, a long-time refusenik and a clandestine teacher of Hebrew, which is outlawed in the Soviet Union. In 1983, he was sentenced to seven years in prison and five years exile to Siberia for allegedly slandering the Soviet State.

Soviet Announcement Thursday

Soviet Foreign Minister Gennady Gerasimov announced in Moscow Thursday that Begun would be pardoned by decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the highest state body in the USSR, which pardoned more than 140 other dissidents including several Jews over the past week.

The NCSJ statement said: "This welcome action by the Soviet Union demonstrates that it is possible for that nation to treat its Jewish citizens as it does its other minorities, without such an action being perceived as a threat to Soviet society.

"As the Soviet Union has now demonstrated that it is possible to release a man who had been incarcerated because he sought to teach Hebrew and to pass on his heritage, we eagerly await the release of all the other Jewish Prisoners of Conscience. The world also awaits a firm decision to allow all Jews who wish to do so to emigrate, as guaranteed by the Helsinki Accords and other international agreements, and as practiced in some other Soviet-bloc states." The announcement of Begun's pardon ended a week of agonizing suspense for his wife, family and friends. Last Sunday, Georgi Arbatov, a member of the Central Committee of the Supreme Soviet, said on the CBS "Face the Nation" television program that Begun had been freed.

The announcement followed a week-long demonstration in Moscow by Begun's family and friends for his release, finally broken up by police who manhandled some of the demonstrators and

Western reporters. Initially, there was elation over Arbatov's statement because it came on the heels of the release of other dissidents. But on Monday, Chaim and Zelda Tepper, cousins of Begun's in New York, said they spoke to Inna Begun in Moscow by telephone and received a message of despair.

They said Inna told them, "Bad news from the penal officials." She said there was no statement from any source about her husband's release and that she was told by the chief reception desk of the Interior Ministry that "they are not going to liberate him. Mr. Arbatov lied."

On Tuesday, Soviet authorities announced that another dissident, Anatoly Koryagin, had been freed by decree, but that Begun remained in prison pending a decree approving his release. There were indications that it was being held up because Begun refused to sign the required statement that he would refrain from illegal activities in the future."

But the announcement from Moscow Thursday said his pardon was unconditional.

DENYING EARLIER REPORT, ISRAELI RABBI REQUESTS THAT NON-ORTHODOX DEFER TO ORTHODOX ON ISSUES OF PERSONAL STATUS

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- A leading Israeli Orthodox rabbi made clear his view that Halacha (Jewish law) must take precedence over intra-Jewish politics in issues of personal status, such as divorce and conversion.

Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein, who heads a yeshiva in the Etzion block of settlements south of Hebron, said, in a statement made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that it was necessary for him to clarify remarks he made before a National Religious Party forum in Jerusalem last month which "were grossly distorted in certain press reports."

His remarks were interpreted in some quarters as a hint that Orthodox refusal to regard as valid the authority of non-Orthodox rabbis on documents of personal status may have to be modified in the interests of Jewish unity.

With respect to the area of personal status, Lichtenstein said in his statement: "We should strive to minimize the emphasis upon symbolic questions of pride and prestige and focus, instead, upon the substantive halachic issues. We should try to ensure that proper procedure be followed by halachically qualified personnel, and be less concerned with who gains some recognition by superintending or signing what."

'Part Of Compassionate Enterprise'

He said "this would entail our asking others to direct their adherents to obtain a kosher 'get' (religious divorce) wherever necessary -- this not by way of compromising their principles but simply as part of a compassionate enterprise. . ."

In the matter of "the composition of the Beth Din (rabbinical court) actually engaged in the specific formal steps" of conversion, "we should entertain an arrangement which would guarantee that the composition and procedures to be applied by the actual Beth Din meet our standards, although it might act under the aegis of a sanctioning Reform or Conservative authority," Lichtenstein said.

"This would admittedly grant that authority an inevitable modicum of implicit recognition, but given the gravity of the issue, I believe we can live with that, inasmuch as we need not actually

accord formal recognition but could simply skirt the issue."

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported from Jerusalem on January 26 that Lichtenstein suggested that Orthodox conversion courts might have their decisions formally approved by a Conservative institution as a way to break the impasse.

Just Such A Case

Israel is presently embroiled in the issue of non-Orthodox conversion in the case of Shoshana Miller, an immigrant from the United States who was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi in the U.S. The Israeli Supreme Court recently ordered the Interior Ministry to issue her an identification card as a Jew, without qualification. Interior Minister Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party resigned from the Cabinet rather than comply.

Lichtenstein emphasized in his statement that the non-Orthodox institutions acting in conversion cases would have to demonstrate the standards and "minimal scope and depth of commitment" as defined by "the leading 'poskim' (rabbinical interpreters of halacha) of the age."

He admitted that, "This approach may very well be nothing more than a pipedream. Perhaps no Reform or Conservative leader will even entertain it. But do we have the moral and halachic right to abstain from its exploration? We should explore it not for the sake of Israeli law or politics . . . but for the sake of 'Klal Yisrael' (Jewish unity)."

"The card of recognition," he said, "is far too precious to be given up in order to cope with a trickle of Susan Millers."

Orthodox rabbis in Israel refuse to acknowledge the convert's Hebraization of her given name.

SHARANSKYS PROTEST IN NEW YORK FOR BEGUN, ALL SOVIETS WHO WISH TO EXIT **By Yitzhak Rabi**

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- Natan Sharansky, his wife Avital and his 79-year-old mother Ida Milgrom stood in a cage in front of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations here Thursday, calling for freedom for Soviet Jewish dissident Iosif Begun and demanding free emigration for all Soviet Jews who want to leave.

Sharansky and his family arrived at the demonstration shortly after their direct flight from Israel landed. They joined about 40 demonstrators who were carrying posters of Begun and chanting repeatedly, "Free Begun now." Almost as many reporters were on hand.

The demonstration, which was scheduled to last until Saturday, was organized by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ).

Sharansky said that he was aware of reports that Begun was about to be released from prison, but he noted that Begun was still not free as long as he was denied the right to emigrate.

Begun has been in the Soviets' Chistopol Prison since 1983 for allegedly slandering the state. However, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) confirmed reports from Moscow Thursday that Begun has been pardoned and is about to be released. Sharansky told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he and his wife decided to join the demonstration after Avital spoke on the telephone with Begun's wife Inna. "We decided

to come here and demonstrate for Begun and for all Soviet Jews, 382,000 of them who are waiting for exit visas to leave the Soviet Union," Sharansky said.

In a statement at the demonstration, Avital Sharansky declared: "My family arrived in New York to inaugurate a protest for the release of all Prisoners of Zion and the free emigration of all Soviet Jews. Today the protest focuses on Iosif Begun."

Natan Sharansky said that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is attempting to win public support in the West by drawing attention to Soviet gestures to prominent dissidents while the situation of Soviet Jewry at large remains grim. He called for continued, open pressure on the USSR to ease the plight of Soviet Jewry.

After answering reporters' questions, Milgrom and Avital Sharansky marched toward the gates of the Soviet Mission carrying a poster of Begun. A worker at the Mission came out and received the poster from them without making any comment.

After an hour in the cage -- the one said to be used by Avital Sharansky when she previously demonstrated on behalf of her husband when he was imprisoned -- the family left to attend to their newborn daughter and escape the freezing cold. They said they will demonstrate all day Thursday and Friday.

GOLDA'S DENVER HOME SAFE - FOR NOW

By Andrew Muchin

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- The Denver, Colo., house occupied briefly by Golda Meir is temporarily safe from demolition due to a 10-day restraining order imposed February 13 by Denver District Court Chief Judge Clifton Flowers.

The state-level trial judge was reacting to a suit filed the same day by the Golda Meir Memorial Association (GMMA), claiming that the Board of Appeals of the Building Inspection Division of the Denver Public Works Department does not have the authority to determine ownership, and thus the fate, of the house. The house could have been razed as early as February 15, the Board had ruled on January 15.

Indeed, ownership of the former home of the late Israeli Premier is under contention. Deputy City Attorney John Spessel, while not commenting on the pending litigation, asserted that the city has a signed contract of ownership with the predecessor of GMMA. Yet, Mel and Esther Cohen of Denver and GMMA claimed ownership by GMMA. The Board ruled in favor of the city on January 15, but Board chairman Ralph Nordhauser said that ruling "may well be" wrong.

Flowers will hold a hearing on February 20 to consider imposing a preliminary injunction that would restrict the city from demolishing the house, now sitting in disrepair on steel beams in a city park. No date has been set to hear the suit, according to the plaintiff's attorney, Jim Bretz.

The suit raises a laundry list of disputes. The plaintiff contends, in addition to the jurisdictional argument, that the Department and Board, in particular Board chairman Ralph Nordhauser, are prejudiced against the house.

Esther Cohen claimed that Nordhauser, who lived in the house as a child, recently told her, "Sure, we had a famous movie star's relatives there all the time ... Willard the rat."

In response, Nordhauser said that Cohen "has no sense of humor." He contended that his primary concern was public safety. When he visited the house in January and December, he said he found the fences around it insufficient to stop potential visitors and in fact saw children and a dog at play beneath the house. He added that he had pushed for city funds for refurbishing the house under the previous mayor.

His safety claims were corroborated by Robert Alson, chief structural engineer of the Division. While not commenting on the suit, he told JTA that the Division has maintained for several years that the house is unsafe.

Divisional inspectors had found last December and earlier in the year that portions of the fences around the house were down, allowing easy access, and that structural damage to the walls and roof presented a potential danger to the public.

However, Esther Cohen claimed that the five- and six-foot fences and the boards over of the windows and doors were all that reasonably could be done to ensure safety.

In the suit, GMMA also is asking for six months to demonstrate its ability to the Building Department to renovate and utilize the house. Katherine Archuleta, a representative of Denver Mayor Federico Pena, noted that GMMA has missed several such deadlines, which Cohen acknowledged, most recently the 30-day one imposed by the Board on January 15. But Cohen said she felt "coerced" into accepting the deadlines by Archuleta.

Archuleta had no comment on the suit Tuesday, but she did maintain that the Pena administration had attempted to find a use for the house from 1983 through late 1986. Then it became clear to the administration that perhaps the house could be refurbished for \$150,000-\$250,000, but probably was beyond repair, she said. Moreover, she found insufficient private interest, even among the Jewish community, in restoration.

But Mel Cohen claimed the house can be fixed. "You're not looking at it as it was, or for what events took place in it, and the beautiful restoration that's going to be," he said. "There's a beautiful, beautiful, set of plans that the city paid for, that the architects did three years ago."

Archuleta confirmed the existence of the plans, and noted that the city paid \$30,000 for them and for moving the house to the park in the summer of 1985. She blamed the current problems of the house on GMMA's inability to raise the funds for restoration, which she said it promised within three months of when the house was moved.

Mel Cohen said the Allied Jewish Federation of Denver can't afford to help, and attributed GMMA's lack of a treasury on "the constant negative words that are used in describing the house ... We've gone ahead and busted our asses for four years to overcome the negatives and opposition we've encountered primarily from the city."

Added his wife, "We're not mavens on money-raising."

The house has been vandalized with graffiti, and a fire destroyed part of the roof. Nevertheless, Eugene Padon of Eugene Padon Engineering, Inc. of Denver told the Board of Appeals January 15 that the house could be placed on a foundation and completely refurbished for \$65,000. He also contended that it posed no danger. "I have been in it in the last six months," he said.

**RABIN: ISRAEL WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO SECURE RELEASE OF AIR FORCE FLYER HELD PRISONER IN LEBANON**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel would do its utmost to secure the release "alive and well" of an Israel Air Force flyer held prisoner in Lebanon. But he refused to comment to reporters on a proposal said to have been made by Nebih Berri, leader of the Shiite Amal militia, to include the flyer in a swap for 400 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel and by the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters Monday that Israel would not yield to the demands of a terrorist group for the release of the 400 prisoners in exchange for the lives of four hostages -- three Americans and an Indian national -- kidnapped in west Beirut on January 24.

A group calling itself the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) for the Liberation of Palestine has threatened to kill the hostages in 24 hours unless Israel complied. "Nobody has approached Israel and Israel will not take any initiative on that issue. If anyone has an offer to make, let him approach Israel in an orderly manner," Peres said, adding that Israel does not accept ultimatums.

Severe Political Repercussions

The reported offer by Berri to exchange the flyer, an Israel Air Force navigator captured by Amal after his plane was shot down over Lebanon last October, raised speculation here and abroad that a deal could be made whereby the hostages and the flyer would be released for the jailed Palestinians without Israel or the U.S. seeming to surrender to terrorist demands.

But the release of 400 convicted Palestinians would certainly have severe political repercussions in Israel. The exchange of 1,150 Palestinian and Shiite prisoners, many convicted terrorists, for three Israeli soldiers in 1985, raised a public outcry. The government has all but acknowledged it was a mistake and indicated it would not be repeated. Israeli officials insist there has been no pressure whatever from the U.S. for Israel to deal with the kidnappers of the Americans, all faculty members of the University College in Moslem west Beirut.

But Davar reported from Washington Monday that secret negotiations have been underway for the past few days between the U.S. and "countries in the Mideast" in an effort to free the hostages.

POC SAYS HE WAS SURPRISED BY HIS RELEASE FROM A SOVIET LABOR CAMP

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Prisoner of Conscience Roald (Alex) Zelichonok was surprised by his release from a labor camp in Kazakhstan over the weekend. "Now my problem is to leave here and make my way to Israel," he told Voice of Israel Radio by telephone from Leningrad Monday in what he said was his first conversation in Hebrew in two years.

Zelichonok, 50, an electrical engineer, clandestine teacher of Hebrew and a refusenik since 1978 was one of 42 political prisoners unexpectedly freed from Soviet prisons and labor camps by decree of the Supreme Soviet. He had served half of a three-year sentence imposed in August 1985 for "defamation of the Soviet State and social system."

He said he had not known until four days ago of his impending release, and was set free within three hours after the orders came from Moscow, according to regulations. He thanked the government of Israel, the Jewish people and other friends who had helped his wife, Galina, and encouraged him.

Touches On A Vexing Problem

Zelichonok touched on a controversy that has long bedeviled Soviet Jewry activists when he denounced as a "disgrace" the fact that a fellow POC, Yuri Tarnapolsky, who was released recently, preferred to immigrate to the United States instead of to Israel. "This is unbearable, this really hurts," Zelichonok said.

He said his strongest wish now is to go to Israel, but if he cannot get an exit visa he would continue to teach Hebrew in the USSR.

The Absorption Ministry, meanwhile, has prepared a master plan for the mass absorption of Soviet Jews, based on an estimated 10,000 immigrants a year. Its projected cost is \$221 million. According to the Ministry, some 241,000 Jews have left the Soviet Union since 1971. Of that number, 159,000 immigrated to Israel and 82,000 went elsewhere.

KIRKPATRICK SEES HOPE FOR REFUSENIKS IN THE NEW SOVIET 'GLASNOST' POLICY

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Jeane Kirkpatrick, the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, just returned from Moscow, said at a press conference here that the new Soviet openness ("glasnost") gives new hope for separated spouses, refuseniks and others who want to emigrate from the USSR. She mentioned by name several prominent Jewish refuseniks.

Kirkpatrick, whose militant anti-Communism was a hallmark of her tenure at the UN, visited the Soviet Union last week as part of a private delegation that included two former U.S. Secretaries of State, Henry Kissinger and Cyrus Vance. They had a three-hour meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. She said she was hopeful that the Soviet leadership will give serious reconsideration to the problem of refuseniks denied the right to emigrate, denied religious expression, and, in some cases, imprisoned and suffering malnutrition and lacking desperately needed medical care.

In that connection, she cited the case of Iosif Begun, a Prisoner of Conscience who was imprisoned for teaching Hebrew and confined to a punishment cell for wearing a yarmulke; and Yuli Edelstein, who, with a broken pelvis, lacked minimum medical care, as a result of which he will suffer a lifelong disability.

Kirkpatrick also referred to Chena Golworth, 55, whom she described as a private citizen of no political consequence, who is alone and without employment in Moscow. The former UN envoy expressed hope that Golworth will soon be allowed to join her two daughters and grandchildren in Israel.

Later, addressing a session of the 43-member United Nations Human Rights Commission here, Kirkpatrick said she heard from high level Soviet officials some extremely interesting accounts of changes planned and changes already underway inside the USSR. She said they spoke of new thinking, of democratization, though they add of course, democratization Soviet style, within a one party system.

"We hope they travel this road to its end," Kirkpatrick said, adding, "We can assure them, from our own experience and our study of history, that economic development and prosperity are reliable by-products of the move to democratization."

ISRAEL RECEIVES THREE ADVANCED U.S. FIGHTER BOMBERS, THE FIRST OF 75 SUCH AIRCRAFT ORDERED BY ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Three Advanced F-16C fighter bombers flown by American pilots, landed at an airbase "somewhere in Israel" Monday after a flight from Texas. They are the latest additions to the Israel Air Force and the first of 75 such aircraft ordered by Israel at a cost of \$3 billion.

A welcoming group at the air base was headed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Air Force Commander Gen. Amos Lapidot and other senior officers. Shamir said these planes and those to follow will make an "important contribution to defending Israel's goals."

Their sale to Israel, the only country apart from the U.S. to have the F-16C, was an expression of the firm bonds of friendship between Israel and the U.S., Shamir said. He added, "The U.S. knows that we are in the forefront of the defense of democracy in this part of the world."

The F-16C, manufactured by General Dynamics, is an improved version of the F-16A and F-16B which have been in the Israel Air Force since 1980 and already tested in combat, including clashes with Syrian MIGs.

More Advanced And Powerful

The F-16C, called the "Fighting Falcon," is a single-seater plane. It and its two seat counterpart, the F-16D which is among the 75 to be delivered to Israel, are powered by General Electric F110 engines which are more powerful than the Pratt and Whitney F100 engines which propel the F-16A and B.

The new planes have better electric and electronic systems and carry a heavier load of bombs and missiles. The manufacturer has incorporated highly sophisticated equipment developed in Israel, including air frame, a computer memory and advanced radar.

The aircraft are priced at about \$40 million each and are considered a rival to the Lavi, Israel's second generation fighter plane designed and built by Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI). The U.S. has been urging Israel to abandon the Lavi project on grounds of excessive costs and the advanced F-16s have been proposed by the Pen-

tagon as an alternative. The Lavi prototype had its first test flights last month.

Lapidot said, after accepting the three F-16Cs, that the Air Force would go ahead with its preparations to absorb the Lavi but would continue to fly the F-16s. He said he personally thought that the Israel Air Force should have both a locally produced plane and imported aircraft.

JEWISH GROUPS PROTEST ELECTION OF A PLO SUPPORTER TO A LIBERAL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY POST

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Four of the largest Jewish organizations in Canada have issued a strong joint protest against the election of Marcel Proudhon, a self-proclaimed supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to the office of chairman of the Parliamentary caucus of the opposition Liberal Party in Ottawa.

The statement last Thursday by the Canada-Israel Committee, B'nai B'rith Canada, the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canadian Zionist Federation said they were "disturbed and concerned" by the election.

It described Proudhon, a member of Parliament from the St. Dennis district of Montreal, as a person "who has befriended and publicly supported the PLO over many years" and "a man whose views are at odds with his party's stated policies on the Arab-Israel conflict and the PLO."

Former Prime Minister John Turner, leader of the Liberal Party which has a large Jewish constituency, said he respected the democratic process which elected Proudhon to his high position in the party. Nevertheless, he added, Proudhon will have to adjust his views to those of the majority in Parliament.

Proudhon has visited PLO headquarters in various parts of the Middle East. He boasts of his personal friendship with PLO chief Yasir Arafat and has called for the creation of a Palestinian state.

SOLON WARNS AGAINST SCHOOL PRAYERS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Rep. Barney Frank (D. Mass.) warned Monday that those who are seeking a return of prayers in the school want the United States to be not just a Christian nation, but one that officially espouses their type of Christianity.

"The distinguishing thing about America is not that we have minorities, it is that we have no majorities," he told some 300 persons attending a meeting of B'nai B'rith International commissions at the Mayflower Hotel.

"We are not fighting, as Jewish Americans, for the right of Jews to dissent without being picked on," Frank stressed.

He explained that as a Jew he does not want to be part of a "fully recognized protected minority because that is an unequal situation. I want to be like everyone else."

Frank criticized President Reagan's State of the Union statement that Congress should end "the expulsion of God from America's classrooms."

The Massachusetts Congressman said it was "nonsense" to say that either God or prayer had been expelled from the public schools. "How do you forbid someone to pray?" he asked.

Frank said there were "infinite" opportunities for children to say prayers during the school day if they wanted to. He said that those who want officially organized prayers in the school "don't think that every family gives enough religious instruction to their kids."

Instead, he charged, they want the schools to use their "coercive mechanism" to "inculcate more religion than you have at home."

Frank also warned against the effort to have a constitutional convention in order to adopt an amendment to the Constitution requiring the federal government to have a balanced budget. He said such a convention could not be limited to the budget and could impair the protection now in the Bill of Rights, including the separation of church and state.

Frank stressed that Blacks provide a "great deal of support" in upholding the separation of church and state. He noted that while they are statistically important in many of the religious groups seeking to break down the barrier, they "understand what it means to be a minority."

He added that Blacks in Congress back Israel 90 percent of the time and next to Jewish Congressmen have the best record against providing arms to Saudi Arabia.

ISRAEL AND GREECE SIGN A COOPERATIVE TOURISM PROGRAM By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Israel and Greece announced Monday the start of an unprecedented cooperative tourism program to attract more American tourists to Israel and Greece.

"We are very excited about this historic venture, which will link not only the world's oldest civilizations, but also two of the most exciting vacation destinations in the world," Simos Dimas of the Greek National Tourist Organization declared in a joint press conference here with Moshe Shoshani, Israel's Commissioner for Tourism for North America.

According to the two officials, the Greece-Israel program will promote U.S. tourism to both countries. It will encourage tour operators currently active in this market to expand their services and induce those not selling such combination packages to enter the market. The two countries have allocated \$200,000 each for a joint advertising campaign that will implement the program.

Last November, Greece and Israel signed an agreement on tourism. As part of the agreement, which was signed by Israel's Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir, and his Greek counterpart Takis Roumeliotis, it was decided that the two countries will cooperate on a program to promote U.S. tourism to both countries.

There was a sharp decline in tourism from the U.S. to Israel and Greece last year. Shoshani said that only 250,000 American tourists came to Israel in 1986, compared with 430,000 in 1985. Dimas said that about 230,000 American tourists visited Greece in 1986 compared with 460,000 in 1986.

The joint Israel-Greece tour program offers five days in Greece and five days in Israel with flights from New York to Athens to Tel Aviv and back to New York.

Both officials said they hope that the program will be for the benefit of both countries and that it will lead to a meaningful increase in the number of American tourists.

"We are confident," Shoshani concluded, "that this landmark effort between our countries will serve not only to stimulate travel from the United States, but ultimately to create better understanding between nations."

VIOLENCE IN THE WEST BANK

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Nine Palestinian youths were wounded by Israeli security forces during violent demonstrations that erupted at the Balata refugee camp and A-Najah University in Nablus Monday.

An Israeli border policeman was slightly injured by rocks hurled at his patrol car at Balata, near Nablus. Military sources said two demonstrators there were hit by live ammunition and one by rubber bullets. Six students were wounded at A-Najah.

A curfew was clamped on the refugee camp where rocks and bottles were thrown at Israeli soldiers and Palestinian flags were raised. Military sources said rubber bullets failed to quell the demonstration. The order to open fire with rifles was given after the demonstrators disregarded orders to disperse and "endangered the lives of the soldiers," the sources said.

BANK LEUMI OFFICIAL RESIGNS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Mordechai Einhorn, who was named executive managing director of the Bank Leumi six months ago, resigned Sunday and acknowledged that he did so under pressure from the bank's employees.

They demanded he be ousted or resign in exchange for their cooperation with the bank's new Board of Directors. Einhorn told the Board members at the start of a meeting Sunday that he understood their sentiments and preferred not to be the cause of continuing unrest at Israel's largest bank. No successor has been named.

Bank Leumi has undergone a complete change of management since the disclosure last month of the excessive severance pay and pension awarded to its former chairman and chief executive officer, Ernst Japhet, when he resigned last spring. Japhet was forced to leave because of his involvement in the 1983 bank shares manipulation scandal.

Einhorn took over part of Japhet's duties. Israel Radio quoted an unnamed director of the bank as saying employee complaints had a "degree of legitimacy" because Einhorn was among those who "skimmed off the cream while demanding cutbacks in salaries."

SEXISM COMBATTED IN NURSERY SCHOOLS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- On the premise that sexist attitudes are inculcated at an early age, the Education Ministry has banned story books from nursery schools which depict girls as weaker than boys, passive, and dependent on boys to rescue them from difficulties.

Haaretz reported that a Ministry directive has advised nursery school teachers not to tell tearful boys that they are crying "like girls." According to Shimshon Shoshani, Director General of the Education Ministry, "girls in all stages of education achieve less than boys and the reasons are educational and social, not biological."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES QUESTIONABLE VIEWS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Two recently expressed views by Israeli leaders -- that the danger of war with Syria has diminished and that a victory by Iran over Iraq would be a preferable outcome of the Persian Gulf war from Israel's standpoint -- were challenged over the weekend by Israeli experts on military and political factors in the Middle East.

Zeev Schiff, the widely respected military analyst of Haaretz, suggested Sunday that statements by Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin that war with Syria is more theoretical than likely at this time, may be over-optimistic.

Prof. Moshe Maoz, an expert on Syria and other Arab countries, maintained in a weekend Israel Radio interview from Boston, where he is engaged in research at Harvard University, that a victorious Iran would pose a greater danger for Israel than Iraq.

And Dr. Amazia Bar-Am, a leading authority on Iraq, thought Israel should put out peace-feelers toward Baghdad through some third party.

Syria's Military Capabilities

Schiff noted that Rabin saw significance in the fact that Syria recently put a large number of its tanks and artillery into storage, a move forced by the country's precarious economy.

"However, it would be an exaggeration to say that the storage of several hundred tanks and guns testifies to significant changes in Syria's military capability or to a turn-about in Damascus' national security conception," Schiff wrote.

He noted that Syria has more than 4,000 tanks so that moth-balling a few hundred does not change its offensive capability. He pointed out that the Israel Defense Force also puts in storage reserve tanks and other equipment.

Moreover, Syria's retrenchment is only on the ground, which demands caution in drawing hasty conclusions. "If the reductions were generated in the air force as well and were accompanied by the dismantling of a few combat corps and the grounding of planes, the matter would take on greater significance," Schiff wrote. He advised Israel to wait until the next stage in the Syrian army's reduction process before deciding how the IDF should act.

Maoz said in his radio interview that Syrian cuts have been in quantity, not quality. He noted Syria's strategic weapons such as the Soviet-supplied SS-21 and SS-23 missiles, and chemical warheads.

Syria may not be ready to embark on a general war but it might try for a limited action, such as wresting part of the Golan Heights back from Israel and then seeking an in-place ceasefire, Maoz said.

Consequence Of An Iranian Victory

With respect to the Gulf war, Maoz warned that an Iranian victory would be followed by an increase in the influence of Moslem fundamentalism throughout the Middle East, endangering not only Israel but the stability of the Arab states.

He said the preferred outcome would be a stalemate which would lock Iranian and Iraqi forces in place and unavailable for outside adventures for years to come.

Bar-Am, the authority on Iraq, said that country is at the weakest point in its history. "And while they remain anti-Israel and anti-Zionist, they are pragmatic. So you have here an ideological commitment (Iran) as opposed to political, economic and military strength" (Iraq), he said.

"I am not sure they (the Iraqis) will moderate much, but I think there is a good chance that they will be willing to negotiate with us over certain issues. I don't expect peace agreements but I would expect some kind of understanding that would be useful for both sides," Bar-Am said.

The professor, who lectures at Haifa University and Hebrew University, added, "It's worth trying, through mediators. If we don't succeed, we haven't lost anything."

NO PROGRESS ON NATIONAL BUDGET

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- No progress has been reported Friday in the negotiations between the Labor Alignment and Likud over the proposed 33 billion Shekel (\$23.8 billion) national budget.

Labor's initial demand to allocate 266 million Shekels (\$193 million) as a long-term loan to rescue the United Kibbutz Movement triggered demands from other sectors. Agudat Israel and Shas seek allocation of 30 million Shekels (\$22 million) to yeshivas affiliated with each party and West Bank settlers are asking for an immediate allocation of 47.5 million Shekels (\$35 million) and an unspecified sum later.

Treasury officials warned that if these demands are met, the budget framework, which has not yet been approved, will be torn apart.

Likud has claimed that additional outlays for yeshivas and settlements could come from budget reserves and thus not lead to excessive spending. But Treasury officials claim that earmarking reserves, rather than keeping them for unexpected needs, would be equivalent to increasing the budget.

Last year's budget was 33 billion Shekels (\$20.9 billion).

NO IMMEDIATE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST EIGHT RABBIS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Attorney General Yosef Harish will not take immediate legal action against eight leading rabbis who questioned the authority of the High Court of Justice to rule on religious conversion.

Instead, following high-level consultations at the Justice Ministry, Harish decided last week to ask for the intervention of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Harish was expected to ask Minister of Religious Affairs Zevulun Hammer to decide whether to take disciplinary action against the rabbis or issue an order that would prevent similar petitions in the future.

If his measures are determined to be insufficient, the prosecution could still take action against the rabbis, according to sources at the Justice Ministry.

The eight rabbis, heads of religious courts, signed a petition saying they would not accept the authority of the High Court to rule on matters of conversion to Judaism, following its recent ruling to register Reform convert Shoshana Miller as Jewish.

SHAMIR: U.S. HAS NOT REQUESTED ISRAEL TO RELEASE JAILED TERRORISTS IN EXCHANGE FOR HOSTAGES BUT WOULD CONSIDER SUCH REQUEST IF RECEIVED
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday that Israel has received no request from the U.S. to release imprisoned terrorists in exchange for the lives of hostages held by an extremist group in Lebanon. However, he said, "If such a request were received, it would be considered."

He did not indicate the possible outcome of such consideration but reiterated Israel's policy not to negotiate with terrorists. Shamir, who was interviewed on television, will be in Washington next week for meetings with President Reagan and top Administration officials.

A group calling itself the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) for the Liberation of Palestine has demanded that Israel free 400 Arab terrorists jailed in Israel or in the prison of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in Ansar, south Lebanon.

According to a report from Beirut, the Islamic Jihad has given the International Red Cross a list of the prisoners it wants freed -- 310 Lebanese Shiites and 90 Palestinians. The latter include three terrorists serving life sentences for a grenade attack which killed an Israeli soldier near the Western Wall in Jerusalem five months ago.

The Islamic Jihad threatened Monday to kill four hostages -- three Americans and an Indian national who is a resident of the U.S. -- if the prisoners were not released within 24 hours. Reports from Beirut Tuesday said the deadline was extended for an unspecified period in order to allow time for negotiations and because of appeals by the hostages and their families and certain elements in Lebanon.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REVISES PARTS OF REPORT ON WAR CRIMINALS IN CANADA TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF PERSONS INVESTIGATED
By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- The government has revised portions of the Deschenes Commission's report on Nazi war criminals in Canada in order to protect the privacy and civil rights of persons investigated, Justice Minister Ray Hnatyshyn disclosed to the House of Commons in Ottawa Monday.

He denied vigorously that the report is being purged for political reasons or as a result of pressure from East European ethnic groups which fear they may be branded as Nazi collaborators. Leading Canadian Jewish organizations have decided to withhold comment until the report is made public. According to knowledgeable sources, this will be "soon."

The only goal is to avoid publicly identifying people and making sure the innocent are protected, Hnatyshyn said. He said parts of the report will have to be reprinted but refused to say when it will be presented to the House of Commons. He also would not speculate on when the government will respond to any recommenda-

tions for action against suspected war criminals living in Canada.

The Commission, headed by Quebec Superior Court Justice Jules Deschenes spent 22 months investigating and compiling its report which fills 1,200 pages and was presented to the government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney last December 30.

Elements Of The Report

It is divided into two sections, a public portion which contains no names but enumerates case studies, and a private section which names persons against whom there may be grounds for action. The Commission examined about 30 cases in detail and came up with approximately 12 suspects against whom there is serious evidence.

During its nearly two years of investigation, the Commission did not have an opportunity to gather evidence in Eastern European countries.

Government sources reportedly fear that the public portion of the report, although it names no one, might offer clues to the identity of individuals investigated by mentioning such facts as their port of entry into Canada, their place of residence or their national origin. Ukrainian and Baltic groups in Canada have been especially sensitive to any suggestion of collective guilt for war crimes.

Several conservative back-benchers in Parliament support those groups, arguing against identifying suspects by nationality. The Minister of Justice rejected any suggestions that the government was re-writing the report because of such lobbying.

He did not say who did the actual revisions but said they were handled in consultation with Judge Deschenes who will comment on the matter when the report is made public.

Proposal To Amend The Criminal Code

Deschenes is believed to have recommended that the Criminal Code be amended to permit trials in Canada for war criminals whose crimes were committed elsewhere. That proposal was supported by all sides at public hearings by the Commission, despite the fact that the previous Liberal government expressed concern that such legislation might violate civil liberties by creating retroactive crimes.

The Canadian Jewish Congress and the League for Human Rights of B'nai B'rith have suggested other possibilities, including extradition for trial in West Germany or Israel, or simply stripping suspected war criminals of their Canadian citizenship and deporting them.

**FOCUS ON ISSUES
TRYING TO ASSESS CHANGES IN USSR
POLICY ON EMIGRATION AND DISSIDENTS**
By David Friedman (Washington)
and William Saphire (New York)

Feb. 10 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewry activists trying to assess recent changes in Soviet policy on emigration rights and dissidents in general, have welcomed the unexpected release of political prisoners, including Jewish Prisoners of Conscience but remain strongly skeptical as to

whether these moves indicate a genuine change of direction by the Soviet leadership or are merely a cosmetic device for propaganda purposes.

The consensus is that while the self-proclaimed Soviet policy of "glasnost" (openness) gives rise to hope, much more has to be done to prove Moscow's good faith, particularly with respect to Soviet Jewry. Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry observed Monday that "it is imperative to separate fact from fantasy."

He noted that while the Soviet Union enacted what it calls a liberal new emigration decree and Soviet Foreign Minister Gennady Gerasimov spoke of a massive acceleration of Jewish emigration, "only 98 Jews were granted exit visas in January, up from 77 in December, hardly a massive acceleration."

Reagan Administration View

The Reagan Administration has taken a similar view. It urged Monday that the release of the 42 prisoners be followed by the release of all political prisoners and POCs, as well as permission to emigrate to all Soviet Jews who want to do so.

"As we have consistently made clear to the Soviet government, we attach the greatest importance to improvements in the field of human rights, including the right to emigrate," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said.

"We hope the recent statements by Soviet officials, that large numbers of Soviet Jews are being granted exit permission, will be followed by steps to allow the departure of all those who wish to exercise the right to leave," Redman said.

He was apparently referring to a statement in Moscow by Samuil Zivs, chairman of the Soviet anti-Zionist Committee, that 500 Jews were granted exit visas in January. Fewer than a thousand were allowed to emigrate in all of 1986.

Redman urged that all prisoners and POCs in "confinement and exile" be freed and that they should not be required to "recant their past activities or limit future activities." He stressed that the U.S. will be keeping a close watch on Soviet actions in the human rights area which "will have a positive impact on the climate of U.S.-Soviet relations."

Gap Between Promise And Performance

Pamela Cohen, president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, responded Monday to the unexpected release from a labor camp of POC Roald (Alex) Zelichonok. "We are pleased by the announcement of Zelichonok's release, but our joy is tempered with the knowledge that nearly a dozen other Soviet Jews remain in prison in labor camps," she said.

"I call upon the Soviet leadership to move expeditiously in releasing the remaining Prisoners of Conscience and in processing the emigration applications of thousands of Soviet Jews who wish to leave the USSR," Cohen stated.

Abram stressed in his statement the wide gap between Soviet promises and performance. "Soviet officials are guilty, not only of massive human rights violations, but of speaking out of both sides of their mouths," he said, 'glasnost' from one side, and grievous misstatements from the other. These Janus-like utterances have the effect of throwing sand in the eyes of Soviet Jews and human rights activists everywhere."

Abram said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev must be asked "why did the Soviet Union begin its repression of the Jewish minority in the first

place? And why, in the light of current representations of 'glasnost' are Jews still denied their human rights? Why are there still Prisoners of Conscience?"

Unusual Occurrence In Moscow

The Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry reported an unusual occurrence in Moscow Monday where about 15 people demonstrated in front of the Palace of Culture on behalf of POC Iosif Begun. They included Begun's wife, Inna and his son, Boris. The demonstrators held signs and posters in support of Begun's right to be allowed to emigrate to go to Israel, the LICSIJ reported.

They were not interfered with by the authorities and while some passersby shouted anti-Semitic epithets, others showed support by signing their names on the posters. According to the LICSIJ, the demonstrations are continuing daily, joined by well known refuseniks.

Begun, 54, was sentenced in 1983 to 12 years in prison and internal exile. An electronics engineer, he was fired from his scientific research job after applying for an exit visa. At the time of his arrest in 1982, he had been giving Hebrew lessons which are banned in the Soviet Union.

Begun was one of several prominent POCs referred to by Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, at a press conference in Geneva Monday after her return from a visit to Moscow. She noted that he was imprisoned for teaching Hebrew and confined to a punishment cell for wearing a yarmulke.

The Soviet Union, she said, will have to give serious reconsideration to the problem of refuseniks denied the right to emigrate, denied religious expression and, in some cases, imprisoned and suffering malnutrition and lacking desperately needed medical care.

Some Hope Seen On 'Glasnost' Policy

Nevertheless, Kirkpatrick, whose militant anti-Communism was a hallmark of her tenure at the UN, said the new "glasnost" policy gives new hope for separated spouses, refuseniks and others who want to emigrate.

Later, addressing a session of the 43-member United Nation Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Kirkpatrick said she heard from high level Soviet officials some extremely interesting accounts of changes planned and changes already underway in the USSR. She said they spoke of new thinking and of democratization, though democratization Soviet style in a one-party system.

Kirkpatrick visited Moscow last week as part of a private delegation that included two former U.S. Secretaries of State, Henry Kissinger and Cyrus Vance. They had a three hour meeting with Gorbachev.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

ONE ODYSSEY ENDS, ANOTHER BEGINS

By Mark Dodick

Staff Writer, Canadian Jewish Jews

TORONTO, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- One odyssey has ended for Leah Maryasin, her husband Alexander, and daughter Faina, and another has just begun. After 15 years of refusal, the Maryasins were finally allowed to leave the Soviet Union and arrived in Montreal late last week. Early this week the family was reunited with relatives in Toronto who fought for their release.

Leah Maryasin from Riga, who suffers from multiple myeloma, was admitted to Toronto General Hospital for treatment of her cancer. Bundled in a pink bathrobe and slippers, with two intravenous tubes attached to her body, Leah, 61, appeared with Alexander and Faina at a press conference convened by B'nai B'rith Canada in the hospital's main lecture hall.

Though obviously tired from their trip from the Soviet Union --which included a last-minute bureaucratic foul-up overcome by Canada's Ambassador to the USSR, Vernon Turner --the Maryasins exuded joy at their official welcome here.

"I am very glad that I am in a free country," Leah said in English, sitting in a wheelchair. "You must know what it is to be in Russia to understand what it means to be in a free country." But, she added, "I am very sad to leave behind my sick friends (other refusenik cancer victims). My heart aches to be in such a position."

Alexander, 62, said his family was "overwhelmed" by their experiences in the USSR during the 16-year visa struggle and "the kind treatment which we are not used to." He thanked Leah's sister Mara Katz and brother-in-law Eugene Katz of Toronto for their unwavering support during the dark years in the USSR. "If not for them, it would be much more difficult. I would never have been able to survive." Alexander also thanked others who were instrumental in helping the Maryasins obtain their freedom.

A Story Of Love And Courage

B'nai B'rith Canada executive vice president Frank Dimant and president-elect Ralph Snow described the Maryasins' story as one of love and courage. "Today we see what happens when we work for the impossible," said Snow.

Dr. Gerald Batist, the Montreal oncologist who founded the International Cancer Patients Solidarity Committee and has kept on top of Leah Maryasin's case as well as that of all refusenik cancer patients, said: "Today is the celebration of a victory of hope over despair, of caring over callous indifference. These cancer patients are the litmus test. The whole world will watch in shock if the Soviet Union continues to toy with them."

Dr. Michael Baker, head of the hospital's cancer treatment and research program, said Leah would probably be in the hospital for 10 days for tests and to begin chemotherapy. He said she had multiple tumors in her skin and possibly her bones and is being treated with heparin for a blood clot in her leg. Baker noted that Alexander, who is also ill, has refused treatment deferring all attention in favor of his wife.

Eugene Katz said about the Maryasins, "It was a 15-year struggle but then the most important thing was not to give in to the nogoodniks." Mara Katz asked if she was angry that it took so long to free her sister, answered, "I'm overwhelmed with anger. Why did they keep them? What kind of criminals were they that they kept them?"

Outside his wife's hospital room Alexander Maryasin told the Canadian Jewish News "It is very important for future generations to learn about the USSR. It's very important for people to go there." He added that he was very concerned about the Jewish community he left behind in Riga whose cultural activities he coordinated.

SENTENCING OF POLLARD POSTPONED By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- Sentencing of Jonathan Pollard, a former U.S. Navy civilian intelligence analyst who has pleaded guilty to spying for Israel, which was to have taken place Tuesday has been postponed until March 4.

The delay was at the request of the lawyers for Pollard, who could be sentenced to a maximum of life imprisonment. Also to be sentenced is his wife, Anne Henderson Pollard, who has pleaded guilty to conspiring to receive embezzled government property and faces up to 10 years in prison.

Both Pollards entered their pleas last June before Chief Judge Aubrey Robinson Jr. of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Pollard has been in federal prison in Petersburg, Va., while his wife has been free on bail.

While Pollard has admitted to receiving \$2,500 a month for his espionage activities, he has maintained in interviews and a letter to a Boston doctor that he is a "loyal son" of Israel and acted when he discovered that a "new generation of ultra-sophisticated military equipment" was going to the Arab countries without Israel being told about this new danger in its security.

Meanwhile, it was reported Tuesday that the Justice Department may move against four Israelis implicated in the Pollard espionage case which Israel has officially called a "renegade" operation.

The Justice Department has reportedly told Avi Sella, a senior Israel Air Force commander, who was identified as Pollard's first "handler," that he may be indicted.

The Justice Department is also planning to revoke the diplomatic immunity of three other Israelis involved with Pollard--Rafael Eitan, a former terrorism advisor to Israeli Premiers; Joseph Yagur, a former science consul at the Israel Consulate in New York, and Irit Erb, a former secretary at the Israel Embassy here.

None are expected to stand trial. But if they return to the U.S. they would be subject to arrest.

BUDGET DISPUTE CONTINUES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday that the dispute between Labor and Likud over budgetary allocations to kibbutzim, development towns and Jewish settlements in the West Bank was delaying the government's presentation of its 33 billion Shekel (\$23.8 billion) national budget to the Knesset.

The budget, approved by the Cabinet, was to have gone to the Knesset for a vote last week. But the Labor Party said it would not support the budget unless Likud members of the Knesset Finance Committee supported a Treasury-approved plan to ease the 266 million Shekel (\$193 million) debt burden of the Labor-affiliated United Kibbutz Movement.

Likud countered with demands that the same concessions be applied to development towns and West Bank settlements. This triggered demands from other parties such as the Agudat Israel and Shas which want 30 million Shekels (\$22 million) for their affiliated yeshivas. The West Bank settlers are asking for an immediate infusion of 47.5 million Shekels (\$35 million) and more later.

INNA MEIMAN DEAD AT 54

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- Inna Meiman of Moscow, who was allowed to go abroad last month for treatment of a tumor on her neck, died Monday in the Lombardi Cancer Research Center of Georgetown University Hospital. She was 54 years old. She had refused to leave the Soviet Union earlier because her husband, Naum, a refusenik since 1975, was not allowed to accompany her.

Meiman was admitted to the hospital on January 20 and was undergoing tests for the start of chemotherapy. When she applied to go abroad, she said she wanted to undergo specialized radiation treatment, her only hope for survival. The Soviets granted Meiman a temporary visa for one year's stay.

The Soviets would not allow her husband to come with her and had turned down his visa request on grounds of knowing "state secrets." He is also characterized as a dissident by dint of his membership in the now disbanded Moscow Helsinki monitoring group.

Dr. Gerald Batist of Montreal, a research oncologist and founder of the International Cancer Patients Solidarity Committee, said at the time Inna and Naum were both seeking to leave the USSR together that it was extremely important that the couple remain together in face of Inna's critical medical condition.

'I Haven't Come . . . To Die'

When she arrived in Washington last month, Inna Meiman described her own prognosis as "very grim." But, she added, "I haven't come to America to die; I have come to recover and to help others to get out of the Soviet Union."

Admitting that she had left the USSR, and her husband, with mixed emotions, Meiman said she was "delighted" to help others to leave and to prove "We are not slaves but people with rights." She added that she was also dismayed that her husband, her son and his family were not permitted to join her. "My arriving alone shows how bad things are in the Soviet Union. People are just desperate. If I had been allowed to come three years ago, my chances would be better."

Last December, Sen. Gary Hart (D. Colo.) met in Moscow with top Soviet officials, including Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, and raised the issue of about 12 people who wanted to emigrate, among them cancer patients with relatives in the West. High on the Senator's list was Inna Meiman, whose husband's daughter, Olga Plum, lives in Boulder, Colo.

Shortly afterwards, the Soviet Foreign Ministry confirmed to U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hartman that Inna would be permitted to leave but had no comment about Naum being allowed to accompany her. Inna, a teacher of English, was married to Naum, a mathematician, in 1981.

'Lived And Died In Great Dignity'

Commenting on the tragedy of Inna's plight and death, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry said Tuesday:

"We remember Inna Meiman, a brave friend, with sadness and great anger. For over three years, Soviet authorities repeatedly and cruelly denied her a medical visa to seek treatment abroad for cancer. Permission was granted deliberately only at the very end, three weeks before she expired. Her long-suffering husband himself

refused emigration for 12 years, now is forcibly separated from his beloved wife even in death. The true, inhumane anti-Jewish policy of the Kremlin is again revealed."

Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said that for years, friends in the United States, Israel and other Western countries "implored the Soviet authorities to allow Meiman permission to travel outside the USSR for medical treatment. Unfortunately, permission was granted when her condition became untreatable. Meiman's death is all the more poignant in the knowledge that she died thousands of miles away from her husband. Inna Meiman lived and died in great dignity. To the last, her thoughts were with her husband and all her fellow Jews in the Soviet Union who struggle for freedom."

SHARANSKY NAMED GOLDA MEIR FELLOW

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- Natan Sharansky (who has changed the spelling of his last name from Shcharansky) was one of 35 scientists and scholars from throughout the world and Israel recently named Golda Meir Fellows at the Hebrew University. Sharansky received the fellowship award at the recent third annual Golda Meir Fellowship Awards Assembly.

Speaking on behalf of all of the award recipients, Sharansky described the great difference between scientists in the Soviet Union, who must sacrifice their own convictions, and scientists in democratic countries like Israel, with freedom of expression.

Sharansky, a mathematician and computer scientist, will devote the year of his fellowship to his research and to work on his memoirs. The resources of the university's Marjorie Mayrock Center for Soviet and East European Research will be made available to him for his work.

The Golda Meir Fellowship program was created as a living memorial to the late Israeli Prime Minister as a way of attracting outstanding university graduates and postgraduates from throughout the world to pursue research and study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

More than 80 Golda Meir Fellowships have been awarded since the program was inaugurated three years ago, with the Fellowships going to lecturers, post-doctoral scholars and graduate students from some 15 countries and Israel.

**BASKETBALL FANS LEFT IN THE DARK
AFTER TV TECHNICIANS GO ON STRIKE**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- Insult was heaped on injury for Israel's hundreds of thousands of basketball fans, and other viewers, when striking technicians blacked out television Tuesday night after cutting short the live, via satellite, transmission of the National Basketball Association All-Star game from the U.S. in the wee hours of Tuesday morning.

The technicians said their wildcat strike was to protest the earlier suspension of Zion Swiri, chairman of their workers committee, for "pulling the plug" on the basketball match. Swiri said he was simply abiding by Histadrut's agreement with the Broadcast Authority management stipulating the maximum number of hours the technical staff should work.

Israel television normally goes off the air at midnight. The basketball game ran into overtime.

**POLICE REPORT NO LEADS
IN OLD CITY BOMBING**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Jerusalem police admitted Monday that they have no leads in their investigation of the grenade attack that injured 12 border policemen and five Arab civilians near the Old City walls Sunday afternoon. Five of the injured remained hospitalized Monday. About 70 suspects detained for questioning immediately after the attack have been released.

Unknown assailants threw the grenade at about 2 p.m. local time when two border patrols were changing shifts just outside the Jaffa Gate. Police Minister Haim Barlev said the grenade, or another explosive device, may have been hurled from a passing car. But police also are investigating the possibility that an explosive charge was planted at the site.

On Sunday, the Palestine Liberation Organization had claimed responsibility for the attack.

A bomb detonated about the same time at a soldiers' pick-up point on the Hebron Road. There were no injuries. Life returned to normal in the Old City after the incident, except that Jews refrained from entering.

The border police unit attacked Sunday was the same one which suffered heavy losses when an Israeli military headquarters building collapsed in the Lebanese port city of Tyre five years ago. Thirty-four people were killed in that incident, which was attributed to a gas leak.

**ANTI-ISRAEL VIOLENCE PERSISTS
THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORIES**

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Violence continued in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the weekend, but security sources maintained that the situation in the territories was calming down.

Soldiers fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators at the Jalazoun refugee camp near Ramallah and the Askar camp near Nablus. In Jericho, which is usually quiet, students threw rocks at passing Israeli vehicles. No injuries were reported.

An Israeli soldier was slightly injured by rocks in Ramallah Saturday. A curfew was clamped on the downtown area for several hours. The Islamic College in Hebron was closed for three weeks after violent demonstrations there Saturday. Al-Azhar University in Gaza was closed for 10 days.

A gasoline bomb was thrown at a parked Israeli vehicle in Gaza, causing some damage but no injuries. Three Israeli policemen were attacked by stone-throwing Druze when they entered Massade village on the Golan Heights Friday morning.

**SURVIVOR IDENTIFIES DEMJANJUK AS
'IVAN THE TERRIBLE' AT TRIAL**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- A Holocaust survivor stood up in Jerusalem District Court Monday morning and identified accused war criminal John Demjanjuk as the Treblinka death

camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible." "There is the man as he was. Here he is standing. Here he is standing," cried Pinhas Epstein, who arrived at Treblinka when he was 17.

The emotional outburst, the dramatic highlight of the first day of the second week of Demjanjuk's trial, came after Epstein had scanned photographs of Treblinka shown to him by the prosecution. He had apparently identified the face of "Ivan the Terrible," who was then in his middle 20s.

His words "the man as he was" referred to a photograph, and "Here he is standing" to the 66-year-old Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian-born former automobile worker from Cleveland, Ohio, who is the first suspected Nazi war criminal extradited to Israel.

Spectators Applaud

Epstein's putative identification was greeted by resounding applause from the spectators. But the court promptly restored order. Epstein insisted that he could never forget the images of Treblinka, particularly the brutal Ivan, who operated the gas chambers.

"I see Ivan every night . . . I dream about him every night . . . I cannot rid myself," the witness declared, trembling and in tears as Demjanjuk's American attorney, Mark O'Connor, cross-examined him in an attempt to prove his memory was faulty.

Epstein broke down several times, notably when he recalled seeing a 12-year-old girl emerge miraculously alive from the gas chamber. "She came out speaking. The people who took the bodies out of the gas chambers made her sit at the side, and her words still ring in my ears," Epstein said. They were "Yakhtze doma moushi-- I want my mother."

**ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL WORKERS
BACK ON STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- More than 11,000 administrative and maintenance workers at government hospitals went on strike Monday in defiance of a Jerusalem labor court's back-to-work orders. The strike leaders, facing contempt of court citations, declared they were ready to go to jail in their struggle for better wages.

Four leaders of the strike committee were escorted by police from their Tel Hashomer Hospital strike headquarters to the court Monday afternoon for a mandatory appearance. They went without protest, followed by representatives of other hospital workers' groups in a show of solidarity.

The strike has hit 26 general, psychiatric and geriatric state hospitals, which were forced to operate on a Sabbath emergency schedule Monday. Elective surgery was cancelled, and as many patients as possible were sent home.

The strike was the second in less than a week to paralyze government hospitals in Israel. Physicians staged a 24-hour "warning strike," which ended last Friday, to protest cuts in the medical staff. A strike by 9,000 administrative and maintenance personnel at Histadrut's Kupat Holim

hospitals also ended a strike last week after an emotional radio appeal by President Chaim Herzog.

But their government hospital counterparts say they intend to remain off the job until their wages are raised to the same level as the Kupat Holim hospital staffs. A government committee upheld their demands after studying the issue and the Treasury promised to comply.

But the workers charged the government was "dragging its feet." They said they will no longer work for wages barely above the national minimum. The Treasury claims they are in fact receiving higher pay.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Shoshana Arbelli-Almoslino said the Finance Ministry fails to appreciate the disastrous plight of the country's hospital and health services. She said she is not asking for a bigger health budget, but protesting new cuts demanded by the Treasury.

The Health Minister pointed out that while the population has increased by about eight percent in the last six years, there has been no increase in the budget to provide for the larger number of people requiring hospitalization and other medical services.

IS HUNGARY SET TO FETE WALLENBERG?

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Hungary may be preparing to pay public tribute to Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from deportation to Nazi death camps in 1944 by granting them the protection of the Swedish Embassy in Budapest.

Reports here by recent visitors to the Hungarian capital say the street named after Wallenberg shortly after the war is being refurbished, possibly in anticipation of the forthcoming conference of the European branch of the World Jewish Congress in Budapest, the first such event in an Eastern European Communist bloc country.

But there is no evidence that the authorities will bring a statue dedicated to Wallenberg back to Budapest, although it has been discussed recently in official Hungarian journals. The statue of a man wrestling with a snake was removed to the city of Debrecen during the Stalin era and shorn of its inscription recounting Wallenberg's exploits.

The statue was commissioned and paid for mainly by Hungarian Jews who owed their lives to Wallenberg. Postcards depicting it suddenly have become available in Budapest. Although intended as a tribute to his wartime activities, the statue has become a poignant symbol of Wallenberg's fate.

Arrested when the Red Army entered Budapest on January 17, 1945, he has not been heard from since. The Soviet authorities claim he died in prison in 1947, but over the years, he was reported seen alive in prison, and the Swedish government officially regards him as being alive. He would be 74.

The latest exchanges between Moscow and Stockholm on Wallenberg's fate took place last year. Neither country has altered its position.

ISRAEL STILL TESTING LAVI, DESPITE AMERICAN OPPOSITION

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Israel is continuing to test its second-generation jet fighter plane, the Lavi, despite uncertainty about its

future due to U.S. objections that it costs too much. A Lavi prototype last week made its 10th test flight in less than two months. It was flown by Menahem Shmuel, chief test pilot of Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), which designed and built the technically advanced plane.

According to IAI, test flights will continue at an accelerated rate of two a week. A second prototype will enter the program in April and three more prototypes will be built and tested after that. IAI said a total of 1,800 test flights will be made with all prototypes before the best is selected and put into production in about two years.

But the U.S., which is financing the Lavi through military grants, has urged Israel to abandon the project in favor of a American-built aircraft, the F-16C. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington last Wednesday to explain why the U.S. is opposed to the Lavi.

He said the Israel-built plane would be inferior to the F-16s, which are already part of the Israel Air Force, and that U.S. aid should not be used to further the Lavi project. The Israel Air Force has been flying the F-16A and F-16B for some time. The first three F-16Cs were delivered to Israel earlier this month. Israel has ordered 75 of the advanced F-16Cs.

PERES SAYS DIFFERENCES WITH SHAMIR ON PEACE CONFERENCE ARE 'SERIOUS'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres acknowledged Monday that his differences with Premier Yitzhak Shamir over an international conference for Middle East peace are "substantive and serious."

Everyone agrees on the need for direct negotiations and only an international conference could create the framework for such negotiations, Peres said during a visit to a Jerusalem school. Shamir, for his part, has denounced an international conference as a "Soviet-Arab notion" which could lead to Israel's isolation.

During his visit to Washington last week Shamir urged the Reagan Administration to oppose such a forum in which the Soviet Union, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, would participate. Shamir returns from the U.S. later this week.

The sharp divergence between the two leaders of the Labor-Likud unity government has raised speculation that a coalition crisis is imminent. It may be triggered when Peres meets with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo shortly. Their last meeting, in Alexandria in September, when Peres was Premier, ended with an agreement to prepare the groundwork for an international conference.

Elections Imminent?

Meanwhile, Labor and Likud are accusing each other of seeking to end the coalition. Labor charged that Shamir's tough stand in Washington against an international conference was aimed at early elections. Likud countered that this was Peres' intention when he criticized the Premier while he is still overseas.

Labor Party Secretary General Uzi Baram said in a radio interview Sunday that the party and Peres indeed favor elections now because Israel was missing opportunities for peace.

PERES-MUBARAK TALKS ON MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE COULD BRING DOWN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, SHAMIR HINTS IN NEW YORK

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir indicated here Monday that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' discussions of an international peace conference for the Middle East when he meets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo, possibly later this week, could cause the disintegration of the Labor-Likud unity government.

Speaking to journalists at a luncheon at the Regency Hotel, Shamir replied "maybe" when asked if Peres' trip to Cairo could affect the future of the Israel government. Peres can go to Egypt to discuss "whatever he wants to discuss," but he cannot decide anything with President Mubarak without the approval of the Israel government, Shamir said.

Asked if he had approved Peres' trip, Shamir said: "I didn't give any approval but I knew about the trip. He (Peres) doesn't need any approval from the Prime Minister to go wherever he wants to go. The government has to approve it."

He said that if Peres' trip to Cairo yields any results, the Foreign Minister will have to bring them back to Jerusalem as recommendations to the full government.

Sharp differences between Shamir and Peres over an international peace conference have raised speculation in Israel that the issue could bring down the government. (See P.2.) Shamir is adamantly opposed to such a forum.

He stressed to the American media that an international peace conference cannot replace direct negotiations as the means to resolve the Middle East conflict. He made that point strongly at his meetings with President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington last week.

IOSIF BEGUN ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Former Soviet Prisoner of Conscience Iosif Begun arrived in Moscow Monday morning following his release Friday from Chistopol Prison in the Tatar Republic of the USSR. He was pardoned last week after serving three years for "anti-Soviet activities" as a result of his teaching of Hebrew.

Begun was met at the Moscow train station by throngs of supporters in the Jewish movement and hoisted on their shoulders in a jubilant celebration. The Hebrew song "Heveinu Shalom Aleichem" could be heard reverberating through the streets of the Soviet capital.

Begun, an observant Jew, chose not to desecrate the Sabbath by traveling after his release from prison Friday morning. Instead, he and his wife Inna, and son Boris spent Shabbat in a hotel near the prison.

In a telephone conversation Monday morning with his wife's cousin, Chaim Tepper of Far Rockaway, NY, Begun said that, "It was a very great Shabbat." He also said that, "We shall continue the struggle for all Jews to leave the Soviet Union." Begun said he had not yet heard from Soviet authorities regarding a visa to leave for Israel.

The Beguns were surprised to hear from Tepper that Iosif Begun had appeared on American

television. He sounded amazed at the amount of attention he has received in the world press.

Boris Begun, who was supposed to have served 15 days' imprisonment for demonstrating in Moscow on behalf of his father, was saved the experience.

Iosif Begun, 56, was sentenced in October 1983 to seven years' imprisonment and five years' internal exile. Since his incarceration, he has been a focus of activities and statements by Soviet Jewry activists and by public figures around the world.

Elation, Skepticism

In Jerusalem, Soviet Jewry activists were elated over the release of dissident Iosif Begun from prison, but highly skeptical of any fundamental change in Soviet policy toward emigration and refuseniks.

Haim Chessler, head of the Public Council for Soviet Jewry, said at a press conference that it was as hard as ever for Soviet Jews to get exit visas. "On one hand we see a bit of change, but on the other hand we get information that families get refusals until the year 2000," he said.

Yuri Stern of the Soviet Jewry Information Center thought Begun's release was significant because it demonstrated the effectiveness of the western campaign to free him. But he expressed apprehension that Begun's friends in the USSR would "pay for his release" by being refused exit permits themselves.

The activists released a list of 29 refuseniks suffering from cancer. They said if the Soviets want to display a new policy it could start by allowing these dying Jews to reunite with their families before it is too late.

CATHOLICS, JEWS AGREE TO REMOVE CARMELITE CONVENT OFF AUSCHWITZ

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Jewish and Catholic leaders meeting here Sunday agreed that a Carmelite convent established on the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in Poland will be removed within two years.

The agreement is expected to resolve the emotionally charged issue first raised by European Jews, who regard the site as a unique symbol of the Holocaust. The agreement provided for the establishment, away from the camp site, of an interreligious center where Catholics and Jews can pray and meditate, hold seminars and greet visitors. The nuns will move off the Auschwitz site to a new building.

Theo Klein, president of the Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF), presided at the meeting. Other Jewish participants were Tulia Zevi, president of the Italian Jewish community; Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat of France and Ady Steg, head of a committee opposed to the convent.

The Catholic Church was represented by Albert Cardinal Decourtray, Archbishop of Lyon; Jean-Marie Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris; Godfried Cardinal Danneels of Brussels; and Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, Archbishop of Cracow.

The same group meeting here last July issued a statement recognizing the special significance of Auschwitz-Birkenau to the Holocaust. The statement was seen as a first step toward the agreement concluded Sunday.

**ON TV:
RECRUITMENT OF NAZI SCIENTISTS
FOR U.S. SPACE PROGRAM DOCUMENTED**
By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- The U.S. government overlooked and in some cases covered up the Nazi past of German rocket scientists recruited after World War II to boost the U.S. space program, according to a new television documentary.

"The Nazi Connection," will be aired February 24 on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) "Frontline" program. It is an hour-long documentary, based on years of research by British journalist Tom Bower, that traces the careers and crimes of several scientists who directed Hitler's advanced V-2 rocket program.

U.S. government documents show that leading rocket scientists Werner von Braun and Arthur Rudolph oversaw the construction of an underground Nazi rocket factory at Nordhausen, Germany, using inmates of the nearby concentration camp, Dora, as slave labor. Some 20,000 of the slaves were either murdered or died of starvation or disease.

Bower discovered that other scientists conducted high-pressure experiments that killed the camp inmate subjects. In other experiments, the scientists fed prisoners only salt-water until they died. Several of the scientists were even tried in Nuremberg and acquitted before the U.S. coopted them.

Found In Hiding

According to "The Nazi Connection," the rocket scientists had gone into hiding by the end of the war. The U.S. Army ordered Robert Staver, an American scientist, to locate them before the Soviets did. They were discovered, and von Braun and about 100 of his team members were secretly brought to the U.S. Also recruited were the aviation medicine experts who had experimented on the camp inmates.

The Pentagon directors of the recruitment effort, called Project Paperclip, arranged visas and U.S. citizenship for the German scientists despite then-President Truman's prohibition against bringing in Nazis for the program.

Newly-released documents and interviews with Germans and Americans indicated that the Pentagon also "cleaned up" the war records of the German scientists to erase or tone down evidence of their atrocities and cooperation with the Nazis.

Von Braun, Rudolph and the other German scientists eventually received U.S. citizenship and were decorated for their work in the space program.

But years later, after the Justice Department created the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) to locate and prosecute Nazi war criminals living in the U.S., some scientists lost their heroic status. In 1984, Rudolph, who directed production of the U.S. Saturn 5 rocket, returned to Germany and gave up his U.S. citizenship rather than face prosecution for war crimes committed at Nordhausen.

In an interview for the "The Nazi Connection" after he returned to Germany, the elderly Rudolph said, "The U.S. government is thankless to me." Rudolph said that without him and the other German scientists, the U.S. probably still would not have landed a man on the moon.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES;
2ND ISRAELI TV CHANNEL LIKELY**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- The wildcat strike by technicians that blacked out Israeli television screens for several nights recently was only the latest of the periodic disputes between labor and Broadcast Authority management over contract conditions.

It drew more attention than usual because the strike was called to protest the suspension of Zion Sweri, chairman of the television workers committee, for cutting off a satellite broadcast of the National Basketball Association All-Star Game, which had run into overtime.

Television normally shuts down at 12:30 a.m. and the workers point out there is no contract agreement with management to pay them for the extra time on duty.

Hundreds of thousands of basketball fans were furious. There were demands in the Knesset to introduce some "law and order" into the television service. Meanwhile, a compromise proposal was on the table to handle future disputes of this kind. But the problems of Israel's television are much broader and more numerous.

Only One Channel

The basic problem is that there is only one television channel to provide news, entertainment and educational features. For this service, the public pays an annual television fee. When disputes between the Broadcast Authority's 1,000 employees, who have civil service status, and management result in blacked-out screens, there is no alternative channel.

Television is more important in Israel than in many other countries. It is the main source of late news. "Mabat," the daily evening news program, enjoys more than 90 percent viewership. Television interviews with national leaders and lawmakers are news events in themselves.

Israeli politicians are more sensitive to television than politicians elsewhere. Knesset members race each other to the telephones after a session to make sure their remarks are being broadcast on the nightly news.

Daytime television in Israel is devoted mainly to educational and children's programs. General programs begin at 5:30 p.m. and run for the next seven hours. When there is no sports event, the three "Hebrew Hours" are filled mainly with re-runs of popular American TV series.

Israelis are as well acquainted with "Dallas" and "Dynasty" as audiences anywhere in the world. Locally produced programs, apart from news, are rare because of budgetary difficulties. The Broadcast Authority budget also covers the two radio channels -- Israel Radio and Voice of Israel -- and Arabic broadcasts on both radio and television.

The annual fees cannot cover everything, and broadcasting in Israel is state-subsidized.

In the absence of alternative channels, Israelis are turning to video cassette players and illegal cable stations have spread throughout the country. A Knesset subcommittee is working double shifts to draft a law that would establish a commercial, TV channel. It is a political issue which raises the question of State supervision of commercial television. The latest TV blackout will undoubtedly speed up the legislative process.

**SHAMIR HINTS THAT NOT ALL TESTIMONY
IN CABINET PROBE OF POLLARD CASE WILL
BE PASSED ON TO THE UNITED STATES****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, March 24 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir hinted broadly Tuesday that three former diplomatic officials need not fear incrimination in the United States if they testify before a Cabinet-appointed panel investigating the Jonathan Pollard spy case.

Although Israel has undertaken to cooperate with the U.S. in the Pollard affair, it made no promise to pass all relevant material on to Washington, Shamir told reporters. He thus offered assurances to lawyer David Libai, who advised his clients not to testify, that whatever they say will not place them in danger of prosecution in the U.S.

Libai is engaged in negotiations with Attorney General Yosef Harish for a written commitment that testimony given at the Cabinet-sponsored probe will not be passed on to foreign sources. "From what I know, as far as the government's undertaking (to the U.S.) is concerned, it is certainly possible for the (committee) to continue its work without detriment to Libai's clients," Shamir said.

The two-man committee ran into a roadblock at the outset of its hearings last week when Yosef Yagur, Ilan Ravid and Irit Erb, former officials at the Israel Embassy in Washington and the Consulate General in New York, refused to appear on grounds of self-incrimination. The three, allegedly associated with Pollard, left the U.S. immediately after his arrest in 1985.

The committee, consisting of Tel Aviv lawyer Yehoshua Rotenstreich and former Chief of Staff Zvi Tsur, remains stalled. The government is anxious for it to complete its task in order to forestall demands for a full-scale judicial inquiry with broad powers the committee lacks.

**ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE THREATENED BY
PAKISTAN'S QUEST FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS****By Judith Colp**

WASHINGTON, March 24 (JTA) -- Pakistan's interest in obtaining nuclear weapons poses a threat to Israel's existence and Congress should consider halting military aid, Sen. John Glenn (D. Ohio) said Monday.

Glenn, testifying before the Senate Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Near East and South Asian Affairs, said there is strong evidence indicating that Pakistan is "manufacturing and testing components for nuclear weaponry." He proposed eliminating military aid to Pakistan unless it can be certified that it has no nuclear materials.

Glenn, noting that former Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said he was building an "Islamic bomb," said the weapon is "the ultimate threat to Israel's existence. Pakistan's nuclear weapons production will sooner or later . . . result in a wider frontier of nuclear weapons technology to countries in the Middle East. The flash point for nuclear war will be lowered through the combination of religiously-based

conflict with the means for mass destruction." The Reagan Administration is seeking continuation of a \$4.02 billion six-year package to Pakistan that was approved by Congress last year. Supporters of the assistance assert that refusal to grant aid would induce Pakistan to develop nuclear weapons.

"Development of a close and reliable security partnership with Pakistan gives Pakistan an alternative to nuclear weapons to meet its legitimate security needs and strengthens our influence on Pakistan's nuclear decision-making," said Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs.

With the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan is also perceived as a critical bulwark against Soviet influence.

"Pakistan today is directly threatened by the Soviet Union. Indeed were it not for Pakistan, by now Moscow would have succeeded in its brutal efforts to drag bleeding Afghanistan into the Soviet Empire," said Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R. NH).

**UNPUBLISHED SECTION OF DESCHENES
REPORT SHOWS CANADA HELPED PROVIDE
SAFE HAVEN FOR SOME NAZIS AFTER WWII****By Ben Kayfetz**

TORONTO, March 24 (JTA) -- Evidence of Canadian participation in efforts to provide safe haven for certain Nazis right after World War II is contained in an unpublished section of the Deschenes Commission's report on Nazi war criminals in Canada, presented to the House of Commons last week.

According to MP Robert Kaplan, a former Solicitor General, "it's essential that it be brought out so that Canadians will know the whole story of war crimes."

Kaplan was referring to a study done for the Deschenes Commission by researcher Ati Rodel which could be embarrassing for Ottawa on several counts. It outlines Canada's willing participation in a British-U.S. plan to settle German scientists, many of them active Nazis, in Canada, the U.S. and Britain to keep them out of Soviet hands.

Rodel is said to have found evidence, though not conclusive, that British and American intelligence may have spirited known Nazi collaborators out of Eastern Europe into Canada, without the government's knowledge, in order to establish anti-Soviet spy networks.

Rodel's study includes a review of anti-Semitic, fascist, political organizations active before and during the war, such as the Iron Guard in Rumania, Thunder Cross in Latvia, and the Arrow and Cross in Hungary which collaborated with the Nazis. Some of their members may have entered Canada despite regulations to keep them out.

One part of the study deals with Count Jacques de Bernonville, a French collaborationist who was the "right hand man" of war criminal Klaus Barbie, "the butcher of Lyon." The Count, who reached Quebec after the war, was enabled by Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent to leave the country before he could be extradited to France.

**PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE DELEGATION
SAYS IT GAINED A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING
OF ISRAEL'S ACTIONS AND MOTIVES
CONCERNING A NUMBER OF VEXING ISSUES**
By Margie Olster

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders who came here a week ago to warn the leaders of Israel that their handling of the Jonathan Pollard spy case was not being well received in the U.S., left for home Monday saying they had gained a deeper understanding of Israel's actions and motives.

The 40-member delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations also gained insight into Israel's relationship with South Africa and its efforts to have the U.S. government abolish refugee status for Jews leaving the Soviet Union, according to Conference chairman Morris Abram.

"I think Americans will never be able to fully understand Israeli actions when they (Israelis) perceive their security interests at stake," Abram told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

He referred specifically to a matter which soured U.S. attitudes toward Israel and aroused serious concern among American Jews -- the advancement of the careers of Air Force Col. Aviem Sella and former Mossad operative Rafael Eitan, the Israeli officials who, according to Pollard's trial testimony, recruited him and ran his spy operation in the U.S.

Expresses Sympathy For Sella

"People who live in constant fear of utter destruction and death look on a Col. Sella as a national asset and a hero of which there are not enough in a dangerous world, so there is sympathy for Sella and I have that sympathy too. I know what Sella is and what he represents," Abram said.

He maintained that Sella was in fact "punished" by not being promoted to the rank of Brig. Gen., even though he was given command of Israel's second largest air base.

The American Jewish leaders had long, frank discussions with Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other top political and military figures.

They were told repeatedly that the Pollard spy case was a "rogue operation" conducted without the knowledge or authorization of the highest levels of government. Abram said he believed this and was confident the other members of the delegation left Israel also believing it.

Some Doubts Continue

But at least one member still has doubts. Barrett Zumhoff, president of the Workmen's Circle, said "Shamir, Peres, Rabin and all said it was a rogue operation. It sounded convincing but I don't believe it."

"Part of espionage is that the head of state has to have deniability," Zumhoff observed. "Regardless of this, the Pollard affair was only compounded by a number of errors made by the Israeli government in the wake of the crisis, the worst of which were the promotions of Sella and Eitan." Those actions were "exceptionally stupid," he added. Eitan, who ran LEKEM, Pollard's spy unit, was given the chairmanship of Israel Chemicals, the largest government-owned corporation.

Zumhoff was also critical of the public stand taken by the Presidents Conference delegation. "I didn't agree that we should have made so much noise about it. I felt we had overdone it," he said. "Criticism of the Israel government would have been more beneficial if conveyed privately, not in the media."

Israel Friedman, executive vice president of the Religious Zionists of America/Hapoel Hamizrachi, echoed those sentiments. "The whole thing was blown out of proportion," he said.

'A Historic Meeting'

But Abram called the meetings of Jewish leaders with Israel's top leadership this past week a "watershed."

"This has been a historic meeting because I have never in my life seen in such stark forms, issues boil to the surface -- not just abstract issues like 'Who is a Jew?', but in terms of how the relationship of Jews in the diaspora to Israel affects the State of Israel," Abram said.

Never Intended To Dictate To Israeli Leaders

Speaking of the Pollard affair in general, Abram said the Presidents Conference never intended to dictate to the Israeli government how to conduct its internal affairs. But, Abram said, "We had every responsibility, and discharged it, to tell the State leaders of Israel how their actions were being perceived in the U.S."

The deeper understanding of Israeli positions also extended to the controversy over Israel's military ties with South Africa, according to Abram. "We understood some who said Israel had to be very cautious about the use of the boycott . . . the word embargo doesn't strike responsive chords in a country which is almost embargoed out of the United Nations," Abram said.

Days after the Presidents Conference delegation arrived, the Israeli government decided to impose limited sanctions on South Africa. Abram explained that Israel has done more to hurt itself in this action than any other state.

"Israel needs an arms industry because it has so few arms suppliers and an arms industry needs exports. No state similarly beset and beleaguered, so insecure, at war with all its neighbors has taken an action so contrary to its military interest on behalf of its moral principles," Abram said.

**ISRAELI FIRM SUING U.S. ARMY FOR
CANCELLING \$8 MILLION CONTRACT**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 24 (JTA) -- An Israeli firm said Tuesday it would sue the U.S. Army for suddenly cancelling an \$8 million order for gas masks after the first consignment was delivered. According to Menahem Kalir, general manager of Rabintex Industries in Bet Shean, the cancellation was a reprisal for Jonathan Pollard's spy activities in the U.S.

Kalir denied as "baseless" the Army's claim that the contract was terminated because of late deliveries. He said the cancellation order was received immediately after the first batch of masks was received in the U.S. early in March.

Kalir said his firm invested \$2 million to produce the masks. Cancellation of the contract may force the plant to close down, adding mass unemployment to the troubles of Bet Shean, a development town, he said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF THE PACIFIC

By Edwin Eytan

HONG KONG, March 24 (JTA) -- Jews in the diaspora have always been a minority but never probably in all their history has this been more striking than this week in Hong Kong at the second conference of the Asia Pacific Jewish Association (APJA).

The 30 delegates at the Asian-Jewish Colloquium, jointly sponsored by the World Jewish Congress and the APJA, are representing approximately 100,000 Jews scattered in an area of teeming billions. Without Australia and New Zealand, where the Jews enjoy a special status, a legacy from the days of British rule, there are less than 7,000 Jews in the world's most populous continent and separated in distances of thousands of miles.

Fiji, an island republic in the Pacific Ocean, is home to 15 Jews who are four hours flight away from the nearest other Jewish communities in New Caladonia with 80 Jews, Taiwan with 40 Jewish families, and Thailand with 85 Jews.

Practically all have sent one or two delegates to Hong Kong to try to establish a system of closer collaboration between communities which appear like specks of sand dotting Asia and Pacific areas. For three days the delegates have tried to work out a system of sharing a shuttling shohet, an itinerant mohel, a rabbi or even an occasional minyan.

Some of the people who were gathered in this city of five million inhabitants in which less than 1,000 Jews live are nearly as colorful as the communities they represent.

The Woman From Thailand

Sally Eubani, 38, comes from Bangkok, Thailand, where 85 Jewish families live, less than 240 people. Born in Beirut, Lebanon, she left for Thailand with her husband 22 years ago.

A small, elegant woman who still speaks English and French with her original Lebanese accent, she is a full-time community volunteer worker. She helps run the local community center, Beth Elisheva, where kosher meals are served Friday nights and Saturday, organizes Talmud Torah courses for the community's 25 children and arranges for the regular social events.

In spite of the community's small size there are two synagogues. A small Orthodox one in the city's business center is mainly attended by the dozen members of Afghan and Iraqi origin. This community, whose members are generally diamond and precious stones merchants, opened their own synagogue a dozen years ago.

The main synagogue, more liberal, is in the city's European residential area. It is housed in the community center built with the donation of a Thai woman, born in Bangkok of Dutch parents, Elisabeth Zerner, who died in 1970 and left all her fortune to the community.

Five families, including that of Eubani, are Thai citizens; the rest come from the United States, Britain, Germany, Israel and the Soviet Union.

"We never had a local wedding but we regularly have Bar Mitzvah ceremonies, three last year alone. For a Brith Mila we bring over a mohel from either Australia or Israel and, believe me, it is quite a celebration," Eubani told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The local community has a volunteer shohet for poultry and imports

frozen kosher meat from either Israel or the States.

"We lead a full Jewish life in spite of our reduced numbers and the distance from the nearest other Jewish community," Eubani said. "Last year we had close to 180 people for the traditional seder and this year we expect even more, as tourists are traditionally highly welcome."

From Boston To Taipei

Edward Tucker comes from Taipei, Taiwan. He is the president, secretary general and volunteer worker of the community of 40 families, including 24 children. Tucker, who originally came from Boston, Mass., has lived in Taiwan for seven years. He is married to a Chinese woman who has remained a Buddhist but who is highly active in Jewish communal affairs.

"My wife has just not felt like changing her religion, but otherwise she feels and acts as Jewish as anyone else I know," he said.

A businessman who works for a large American chemical firm, Tucker, who was also active in Jewish affairs in the U.S., spends several hours a day helping run the community. "We have a synagogue with a minyan at least once a week if not more. We have a sort of Sunday school run by an Israeli student and we have a communal seder every year."

The community had three Bar Mitzvahs last year and a brith a year ago. The parents, who came from Latin America, flew over a mohel from Brazil. Tucker also wants closer cooperation with other Jewish communities lost in the huge Pacific expanse.

The Singapore Jewish Community

Rabbi Isaac Ben Zakin comes from Singapore, a relatively large and well organized community of 600 people, including 300 Israelis. Ben Zakin, 36, was born in Melilla, Spanish Morocco, and educated in Britain. He came to Singapore in 1975 and serves as hazan, shohet, rabbi and teacher.

There are two synagogues, a regular Talmud Torah, a communal center and even a small--seven people -- old age home. The Singapore community, contrary to most other small Asian communities, consists of a large proportion of Singaporan-born Jews and not of a transient community.

"We have our poor, 32 people currently receive financial help and free medical treatment, and our young serve in the Singaporan army for three years compulsory service, like other Singaporans," Ben Zakin said.

The community also has a certain amount of financial security thanks to the Singapore Jewish Charities Trust and the Meyer Trusts set up before the war when the community was 6,000 strong.

One Of The Lonesomest Delegates

One of the strangest and lonesomest delegates is Anne Ranasinghe who comes from Sri Lanka (Ceylon) where, as far as she knows, only three Jews still live. German-born, Ranasinghe married during World War II in London a Ceylonese Buddhist doctor. In spite of her late husband's pleas, she adamantly refused to change her religion and brought up her two daughters, one of whom is married to an American diplomat, as Jews.

It was when she returned to Germany in 1983, for the first time after 44 years, that she was suddenly faced with the reality of her past--

the Holocaust and Judaism. Today she writes poetry, books, documentaries, many on Jewish subjects. She came to the Hong Kong meetings in spite of the particularly small size of her community. "Actually, I might be wrong," Ranasinghe said. "There is a fourth Jew in Sri Lanka -- at least a former German Jew now a Buddhist monk but who, as far as we can tell, still feels Jewish at heart."

The most unusual participant at the colloquium is, however, undoubtedly Prof. Sidney Shapiro, known in his adopted country, the People's Republic of China, as Sha Boli. The 72-year-old New York-born Jew who attends the meetings with the authorization of the Chinese Academy arrived somewhat stiff in his blue cotton jacket.

It took him less than a couple of days to feel and act like a "real Jew." He took to the meeting like a fish to water and his first outing in Hong Kong was to a local American deli "for a real thick pastrami sandwich like they make at home."

ISRAELI ENVOY URGES THAT UN CHIEF RECONSIDER OPENING TO THE PUBLIC UN FILES ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 24 (JTA) -- Israel contended here Tuesday that "the decision and responsibility" regarding the granting of free public access to the UN files on Nazi war criminals lies with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The Secretary General rejected last Thursday Israel's request to open the files at the UN archive on war criminals to public scrutiny, contending that the nations which were members of the long-defunct War Crimes Commission had objected to it.

Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, told a press conference here he hopes that de Cuellar will reconsider his decision in view of information obtained by Israeli researchers who examined more than 300 files obtained by Israel last May from the UN archive on war criminals. The UN archive, located in downtown Manhattan, contains some 40,000 files on suspected Nazis and their collaborators.

Cites Discoveries By Yad Vashem Researchers

"Yad Vashem researchers have determined that public access to the files would generate a significant amount of new information regarding the Holocaust," Netanyahu said. He said that a thorough investigation of 347 files revealed the extent of information regarding the Holocaust that reached the West before the war's end.

"File 79/P/G/16 describes the destruction of hundreds of thousands of Jews at Treblinka concentration camp. It was delivered to the UN War Crimes Commission on April 24, 1944," the Ambassador said. Similar information on the mass murder of Jews at Maidanek and Belzec concentration camps was delivered to the Commission on June 3, 1944, Netanyahu noted. World War II ended in May 1945.

Yad Vashem researchers also discovered, according to Netanyahu, lists of personnel who ran the camps; the nature and amount of property confiscated from European Jewry by the Nazis; the number of victims and survivors of the Holocaust; information on the "Sondergrichte" -- the special German courts in occupied Nazi territories;

official reports, unknown until now, detailing Nazi policy on European Jewry and the camps; and new details on Nazi medical experiments.

"Public access to the files is indispensable to establish a more accurate record of that historical period," Netanyahu declared. "The present rules of confidentiality prevent widespread research into this material and its publication and dissemination."

He added: "Unfettered access to the files would facilitate the work of governmental agencies pursuing and prosecuting Nazi war criminals by providing new historical accounts and legal documents."

The Israeli envoy noted that many of the files were written in English. "This is highly unusual and would benefit many young researchers not fluent in German, Polish, Czech and other East European languages," he said.

Netanyahu, confirming the fact that only Australia, out of the 17 nations who were members of the War Crimes Commission, agreed to the opening of the files, was asked why, in his opinion, the majority of the former members of the Commission objected to the opening of the files. "I can assume that some of the findings will be unpleasant to individuals and to governments," he answered.

THREE-JUDGE PANEL IN DEMJANJUK TRIAL REJECTS DEFENSE MOTION TO DISQUALIFY ITSELF BECAUSE OF BIAS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA) -- The trial of accused war criminal John Demjanjuk began its fifth week Monday after the three-judge panel rejected a defense motion to disqualify itself for bias against the defendant and his lawyers.

The allegation of bias was made by Yoram Sheftel, the Israeli lawyer assisting Demjanjuk's American attorney, Mark O'Connor. Sheftel cited instances of what he claimed were discrimination against the defense, personal attacks on him from the bench and a lack of objectivity.

After a two-hour recess, court president Dov Levin declared there was no basis to Sheftel's charges. He said the bench had not "intervened more than necessary" during the trial and in fact behaved "with more than usual forbearance."

The court also rejected Sheftel's demand that the hearings be suspended while the defense appealed the issue to the Supreme Court. Demjanjuk's attorneys may appeal nevertheless.

Most of the proceedings Monday were devoted to O'Connor's cross-examination of former police investigator Martin Koller, himself a Holocaust survivor who lost his entire family. Koller was questioned closely on the process by which photographs were presented to witnesses to identify the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk as the sadistic Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible."

Koller, who immigrated to Israel from Czechoslovakia in 1965, testified that he was employed by U.S. occupation forces in Europe after the war investigating Nazi war crimes.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Israeli pavilion at the International Trade Fair in Cairo had some 10,000 visitors during the first week of the fair last week, according to an Israel Embassy spokesman in Cairo.

**JORDAN'S PRIME MINISTER SAYS
HIS COUNTRY WOULD PARTICIPATE
IN A MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE**
Statement Draws Mixed Reactions In Israel
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) -- A statement by Jordan's Prime Minister Zeid Rifai Sunday night that his country would participate in an international conference for Middle East peace drew mixed reactions in Israel.

Sources close to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres welcomed it as "an obvious indication that significant progress has been made." But Premier Yitzhak Shamir dismissed Rifai's announcement as "nothing new." He said the Arab countries wanted an international conference because Israel's position at such a forum would be weak.

Some observers said Rifai's statement was the first official acknowledgement by Jordan that King Hussein and Peres have agreed, through American mediation, to guidelines for holding a peace conference.

Others noted that it was ambiguous and gave no indication that Jordan accepted Peres' stipulation that the conference would be only an "opening" framework for bilateral negotiations between Israel and Jordan and other parties to the Middle East conflict.

Peres To Present Plan To Inner Cabinet

It was reported, nevertheless, that Peres has informed Shamir in writing that he plans to present his proposals to the Inner Cabinet on Wednesday. The two men are scheduled to meet privately Tuesday. It was not certain whether Peres' position will be strengthened by the statement from Amman.

Rifai said there was no point in continuing efforts to convene a conference as long as the Israeli government is divided and cannot make up its mind, a reference to the ongoing dispute between the Labor and Likud coalition partners over the issue.

The Jordanian Prime Minister also denied reports that Hussein met in secret with Peres or any other Israeli leaders recently. He made clear that Jordan wants the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in the process, a condition unacceptable to Israel.

But Rifai said the PLO could participate only if it renounces terrorism and accepts United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which imply recognition of Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

ISRAEL MARKS ITS 39TH ANNIVERSARY
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) -- Israel's 39th Independence Day Monday was sunny and warm. A relaxed, festive mood prevailed for hundreds of thousands of Israelis bent on getting to the beaches and picnic grounds. It was a day to ignore politics and enjoy the country's only secular holiday.

By midday, police were reporting all parking lots full at the seashore and camping grounds. The Golan Heights and Upper Galilee were

thronged with picnickers, undeterred by the several Katyusha rockets which exploded in the latter area during the night. They were fired from beyond the south Lebanon security zone and caused no casualties or damage.

Officially, the celebration began Monday night with the traditional kindling of 12 torches on Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem. The central one was lighted by Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel; the others by representatives of the arts -- music, theater, cinema, dance, sculpture, painting and architecture. Their symbolism was not lost on those who remembered the emphasis on military might of earlier Independence Days.

Another tradition was the annual International Bible Quiz for youth and the presentation of the Israel Prize, both held in Jerusalem and broadcast on radio and television.

Aircraft, civilian and military, were on display to the public at Ben Gurion Airport, where normal operation were closed down for several hours for an air show featuring high altitude acrobatics by prototypes of the new Lavi fighter plane and short takeoff-and-landing aircraft, all made in Israel.

The only political note was sounded by Premier Yitzhak Shamir, who used an hour-long interview on Israel Radio to urge continuation of the unity coalition government for the remaining 18 months of its tenure.

Nevertheless, he accused his Labor coalition partners of "running amok" in their haste to convene an international conference for Middle East peace. He said Likud would examine all aspects of the issue but would not be pressured into accepting "peace at any price."

There were strong political overtones in the widely advertised and subsidized marches by Likud and Gush Emunim activists in the West Bank. These were balanced, politically, by the 13th Hapoel Games, the international workers' Olympics, at the Ramat Gan stadium. About 1,300 athletes from abroad participated.

**AUSTRIA TO SET UP PANEL TO PROBE
WALDHEIM'S WARTIME ACTIVITIES**
Waldheim To Take Legal Action In Response To
Allegations Of Complicity In Nazi Atrocities

VIENNA, May 4 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Alois Mock announced Monday 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 Monday, 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 Monday 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.

POLL INDICATES GENERAL LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN LABOR-LIKUD COALITION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) -- The latest opinion poll, published Sunday, indicated a general loss of confidence in the Labor-Likud coalition government and a drop in the popularity of the leaders of both parties. If elections were held now, the voters would give neither party a decisive majority and the present stalemate in government would continue.

The poll, conducted by the Public Opinion Research Institute (PORI) among 1,200 Jewish voters between April 21-23, confirmed a trend of dissatisfaction with the government found by a poll taken in March by the Modiin Ezrachi organization, published April 21.

The Labor Party suffered less erosion than Likud. The poll indicated that 75.3 percent of those who voted for Labor in the 1984 Knesset elections would vote for it again. But Likud would be the choice of only 55.4 percent of those who voted for it three years ago.

Moreover, 11.5 percent of Likud voters would cast ballots for Labor in new elections but only 2.2 percent of Labor voters would cross over to Likud. In addition, 11.6 percent of Labor voters and 15.3 percent of Likud voters are "undecided" whom they would vote for.

The poll showed that Labor would win 40.1 percent of the vote if elections were held now, up from 37.1 percent in 1984, while Likud would win 24.9 percent, down from 31.9 percent.

The religious parties, with 14.6 percent of the vote in new elections, up from 11.4 in 1984, would again hold the balance of power should either party try to form a governing coalition, the latest poll showed.

It also showed a 23 point decline in popularity for Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, down to 36 percent approval from 59 percent in May 1986. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, had a 17 point drop in popularity, down to 62 percent from 79 percent a year ago.

KLARSFELD SAYS WALDHEIM MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS NAZI BACKGROUND

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 4 (JTA) -- Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld believes that when efforts are made to bring Nazi war criminals to justice, it is most important "to go after . . . those who gave the orders." But in the case of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, there is "a moral responsibility" to hold him accountable for his Nazi background, Klarsfeld said in an interview on the ABC-TV "This Week With David Brinkley" program Sunday.

"Let's say just for public opinion, I think we have to take something, we have to learn something from what happened during the Second World War . . . So how can we admit that people, Kurt George Kiesinger of Germany, the former Chancellor, and Waldheim can represent states today?" Klarsfeld said.

The Austrian Charge d'Affaires, Christian Prosl, who also appeared on the program, contended that Waldheim was barred from entering the U.S. without being proved guilty of charges that he was involved in Nazi persecution and atrocities during World War II.

"What is not fair is to put somebody who is head of state of a friendly country on a list where the normal people and even The Washington Post, equals that to convicted criminals," Prosl said referring to the Justice Department's watch list of foreigners not admissible to the U.S.

"Mr. Waldheim was not a Nazi and he was not a war criminal," the Austrian official stated. He said Waldheim would soon "bring out a white paper to show exactly what he did during the war."

Mark O'Connor, the American attorney defending accused war criminal John Demjanjuk, now on trial in Jerusalem, was also interviewed. He questioned the fairness of the trial.

"We have the issue of three judges that have to put aside their Jewishness. They have to look at the issues objectively. They have to look at the narrow range of evidence which is available, in terms of the witness' memories after 45 years, and their identification of a questionable photo spread," O'Connor said.

A DISCORDANT NOTE IS STRUCK AT SOLIDARITY SUNDAY FOR SOVIET JEWRY

By Susan Birnbaum and Margie Olster

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA) -- For the first time in the history of Solidarity Sunday, a discordant note was struck Sunday when a recognized leader of a Soviet Jewry movement, Yosef Mendelevich, was denied permission to speak but took the microphone forcibly and insisted he be allowed to make a statement.

Mendelevich took the dramatic action in front of a crowd estimated at 200,000 who gathered at the Dag Hammarskjold Plaza across from the UN to hear speeches from local officials, religious leaders, President Reagan, Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Natan Sharansky.

Mendelevich has been living in Israel since 1981 following his release after 11 years in six Soviet prisons for his role in a desperate attempt to steal an airplane and escape to Israel via Sweden. Since arriving in Israel, Mendelevich, the chairman of the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Center in Jerusalem, has been one of the most outspoken leaders in the cause of Soviet Jewry.

He spoke out strongly in March following reports of an agreement made in Moscow between Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, and Soviet officials. The unconfirmed agreement would permit up to 11,000 Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel this year directly via Rumania.

Mendelevich, among other Soviet Jewry activists, blasted the suggestion by Abram that the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which links U.S. trade with the Soviet Union to Jewish emigration, be lifted when a sizable, but unspecified, number of Jews are permitted to emigrate.

Decries Complacency In Mainstream Organizations

On Sunday, Mendelevich decried complacency within the mainstream Soviet Jewry organizations -- the NCSJ and the Coalition to Free Soviet Jewry, which organizes the annual demonstration. The Coalition denied Mendelevich's request last week to be added to the roster of speakers. In fact, Mendelevich has not been invited to speak at the rally since 1981, the year of his release, when he was the featured speaker at Solidarity Sunday.

Taking the microphone from his long-time friend and former fellow prison inmate Natan Sharansky, Mendelevich introduced himself and said, "Nobody invited me here to speak, but I will speak." Alan Pesky, Coalition chairman, tried unsuccessfully to prevent Mendelevich from speaking.

He lashed out at the "false optimism" he claimed was engendered by statements made by Abram on his return from Moscow. Abram told the JTA Monday that he had only reported on his impressions of meetings with Soviet officials but never said agreements were made. Abram said he expected the Soviets to agree shortly to direct flights for Soviet Jews to Israel through Rumania. Abram also said he thought some 11,000 Jews would be permitted to emigrate within the year.

Abram's Reaction To The Incident

Abram told the JTA Monday that Mendelevich "forced himself on a platform for other people. Apparently he has no platform of his own." But Abram said he agreed with Sharansky and other activists on the fundamental principles: no relaxation or waiver of trade restrictions until "very substantial emigration" is seen.

Abram said he deliberately avoided putting figures or caps on the numbers necessary for a waiver. "Fifty-one thousand in 1979 shows what is possible in a year," he said. "Then there should be just a waiver. The Jackson-Vanik amendment should be imbedded in concrete."

In particular, Mendelevich urged Soviet Jewry activists to support a total ban on trade with the Soviet Union. He called for an end to American bank loans to the Soviets.

Abram called Mendelevich's position very extreme. "A ban on trade is something no one in the organized community has advocated. I frankly

do not know what Mendelevich is arguing for. It's not possible to have a total trade embargo, that's not within the realm of possibilities." Abram added that he believed Mendelevich represented a small number of people.

Pressure, Not Compromise

Rabbi Avi Weiss, national chairman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, said, "It is outrageous that those who negotiate for Soviet Jewry at cocktail parties can speak at Solidarity Sunday while a Yosef Mendelevich, who spent 11 years in a Soviet prison, is denied that right. What would it take to speak, another 11 years in the Gulag? But Yosef was denied the right because he speaks the full truth, and believes in, as (Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations) Bin-yamin Netanyahu said Sunday at the rally, 'pressure, pressure, pressure' and not compromise, compromise, compromise which has lulled our community into complacency."

Conference organizers from the Coalition to Free Soviet Jewry told the JTA that time constraints mainly prevented Mendelevich from receiving an official time slot in the scheduled program.

"We had limited time and many people who would have liked to speak," said Pesky. "We made the judgement about who would be the most appropriate people to speak," he said.

Pesky said the appropriateness of the potential speakers was evaluated according to the objectives of the rally. "One of the main reasons for the rally is to draw attention to Soviet Jewry," Pesky said. "This is aided by prominent speakers. We had requests from many Congressmen and others," he said.

Says Sharansky Represented Former Refuseniks

Sharansky, the only former refusenik to address the rally, was chosen to represent former refuseniks in the program, Pesky said. Although some 10 former refuseniks sat on the stage with the dignitaries, including David Goldfarb, Vladimir Magaryk, and Leonid Slepak, none spoke from the podium. Instead, the march organizers introduced the Soviet Jews to reporters and arranged for interviews and media coverage of the plight of relatives left behind in the Soviet Union.

But Pesky said Mendelevich's political views had nothing to do with his exclusion from the program. "We are an organization that is not afraid to confront different sides of this issue."

Zeszy Schnur, Coalition executive director, added that the organizers had a tremendous amount of respect for Mendelevich, one of the Leningrad defendants, which alone is an "extraordinary reason for according him the respect he deserves."

Sunday evening, Mendelevich, sitting at the dinner table in the Riverdale, NY home of Rabbi Weiss, told the JTA why he felt impelled to speak.

Mendelevich said a demand for the release of 11,000 is only a small portion of tens of thousands who want to leave the Soviet Union. "We should ask for free emigration and nothing else," he said.

Mendelevich advocated government-legislated trade embargoes and sanctions similar to those imposed on South Africa. He urged businesses and activists to emulate their concerns for human rights in South Africa by extending them to the Soviets.

EFFORT UNDER WAY TO RESTORE A LANDMARK SYNAGOGUE IN BARBADOS

By Haviva Krasner

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress is aiding the descendants of a group of Jews, who settled in Barbados after being expelled from Spain and Portugal during the Inquisitions, to collect funds to restore their landmark synagogue in Bridgetown, the island's capital. So far, more than \$75,000 has been collected in the United States alone, according to the AJCongress.

Paul Altman, a Bridgetown businessman and project coordinator, said the object of the restoration is "to preserve the Jewish heritage and a historical monument for all Barbadians and visitors. If nothing were done now, a part of our history would be lost forever."

The synagogue is actually the second building on the same site to house the Kaal Kodesh Nidhe Israel -- the Holy Scattered Congregation of Israel. The first building was constructed in 1654; thus the location is believed to be the oldest existing synagogue site in the New World.

The original tiny building lasted for almost 200 years, until it was flattened, along with much of the island, in the "killer hurricane" of 1831. The 90-member congregation, undeterred by the disaster, set out to raise funds to restore the place of worship. By 1833, they had erected a new synagogue on the original site.

However, 68 years later, the synagogue began to fall into disrepair. A massive failure of the sugar crop, the mainstay of the island economy, forced virtually all the Jewish families to leave. The building was left to moulder.

Attempts To Restore The Synagogue

Attempts were made to restore the synagogue, notably by Eustace Shilstone, a lawyer and a non-Jew. In 1929, he suggested that the old synagogue be preserved as a national memorial for the Jews of Barbados and for its historical and antiquarian significance. His plans failed to materialize.

In 1983, the government of Barbados acquired the structure and announced plans to tear it down and erect a new Supreme Court building on the site. Alarmed at the proposal, the Jewish community, which had been meeting in homes of members for services, decided to try to save the old building.

Upon request, the AJCongress agreed to serve as a central agency for contributions for the proposed restoration. They estimate that \$900,000-\$1,150,000 will be needed to successfully complete the project.

The synagogue is presently "in absolute shambles," the AJCongress reported. The windows have already been restored, and the roof is in the process of being restored, but there is a long way to go before the synagogue looks as identical as possible to the original building, which, according to the AJCongress, is the ultimate goal.

Besides the present condition of the synagogue, another major restoration problem is the disappearance of many of its artifacts. Some items were sold to museums and others were obtained by private collectors.

Despite these setbacks, Altman feels that "a properly restored synagogue will be maintained for the benefit of future generations."

HAVIVA KRASNER IS INTERN AT JTA

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA) -- Haviva Krasner, a senior at the Ramaz Upper School, is a journalism intern at the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The internship is part of her work-study senior project, which began last month and lasts until graduation in June. By combining attendance to a smaller number of classes with work at an outside job, the Ramaz administration attempts to provide students with experience at working in the "real world."

For her work-study project, Krasner, 18, chose an internship at JTA because of her interest in journalism, political issues as they affect the Jewish world, and ongoing developments in the Jewish community. She said she felt there is "a great deal of interesting news breaking in the Jewish world, and there are many controversial subjects to be covered."

Krasner has worked on her school newspaper, the "Ram Page," for the past four years and has been Editor-in-Chief during her senior year. After graduating in June, she will continue at JTA in its summer intern program covering all aspects of Jewish news.

BELLOW SAYS ISRAEL GOVERNMENT HELPED SPARK ANTI-SEMITISM IN U.S. FOR ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE POLLARD SPY CASE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) -- Saul Bellow, the American Nobel Laureate in Literature, holds the Israel government responsible for stoking anti-Semitism in the United States by its involvement in the Jonathan Pollard spy case.

He described Israel's use of Pollard, an American-Jewish civilian employe of the Navy serving a life sentence for spying for Israel, as "a piece of foolishness and recklessness" which did not take into consideration the impact on American Jews.

"If the Israel government had a natural interest in the American Jewish community, it should protect it from such pitfalls," Bellow told reporters in Haifa, where he attended a three-day international conference last week at Haifa University devoted to his literary work.

Anti-Semitism has been on the rise for some time in the U.S. and the Pollard affair is the kind of thing anti-Semites seize upon, Bellow said. "I think the American Jews are very sensitive to the question of dual allegiance, and it is probably wrong of Israel to press this question because it is one which is very often used by anti-Semites," he said.

Bellow, who was raised in an Orthodox home in the U.S., explained why he prefers to live there rather than in Israel. "I resent the rules of Orthodoxy and like to live in a land where I can't be reached by its long and fossilized arm," he said. He added that he discerned a danger of Israel becoming a theocratic state, "which is very objectionable."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Calling yerida "a disaster for the State," an organization has been formed here to fight against it by mobilizing public opinion and trying to correct the conditions that prompt Israelis to leave the country. "The Israeli Association to Stop Yerida" was founded at the initiative of Labor MK Avraham Katz-Or.



MEMORIAL DAY IN ISRAEL
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 3 (JTA) -- At precisely 9:30 Saturday night, sirens wailed all over Israel announcing the start of Memorial Day. They sounded again at 11 a.m. Sunday when commemorative services for the 16,200 men and women who lost their lives in Israel's wars and in terrorist attacks since 1948 began at the Western Wall in Jerusalem and at military cemeteries throughout the country.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir addressed the main observance at Har Herzl in Jerusalem. Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spoke at the Mount of Olives cemetery. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Education Minister Yitzhak Navon addressed crowds gathered at military cemeteries in Tel Aviv.

All stressed Israel's overriding desire for peace but noted that political and military circumstances made it essential for Israel to be prepared to defend itself.

Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron, the newly installed Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff, made this clear in his Memorial Day order of the day: "We have been entrusted with the mission of continuing forward on a path fraught with dangers and difficulties, to march the IDF boldly forward toward the challenges which perhaps still await us on the battlefield, and in the training, development and building of the army's strength for the future."

Message By Rabin

In a message to the families of war dead and victims of terrorist assaults, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin stated: "Even if it will not ease your burden, I do feel the need on this painful day to reaffirm to you that there is nothing more precious to us than human life."

"In each and every decision made by us, by the IDF's General Staff, by me as Defense Minister and by Ministers of the Israel government, the cost in blood is weighed. For me, the sanctity of life is the supreme consideration. The number of fallen exacted from us this year to maintain Israel's security may have been smaller than in previous years, but this is no comfort to any of us..."

"It is our highest obligation to do everything in our power so that parents will no longer stand by their son's grave, and children will not follow their father's coffin. To the fallen and to you, the members of the families, we owe every possible effort on the long road which leads to the prevention of war and to peace."

Memorial Day observances were similar to those a week ago in memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. All places of entertainment, restaurants and cafes were closed for 24 hours, beginning Saturday night, a requirement of the law. Israel Radio played solemn music during the day. Documentaries and interviews were broadcast dealing with Israel's wars.

The busiest people were florists who worked through the night preparing the countless wreaths to be placed on graves in official and private ceremonies.

200,000 PEOPLE AT SOLIDARITY SUNDAY FOR SOVIET JEWRY RALLY; ATMOSPHERE OF RENEWED BUT CAUTIOUS HOPE PREVAILS
By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, May 3 (JTA) -- An atmosphere of renewed but cautious hope prevailed in the annual Solidarity Sunday demonstration here where an estimated 200,000 people turned out to march for the freedom of Soviet Jewry.

Natan Sharansky, who led the massive demonstration on its march from Central Park to the United Nations with other prominent former refuseniks, Jewish leaders and Mayor Edward Koch, cautioned against false optimism.

"On this Solidarity Sunday, we confront two unmerciful enemies which threaten to destroy our Jewish solidarity," said Sharansky, who wore a green Israeli Army cap. "Those two enemies, had they been victorious, would have sealed Soviet Jewry behind the Iron Curtain."

The repressive dictatorial system of the Soviet Union and the feeling of despair on the part of Soviet and world Jewry are the two enemies Sharansky named. But Sharansky warned that the feeling of despair is giving way to false hopes and unwarranted optimism about the fate of Soviet Jews.

Cited Danger Of False Optimism

"It is the feeling of false optimism that makes us think the struggle is over before the victory is reached," he said.

Sharansky said the false optimism is perceived by Jews in the Soviet Union as hurting their cause, and added that the recent plethora of over-optimistic reports have met with trepidation inside the Soviet Union.

"Refuseniks in Moscow are afraid that we are ready to accept the release of 12,000 Jews as the final victory... They're afraid we are ready to trade the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, the most powerful weapon that is in our hands, for some cosmetic gestures," Sharansky said.

"Shall we stop the struggle until the last of our brothers in the Soviet Union will join us in freedom?" Sharansky asked the adoring crowd, who answered in unison, "No!"

Other speakers expressed hope stemming from the small increases in emigration figures in the last two months. Over 1,400 Jews have left since February.

In a dramatic move, Yosef Mendelevich -- a former Prisoner of Conscience and one of the more radical leaders of Soviet Jewry movements in Israel -- unexpectedly broke into the ceremony following Sharansky. Mendelevich shook Sharansky's hand and stepped up to the microphone despite organizers' efforts to prevent this.

"Nobody invited me here to speak, but I will speak," he said. "Friends, something is wrong here... is there any struggle?" Mendelevich began by blasting Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, and Morris Abram, chairman of both the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, saying the only thing that followed their recent visit to Moscow was more massive refusals. "I know you have your

leaders... you like them? Have them. But don't send them any more to Moscow. They don't know how to deal with the Russians."

Mendelevich said that Abram's optimism that he brought back from the Soviet Union only paves the way for large companies to pressure Congress for increased trade with the Soviet Union. "The Soviet Union is a fascist country that oppresses basic human rights."

Mendelevich advocated a total ban on trade with the Soviet Union, and praised Koch, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) and Richard Schifter, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, for supporting this position. Mendelevich added that he disagrees with American Jewish leaders' advocacy of patience. "We have to rush. We will struggle now, struggle now, real struggle," Mendelevich screamed as he stepped down. His remarks met with mixed response.

For the first time ever, the demonstrators this year received messages from the Soviet Jews themselves via videotaped interviews made by American Congressmen on a visit in April and smuggled out from the Soviet Union.

In one of the interviews, Ida Nudel pleaded to keep up the struggle. "You (in America) keep us alive. You really do. But it is not enough. We have limited strength, both physical and spiritual. Put yourselves in our place," said Nudel, whose face is one of the most frequently seen on placards carried by the demonstrators.

Iosif Begun said on videotape, "We feel your support every day, and without it we could not exist." Lev Elbert spoke visibly weakened from his bed on the 42nd day of his hunger strike. "It is the children who really suffer." Vladimir Magaryk, father of Prisoner of Conscience Aleksei Magaryk, was among the march leaders, dressed in a black and white striped prisoner's uniform, holding a picture of his son behind prison bars.

Messages From Shamir And Reagan

Messages from Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir and President Reagan were also received via satellite.

"We have to ask for a total change, substantial change of the Soviet policy, to let all our people go," Shamir said. "We cannot let the Soviet authorities confuse us with some contradictory statements. We want to see all the Jews who want to leave Russia. We want to see them leave Russia and come to Israel."

Reagan challenged the Soviets to show some proof of 'glasnost' by allowing Soviet Jews to practice their religion openly and emigrate. "This demonstration today is proof that the American people and their government hold the Soviet Union to the international agreement (Helsinki Accords) to which it subscribed in 1975. We have not and will not forget Soviet Jewry. The cause of Soviet Jewry is our cause -- because we are committed to freedom for all people everywhere," Reagan said.

John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, addressed the demonstration, saying he encouraged thousands of Catholics attending mass today in St. Patrick's Cathedral to pray for the freedom of Soviet Jews and for the strength to continue the struggle.

Former refusenik David Goldfarb led the march in his wheelchair with his son Alex pushing him. Goldfarb lost his leg in the Battle of Stalingrad and was in danger of amputation of the other leg from diabetes when Armand Hammer

suddenly got permission from the Soviets in October to take him to the U.S.

SHULTZ ASSURES ISRAEL THAT THE U.S. WILL WALK OUT OF MIDEAST PEACE TALKS IF THE GROUND RULES ARE CONTRAVENED By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 3 (JTA) -- American guarantees are a vital element of a political-diplomatic package Foreign Minister Shimon Peres plans to submit to the Inner Cabinet within the next 10 days, sources close to the Labor Party leader said Sunday.

They contain assurances Secretary of State George Shultz has given Peres that the U.S. would walk out of an international conference for Middle East peace if the terms of reference agreed to in advance were contravened by any of the participants, the sources said.

Peres, in an interview with the newspaper Hadashot published Sunday, stated flatly, "We have an understanding with King Hussein and the Americans to hold direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan under the auspices of an opening in the form of an international conference."

He chided Likud for expressing doubts that bilateral talks could be held soon with Jordan under international auspices. But Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, voiced his strong skepticism in an interview published Sunday in Maariv.

Shamir and Peres are expected to meet privately on Tuesday to discuss their differences over the peace process. Informed sources said neither would attempt to persuade the other to his point of view but they would try to agree on when Peres will make his presentation to the Inner Cabinet which comprises five Labor and five Likud Ministers.

Peres has said repeatedly he wants no prolonged delays and he is considering making his brief to the Cabinet before he goes to the U.S. for a short visit later this month. He is also said to be weighing a postponement of a visit to Argentina and other South American countries at the end of May.

'Chief Obstacle' To The Conference

Peres said in his interview that the "chief obstacle" to the international conference scenario concerned Soviet participation. "If the USSR wants to take part in the process it must renew its diplomatic relations with Israel and change its policy vis-a-vis the Jews of the USSR," Peres said. He added, "This is agreed to by Shultz and by European leaders."

Peres said he believes Jordan is prepared to negotiate without the Palestine Liberation Organization and maintained that the PLO is more isolated than ever. "Morocco has severed its relations with the PLO, Egypt closed their offices, Jordan closed additional offices. Syria is against the PLO . . . I don't see who wants the PLO in the negotiations today," Peres said.

Shamir, in his interview, said that while Hussein is pressing for an international conference he has not stated publicly any willingness to negotiate directly with Israel. He also said it was "difficult to rely" on assurances of an American walk-out should conference ground rules be violated. "I know how hard it is to obtain a decision by a state in such cases once it decides explicitly on taking part in the process," he said. Shamir insisted that his objections to an interna-

tional conference were not motivated by fear that Israel would be forced to make territorial concessions. "To this day we are faithful to the Camp David accords and we are ready for negotiations within their framework," the Likud leader said. "At a conference we will be in confrontation with the entire world . . . We will not attain peace."

MORE AUSTRIANS SUPPORT WALDHEIM NOW THAN ELECTED HIM AS PRESIDENT

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, April 3 (JTA) -- The Austrian people support President Kurt Waldheim by a much larger majority than elected him last summer, according to a straw poll published here following the U.S. Department of Justice's announcement last week that Waldheim would be barred from entry into the United States because of his alleged involvement in Nazi persecutions and atrocities during World War II.

The poll, in the newspaper Neue Kronen-Zeitung, found that more than 70 percent of the respondents do not want Waldheim to resign in wake of the American charges; 57 percent think he should file libel suits; and 53 percent want Chancellor Franz Vranitzky to cancel his scheduled official visit to the U.S. later this month.

Vranitzky is being urged to call off his visit by politicians of his own Socialist Party, his conservative coalition partners and the opposition liberal-right Freedom Party. They are echoed by editorials in their respective party newspapers which have called the American action an anti-Austrian measure. Freedom Party chairman Jeorg Haider said, "You do not shake one hand after the other has hit you." But Vranitzky announced after a brief meeting with Waldheim Thursday that he would make the visit which was planned some time ago. He said that while the government rejects the charges against Waldheim because of lack of evidence, the matter should be dealt with coolly and without emotion.

Vice Chancellor Alois Mock, chairman of the conservative People's Party which ran Waldheim as its Presidential candidate last year, announced Friday that the President has been invited on a state visit to Hungary, to be made some time next year. King Hussein of Jordan extended an invitation to Waldheim while he was in Austria on a skiing vacation in February. Waldheim is also scheduled to visit Egypt. Apart from Hungary, no European country has invited him. Waldheim claims he has a number of invitations under consideration but did not identify the countries.

Mock, who is also Foreign Minister, told a press conference that he summoned the U.S. Ambassador, Ronald Lauder, last week and gave him Austria's official response to the U.S. ban on Waldheim for transmission to Washington. Mock said the Austrian government demanded that the U.S. authorities provide it with all the material and documents which led to their decision.

Last Wednesday, Waldheim demonstratively visited the Jewish Museum in Eisenstadt, the provincial capital of Burgenland, where he addressed a conference of the organization of war victims. The museum occupies part the former home and private synagogue of the wealthy Wertheimer family. Waldheim wore a cap, which he had refused to do on a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem a number of years ago when he was Secretary General of the United Nations. His address to the war victims was essentially the same as his nationwide radio

and television broadcast last week in response to the American ban. In neither speech did he mention the Holocaust or Jewish suffering. He dwelt on the horrors of war and his own clear conscience.

SENATE MEASURE AIMS TO BAR WALDHEIM FROM RECEIVING HIS UN PENSION

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 3 (JTA) -- Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D. NY) has introduced legislation that would bar Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from receiving his retirement allowance from the United Nations.

Moynihan's resolution came after the United States Justice Department last week barred Waldheim from the U.S. for his participation in the persecution of Jews and others during World War II. The State Department refused to comment on the resolution.

The resolution calls for the U.S. Ambassador to the UN to introduce an amendment to the current UN budget that would eliminate Waldheim's retirement allowance. Waldheim is currently receiving \$81,650 a year.

"To do otherwise would be to reward Waldheim for having deceived us so thoroughly, so brazenly, and for so long," said Moynihan.

Moynihan, a former UN Ambassador, introduced similar legislation last May which was passed by the Senate as part of the Omnibus and Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act. Waldheim continued to receive the allowance.

The new resolution cites new evidence implicating Waldheim in "the activities amounting to persecution of Jews and others in Greece and Yugoslavia during World War II." The resolution says Waldheim's allowance "makes a mockery of the principles and ideals the United Nations was founded to uphold."

U.S. PROTESTS TO ISRAEL OVER BIAS AGAINST ARAB AMERICANS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 3 (JTA) -- The State Department has reiterated its objection to the confiscation of passports and other restrictions against Palestinians, who are American citizens, when they arrive in Israel.

Department spokesman Charles Redman said the United States has expressed its "concern" about what it called "discrimination" to Israel recently and in the past.

The Department released a statement last Thursday in which it noted that last summer there were a "large number of complaints" by Arab Americans that they were "harassed and discriminated" against when they arrived in Israel. This included confiscation of passports, the posting of bonds assuring that they would leave Israel after their visit, and in some cases, refusal to allow them to enter Israel, the statement said. After the U.S. complained the number of such charges dropped "substantially," the Department said. But it added that recently there have been reports of passport confiscation.

The statement stressed the U.S. told Israel that it cannot accept "discrimination" against American citizens based on "race, religion or ethnic background." The statement said the U.S. will "continue to protest vigorously with the government of Israel any reports of discrimination against Arab Americans."

SHAMIR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE

JERUSALEM, May 3 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir paid special tribute to Israel's rapid advances in science and technology in his message on the eve of Independence Day, May 4, marking the start of the 40th year of the sovereign Jewish State.

"I express profound satisfaction that our nation is among the few in the world capable of designing, creating and manufacturing an aircraft, a tank or a CAT-scanner, which are considered among the very best in the world," Shamir said.

"The technological excellence that we have achieved in our essential military development extends also to every level of our scientific and economic progress. As a result, we can see progress in our advance towards economic growth and independence," Shamir declared. "We have travelled a long and difficult road to reach this stage of some prosperity, well-being and greater opportunities for every family in this nation."

The Premier credited the citizens of Israel, civilian and military, "for their efforts and for their historic contribution to the establishment, the development and the security of our country. They have defended our independence through five wars and a continuous battle with the Arab terrorists."

Commitment To Struggle For Repatriation

"The people who constitute the Israel Defense Forces are of such quality as to make up for lack of quantity. Their excellence and dedication are a match for the vast quantities of modern equipment in the hands of our enemies. This advanced defensive capacity--largely created by our own people--prevents war and deters aggression," Shamir stated.

"As we move into the fortieth year, we renew our total commitment to the struggle for the repatriation of our brethren from Syria, Iran, Ethiopia, and other places of distress. It is unacceptable and intolerable that in the fortieth year of the existence of the Jewish State there should be Jews suffering because they are Jews, that Jewish communities should be held hostage, or that Jews should be regarded as homeless refugees.

"The most important result of the great transformation that occurred nearly 40 years ago is that the Jewish State is here to speak up for and to protect every Jew throughout the world," Shamir said.

The Premier urged "greater unity within the nation; the toning down of the internal debate, the reduction of internal strife, an emphasis on the positive aspects of our society..."

He also referred to the upcoming anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, "celebrating that unforgettable day, 20 years ago, when the dividing wall was pulled down and Jerusalem was liberated, reunited and restored to all her majesty and glory as the nation's capital."

Shamir appealed to Jews the world over "to make the year ahead a year of aliya, a year of pilgrimage to Eretz Israel. Come and see what your people has accomplished in this land. Bring your children and their children, that they may realize what still remains for them to do in the years that lie ahead."

HERZOG'S INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE

JERUSALEM, May 3 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog of Israel delivered an upbeat message to the Jewish communities of the world on the eve of the celebration of Israel's 39th Independence Day, May 4.

The nation has "forged ahead with its program of economic rehabilitation, it is moving forward in its international relations" and "there are encouraging developments in Israel's connections with the Third World, and indications from the Soviet Union which arouse hopes," Herzog said.

"In the near future, we shall be celebrating a most memorable and moving event--the unification of the city of Jerusalem 20 years ago. The tragedy of the division of the holy city has been replaced by new life and beauty, befitting its central role in the spiritual history of the Jewish people and much of mankind," Herzog said.

"We look to reunited Jerusalem as a focus for increased understanding, a gateway to peace and an inspiration for the realization of our noblest ideas," the President's message declared.

Cites Serious Problems

He acknowledged that "In the year now ending, we have had to face serious problems." The goal of peace is obstructed by "the lack of interlocutors like the late President (Anwar) Sadat, ready to take risks for peace."

There is also the problem of internal harmony which "depends on fostering tolerance and mutual respect among Arabs and Jews, among groups of varied origin," he observed. He urged an end to the polarization between the secular and the profoundly Orthodox.

"We cannot forget that this grave problem is not confined to Israel. It exists throughout world Jewry and is, in some cases, encouraged by elements in world Jewry. It must be jointly countered by all of us if we do not wish our people to be fragmented and our history compartmentalized," Herzog said.

He also spoke of immigration. "We have the heart-warming duty of thinking through new approaches to the absorption of the actual and potential aliya for which we pray--aliya to come, we hope, from Eastern Europe, Ethiopia and Syria and also from all other great Jewish communities in the Americas, in Western Europe, in Australia and from Southern Africa."

Finally, Herzog said, "Let us recall all the pioneers and builders--those who fought for our independence, the immigrants and the settlers in all areas of our country, in the north and in the south, in the towns and in the villages, in the kibbutzim and in the development towns."

YOUTH STABBED IN HEBRON

TEL AVIV, May 3 (JTA) -- A new immigrant from Ethiopia was stabbed while walking through the Arab casbah quarter of Hebron last Friday, but sustained only slight injuries. The injured youth was treated at the nearby Avraham Avinu Synagogue in Hebron. Soldiers imposed a curfew on the quarter and conducted a search for the assailant.

**YUGOSLAVIAN COURT POSTPONES
THE EXECUTION OF ARTUKOVIC**

PARIS, May 6 (JTA) -- The execution in Yugoslavia of convicted war criminal Andrija Artukovic has been postponed indefinitely for reasons of poor health, according to the official Tanjug News Agency in Belgrade. It said a court in Zagreb, which last year sentenced him to death for crimes he committed in World War II, decided to postpone carrying out the sentence. It now seems likely that Artukovic will die a natural death in prison, according to legal sources in Yugoslavia.

Artukovic, 87, was extradited from the United States last year after more than 30 years, numerous legal proceedings and two formal extradition requests. He had lived in California since entering the U.S. in 1948 through the use of fraudulent documents, according to the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations.

He had been accused by the Justice Department of the wartime persecution or murder of 700,000 Serbians, 40,000 Gypsies and 28,000 Jews while he was Interior Minister of the Nazi puppet state of Croatia. The mass killings and persecution was an official policy of the Croatian "Ustasha" fascist regime, set up in 1941 in collaboration with the Germans and Italians.

In sentencing Artukovic, Zagreb District Judge Milko Gajski said "This trial, for which we have all waited for such a long time, is a victory for justice. He (Artukovic) was the master of life and death for the whole people." Artukovic, who was known as the "butcher of the Balkans," denied any knowledge of the killings that took place in the Croatian camps.

**EFFORTS MOUNTING IN CONGRESS
TO CLOSE PLO OFFICES IN THE U.S.**

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- Efforts are mounting in Congress to close the offices of the Palestine Liberation Organization based in the United States.

Rep. Jack Kemp (R. NY) has introduced legislation that would make it a felony to aid the PLO. He said the purpose of his bill, which is pending in the House Judiciary Committee, is to "establish unequivocal statutory authority" to shut down PLO offices in the United States.

Kemp said the offices are in violation of the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization Act (RICO) which makes it unlawful for an organization to engage in criminal activities and the UN Charter which prohibits the threat or use of force against any state.

But a Justice Department spokesman said there is no legal basis for shutting the PLO offices under the RICO Act because they are not in the purpose of making money. There is also no evidence that the PLO ordered the killing of any Americans, said the spokesman.

"I remain unconvinced that present law does not provide ample basis to end PLO activities in the United States. But at a minimum, my bill should clear that up," said Kemp, who has been

pressing the State Department for over a year to close the PLO offices.

"Ostensibly they have a right to be here, if they're engaged in legal activity," said a spokesperson for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), "but not if they're involved in . . . facilitating liaisons between terrorists."

The PLO have two offices in the U.S. -- an information office based in downtown Washington and an Observer Mission in the United Nations headquarters in New York established as a consequence of General Assembly Resolution 3237 in 1974 which invited the PLO to participate as an observer in the session and work at the General Assembly.

"The United States has accorded the PLO every opportunity and incentive to moderate its views and its actions. Unfortunately, recent events have reaffirmed the extremism of the PLO and its adherence to terrorism," Kemp said.

"By making it a criminal offense to support PLO actions, we will be declaring our intolerance of any who would offer aid and comfort to international terrorists," he said.

**At The WJC Congress In Budapest:
BRONFMAN EXPRESSES CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM
ON THE FUTURE OF SOVIET JEWRY**
By Edwin Eytan

BUDAPEST, May 6 (JTA) -- World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman expressed "cautious optimism" on the future of Soviet Jewry as he opened the enlarged WJC Executive meeting here Wednesday. He said the Soviet Union leaders with whom he met during his recent trip to Moscow have promised to examine in a favorable spirit requests for shipments of Jewish books and religious material to Russia.

A WJC spokesman later said that a first list of such books and items has already been handed over to the Soviet authorities and that additional lists of requested books will be submitted in the near future.

Bronfman also told the 92 delegates from 26 countries that he has started to feel a "better climate" which, he said, he hoped would lead to a relaxation of East-West tensions and an overall improved atmosphere which would have beneficial consequences for Soviet Jewry.

The WJC president did not specify what he would consider a significant change. He mentioned, however, as encouraging, the figure of close to 800 Jews who were allowed to leave the Soviet Union last month. "This figure could and should be increased to 900 and then to 1,200 per month," Bronfman said.

Conference Congratulates Meese

The conference opened with a unanimous vote of congratulations addressed to U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese and the U.S. government "for having put Kurt Waldheim on the 'Watch List' and barring his entry into the United States."

The resolution, which was voted by a show of hands, was seconded by the president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in West Germany, Nahman Werner, who had earlier expressed

his disagreement with an overly harsh condemnation of the former U.S. Secretary General "unless some of the evidence on which the decision was based is made public."

Panel To Probe Waldheim's Activities Urged

Werner and several of the Austrian delegates continued to lobby for setting up an international commission of investigation to study the documents pertaining to Waldheim's wartime activities.

Werner told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "If he was a war criminal, barring him from entering the United States is far from enough. If he is innocent, however, this is too harsh. An international commission should study all the pertinent facts and inform public opinion." Werner said he had no opinion on who should appoint the commission nor on how it should proceed. "This is up to the governments concerned," he said.

The conference also heard reports on Catholic-Jewish relations, the result of the negotiations with the Polish church and other Catholic dignitaries on the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz, and the future of Catholic-Jewish ties.

The rapporteur, Dr. Gerhard Riegner, stressed that Catholic-Jewish relations "will be further improved when the Vatican will recognize the State of Israel and establish full, normal diplomatic relations with it."

Bronfman called on Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi Wednesday morning and was scheduled to meet later in the day with the President. Other delegates met with a number of Ministers with whom they discussed East-West relations, the Middle East situation and the situation of Soviet Jewry. A spokesman for Bronfman later said that the WJC president had told the Hungarians that he is in favor of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Addressing a press conference later, Bronfman said that he and the WJC were opposed to the lifting of the Most Favored Nation status from Rumania. He described the Rumanian regime as "the most repressive one we know" but added that on the other hand the country's remaining 23,000 Jews enjoy a certain number of privileges and that their overwhelming majority had been allowed to emigrate to Israel.

Bronfman Says Waldheim 'Case Is Now Closed'

Bronfman also said that as far as he is concerned "the Waldheim case is now closed." He added "our task should now be to work towards a reconciliation between the Austrian people and the Jews." The WJC president said that he hoped he will meet the Austrian chancellor, Franz Vranitzky, who is due to visit the U.S. later this month. "I know that he wants to see me and I want to see him," Bronfman said.

Told that Waldheim is planning to sue him, Bronfman said "being denied entry into the United States, he can not sue me in America, but to make it easier for him I am prepared to go to Vienna so that he can sue me there."

Bronfman plans to visit the Soviet Union next month but refused to say whom he plans to meet and what issues he plans to raise during his meetings there.

RETIRED AIR FORCE GENERAL DESCRIBES IRAN-ISRAELI ARMS DEALERS CONNECTION **By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- The incorrect assumption that the "improved" in the name of the I-Hawk missile meant it flew higher than the older Hawks resulted in Iran rejecting a shipment of the missiles from Israel in November 1985, according to retired Air Force Gen. Richard Secord.

Secord, testifying on the opening day of the Senate-House select committee's hearing on the Iran/Contra affair Tuesday, said that the Iranians wanted high altitude missiles to meet the threat of "high flying" reconnaissance planes and bombers.

But when the shipment of 18 missiles arrived in Teheran, the first of 80 I-Hawks promised Iran, the Iranians became "furious" when they realized the missiles had no higher altitude capacity than the medium altitude Hawks they already had, Secord said.

He said the people involved in the sale of missiles to Iran, the Israeli arms dealers, Al Schwimmer and Yaacov Nimrodi; their Iranian go-between, Manucher Ghorbanifar, and the Iranian officials involved, were a "group of civilians who didn't have any expertise in air defense."

"They had somehow thought that the 'I' meant improved beyond the original concept," Secord said. He said when he discussed the problem with Israeli military officials they immediately understood what had happened.

Involvement In Iranian Initiative

Secord said he became involved in the Iranian initiative in November 1985, when Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, then an official of the National Security Council, asked him to go to Lisbon to help overcome Portugal's reluctance to allow Israel to store and then fly the I-Hawks to Iran in non-Israeli planes. At the time, Secord, also at North's request, was conducting an airlift to the Contras supported by volunteer funds.

When Portugal refused, Secord said he was asked to find private planes to pick up the Israeli shipments which would carry 18 missiles at a time. He said this was difficult because the owners of the planes could not get insurance to fly to Teheran. He eventually was able to find a company in Frankfurt, West Germany, which agreed to fly the missiles to Iran.

Schwimmer then deposited \$1 million to cover the cost of transportation with Lake Resources, the Swiss firm set up by Secord and his partner, Albert Hakim, which handled the funds for the Contras.

The first shipment cost about \$200,000 and when Israel did not ask for the unspent \$800,000 back it was used to aid the Contras, Secord said.

The 18 Hawks were returned to Israel in February 1985, on the return flight of the plane that had carried 500 TOW anti-tank missiles to Iran from the U.S. via Israel.

Secord said Wednesday that after Iran rejected the missiles, he discussed the problem in Israel where he learned of the misunderstanding. He then met with Ghorbanifar, first in Paris and

then in London in December 1985. Robert McFarlane, then the National Security Advisor, was at the London meeting at which Ghorbanifar asked for highly sophisticated weapons in return for the freedom of the American hostages held in Lebanon.

McFarlane rejected this, and after the flight home Secord said he assumed the initiative was over. He said in January he was called to the White House by McFarlane's successor, Rear Adm. John Poindexter, and told a new initiative was being started.

While in Israel in November 1985, Secord said he learned that the Israelis had shipped 508 TOW missiles to Iran the previous August and September. He later learned from McFarlane that President Reagan had approved this.

The Israelis told Secord that the U.S. had promised to replenish the TOWs free of charge. Secord said he doubted this because from his military experience he knew the Department of Defense could not legally do this.

Secord said he later learned from North that this promise had been made. When the U.S. decided to ship TOWs to Iran in February 1986, it was decided to include the cost of the 508 shipped by Israel earlier, so that the Israeli TOW stock could be replenished as promised.

AMERICANS INVOLVED IN ARMS SHIPMENT TO IRAN SAID TO HAVE USED ISRAEL AS A 'COVER' THAT WOULD TAKE THE 'HIT' IF THE PLAN WAS DISCOVERED By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- The Americans involved in the covert arms shipments to Iran used Israel as a "cover" that would take the "hit" if the plan was discovered, according to retired Air Force Gen. Richard Secord.

Secord, testifying for the second day of the Senate-House select committee's hearing on the Iran/Contra affair Wednesday, described a February meeting he attended in the White House to discuss ways of legally transporting U.S. weapons to Iran. The meeting included lawyers from the Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Advisor Rear Adm. John Poindexter and Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, a National Security Council aide.

Secord said it was decided that the weapons were to be sold from the United States to him in his role as a "commercial cutout" that was not part of the government. He said the "commercial cutout" was an attempt to "mirror" the way in which Israel had secretly transported an earlier arms shipment to Iran.

The weapons were then to be transported to Israel which would then ship the weapons to Iran. Secord called the arms shipment a U.S./Israeli "joint venture" in which Israel was to provide a "cover."

Effort To Conceal The Operation

Asked by John Nields, the House committee's chief counsel, if those involved in the arms sales were trying to conceal the operation from Congress, Secord said they were concerned only with concealing the operation from the Iranians.

Secord went on to reveal the intricacies of the weapons transport which included Amiram Nir, an advisor to then Premier Shimon Peres, Iranian arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar, North and Robert McFarlane, former National Security Advisor.

In an attempt to account for the huge sums of money needed for the arms sales operation, he noted that the Israelis demanded an insurance of \$2 million on each plane that was sent out.

On February 15-16, the first delivery of 500 missiles was transported from Israel to Iran, and the I-Hawks that had been previously delivered by Israel and rejected were picked up. A second delivery was made after a meeting in Frankfurt.

But Secord testified that the plan to deliver additional spare parts was delayed when the Iranians refused to release the American hostages.

McFarlane, who had then retired from his post as National Security Advisor, went to Teheran in late May and was unable to resolve the conflict.

Nir, said Secord, "was bitterly disappointed. He thought the Americans should have stayed longer. . . and should have given the Iranians more time."

AJCOMMITTEE 'TERMINATED' EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT GORDIS APRIL 24 By Andrew Muchin

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- Dr. David Gordis' nearly three-year stint as executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee was "terminated" on April 24, the human relations agency's lay president, Theodore Ellenoff of New York, confirmed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Tuesday.

"There were policy differences between Dr. Gordis' view and the lay officers' view upon the ultimate control of the agency, particularly in connection with staff and administration," Ellenoff explained. He indicated that he had tried to resolve the conflicts for several months, but declined to elaborate on them. Gordis, 46, and a Conservative rabbi, could not be reached by telephone, and his secretary at AJCommittee here said "he was not speaking to the press at this time."

Ellenoff was asked if Gordis' rumored desire for reinstatement would be addressed at the agency's 81st annual meeting here May 13-17. "I think so," he replied. He said that a search committee would be formed "shortly after the annual meeting" to seek Gordis' successor.

In the meantime, AJCommittee's half dozen senior staffers are running the agency. Ellenoff said "they're well trained," will work collegially and know what must be done. Under these circumstances, does Ellenoff feel extra pressure? "With the departure of the executive vice president there is the need to reassure a very good professional staff that the Committee's work moves in its prescribed rhythm and to reassure the lay group that the agency, which has a number of good programs in place, will do them," he replied.

ISRAELI JETS ATTACK TERRORIST TARGETS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- Israel Air Force jets carried out a pre-dawn attack on terrorist targets southeast of Sidon in south Lebanon Wednesday. Reports from the area said a building housing local El Fatah headquarters was demolished and others that served as bases for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine were severely damaged. The raid was the second since last Friday when Israeli planes bombed a terrorist base at the Mia Mia refugee camp south of Sidon.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA
BONES FROM AUSCHWITZ BURIED IN N.J.
 By Gail Milgram Beitman

(Editor's note: Gail Milgram Beitman is editor of the Jewish Chronicle of Cumberland County and executive director of the Jewish Federation in that community.)

VINELAND, NJ, May 6 (JTA) -- "We saw our parents, our children -- their only funeral was the moments we saw their ashes and smoke rise over the crematoria. Today, finally, we bring them to rest in this holy Jewish ground."

With these words, Rabbi Murray Kohn, survivor of Auschwitz, raised a spade to bury the human bone fragments and ash found beside the site of the ovens at Auschwitz. The day of the burial was Yom Hashoah last month, the place was the historic Alliance Cemetery in Norma, New Jersey.

The bones had been found by participants of a Jewish community mission to Poland and Israel. "Perhaps because we had with us a survivor of Auschwitz, Magda Hafter, we were particularly attuned to where we were," explained Cy Baltus, mission participant and past president of the Jewish Federation of Cumberland County (NJ). "We thought, like so many tourists, to bring home a piece of that place for our community's Holocaust Archive. We reached into a pile of debris beside the crematorium and were shocked to find a mound filled with fragments of bone and ash."

Baltus said "It was evident from the placement of the mound that this was material that had been shoveled out of the building. Behind the building was a recessed area that the local guide referred to as a pit for incompletely burned body fragments. Had we looked longer, I'm sure we would have found more. In fact, there are shots in the film Shoah of the precise building and mound where we found the fragments."

Community Is Traumatized

The arrival of the bones in the community proved very traumatic. "In Cumberland County we have one of the largest per capita groups of survivors in the country. Many of their children and grandchildren continue to reside here," said Ron Macon, president of the Jewish Federation. "The presence of these bones became a troubling issue needing resolution for all of us."

Then Murray Hafter, Magda's husband, had the idea of a formal burial in the Jewish cemetery. "Murray went to get permission from Rabbi Kohn, who was quite shocked about the bone fragments, as was everyone. But this time we could see that this event had unearthed terrible pain for many of the survivors," explained Baltus.

During discussions at the cemetery it became quite apparent that bringing the fragments back was quite a controversial issue. There were those who felt strongly it had been wrong to bring the fragments back, and those who wished in retrospect it had not been done, due to the strong reaction. There were also some who doubted the halachic propriety of the burial.

Kohn's response was that regardless of these reactions, the remains were present in the community and had to be dealt with: "Here they are before us, we must handle the matter with dignity and love." Murray Hafter expressed the consensus of the community: "We now know these bones will

finally rest in peace in a Jewish cemetery. We did what we did in love. We feel we have the holiest of the holy among us."

A tiny hand-fashioned casket was made in accordance with tradition by Larry Benson, a member of the community. Hafter consulted with the local rabbis on details of cloth for the lining. "When it came to a covering, this became a very important symbolic matter. We covered it with a gray and white striped cloth, reminiscent of the concentration camp uniforms emblazoned with the yellow Star of David."

Kohn focused his ceremony on first consecrating the ground in front of the community's Holocaust Memorial Monument, which is in the shape of a truncated tree with its branches hewn off. This area within the Jewish Alliance Cemetery had not previously been sanctified as burial ground, but now it became a separate sanctified area.

An Emotion-Laden Talk

Kohn incorporated Ezekiel's Vision of the Dry Bones into the powerful, emotion-laden talk he gave after the traditional ceremony. He declared those present to be the appearance of the flesh on the bones in the vision and charged them to "live the lives of which those who perished were robbed . . . lives of tzedakah, love, creativity and Yiddishkeit." He then called upon each person who had lost family in the death camps to fulfill the mitzvah of burial by placing a handful of earth into the grave.

Community members were also divided over whether it would be appropriate for subsequent mission groups visiting Auschwitz to also bring back fragments to their communities for burial. Some suggested a Beth Din be gathered to deal with the matter.

Murray Hafter expressed the sentiments of many: "Perhaps it would be an exceptional act if each community gathered some of these ashes of our people and brought them home."

PERES ON SEVEN-DAY U.S. VISIT
 By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is scheduled to arrive in New York next week, for a seven-day U.S. visit.

After three days in New York, Peres will go to Washington to meet with top Administration officials, including Secretary of State George Shultz, and discuss his proposal for an international conference for Middle East peace.

According to a spokesman for the Israeli Consulate here, the Foreign Minister will arrive in New York on May 14. The highlight of his agenda in New York will include an address at a dinner sponsored by the David Ben Gurion Centennial Committee honoring Shultz, who will be presented with the Ben Gurion Peace Award. The event will be held at the Parker Meridien Hotel on Saturday night, May 16.

Peres also will take part in meetings organized by the United Jewish Appeal, Israel Bond Organization, American Jewish Committee, The Economic Task Force for Israel, and members of the business community on Wall Street.

Before leaving for Washington, Sunday May 17, Peres will fly to Pittsburgh to receive an honorary doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University.

**At The WJCongress In Budapest:
JEWISH LEADERS FROM 26 COUNTRIES
DEDICATE STATUE OF WALLENBERG
By Edwin Eytan**

BUDAPEST, May 7 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders representing their communities in 26 countries in the West and Eastern bloc, stood at attention in a downpour of rain here Thursday to pay solemn tribute to Raoul Wallenberg who, as a young Swedish diplomat more than 40 years ago, saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from deportation and certain death at the hands of the Nazis.

The assembled 92 leaders, delegates to the meeting of the enlarged Executive of the World Jewish Congress, watched in solemn silence with bowed heads as WJC president Edgar Bronfman placed a wreath of white poppies at the foot of a newly erected statue of Wallenberg.

On the wreath was the inscription, "Those who set out on a mission of humanity can be assured of God's special protection." They are the last message the WJC sent to Wallenberg as he left on his humanitarian mission during the final months of World War II.

The words brought tears to the eyes of Hungarian Jews present, not only because they owe their lives to Wallenberg but for the sad fate that was the reward for his selfless humanitarian acts.

Wallenberg was arrested by Soviet authorities when the Red Army entered Budapest in 1945 and has not been heard from since. The Soviets claim he died in Lubyanka prison in 1947. But many reports over the years said he was seen alive long afterwards and may still be alive.

'Raoul Cannot Wait'

The president of the Swedish Jewish community, Stefan Meisels, read a message from Wallenberg's sister, Nina Lagergren. It said: "Let Raoul's statue mean more than just a tribute to him and his deeds. Let it be a summons that no efforts be spared on his behalf. Raoul cannot wait. He will be 75 on August 4."

Lagergren is convinced her brother is alive. But when Bronfman was asked by reporters if anything new has transpired to determine Wallenberg's fate, he replied, "No, nothing." Asked if anything is known of his possible whereabouts, the answer was, "I am afraid not."

The Wallenberg statue stands on a quiet residential street on the Buda side of the Danube River. It consists of a bronze figure, slightly larger than life, standing on a pedestal. Next to the figure is a seven-foot marble plaque which appears to be cracked in the middle by an act of violence.

The figure of Wallenberg holds a snake by the neck in his left hand, the reptile covered with swastikas. The right hand wields a sword, poised to sever the snake's head. The sculptor, Imber Walda, explained the symbolic meaning to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

He said he wanted to show the man fighting to release the victims of Nazism but stricken in the middle of the act. Walda worked two years on the statue which will be formally unveiled by the

Mayor of Budapest on May 15. A plaque about 18 inches from the statue, is inscribed with Wallenberg's name and a quotation in Latin, translated into Hungarian: "While good fortune stands by your side, friends are plenty but should gray skies gather, you stand alone to withstand the storm."

The WJC meeting here is the first ever to be held in a Communist-bloc country. Its purpose is to examine the issue of Soviet Jewry, East-West relations and other matters of international Jewish concern.

UN Urged To Open War Crimes Files

On Thursday, the final day of the two-day meeting, Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director, called on the United Nations member states and the UN Secretariat to open the archives of the United Nations War Crimes Commission for study by scholars, historians and journalists so that the public may know their contents.

The matter is "as urgent as ever" and of crucial importance for the world's understanding of the Holocaust and of the individuals who were part of the Nazi crime machine, Steinberg said. The WJC hopes that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will support the WJC's stand on this matter and instruct the American delegation to the UN to call for the release of the files which "have been lying dormant and in half secrecy for 40 years now." (See related stories from the UN and Washington.)

Most of the delegates to the WJC meeting backed initiatives taken by Bronfman to affect drastic changes in the Soviet attitude toward Russian Jews and Jewish emigration. They urged the organization's leadership to pursue its contacts in Moscow.

The only discordant note at the meeting was sounded by the Czech delegate, Barian Eller, who contended that the issue of Soviet Jewry was a false one, used to discredit the Soviet Union on human rights and to worsen East-West relations.

**U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES INDICATE
SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S REQUEST TO
OPEN UN FILES ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS
By Yitzhak Rabi**

UNITED NATIONS, May 7 (JTA) -- The United States, in a shift, is now in favor of opening to the public the United Nations files on Nazi war criminals, diplomatic sources confirmed Thursday. The sources said that the U.S. has already informed Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that it has changed its position on the issue.

In addition to the U.S., Holland and Yugoslavia are now also supporting Israel's request to allow free public access to the UN archive, located on Park Avenue South in midtown Manhattan, which contains some 40,000 files on suspected Nazi war criminals and their collaborators.

Last March, the Secretary General rejected Israel's request to open the files to public scrutiny, contending that the nations which were members of the long-defunct War Crimes Commission had objected to it. Only Australia, out of the 17 nations who were members of the Commission,

consented last March to Israel's request. Sources here told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Thursday that the shift in Washington's position came as a result of a direct order from Secretary of State George Shultz. The U.S. reportedly had initially opposed opening the files to the public, following a decision by low-ranking State Department officials.

'A Very Important Decision'

Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, welcomed the shift in the American position. "This is a very important decision. The U.S. is assuming with this action the role of moral leadership that it deserves," the Israeli envoy told the JTA. He predicted that "it is a matter of short time now" until all the files will be open to the public.

According to sources here, other members of the 17-nation War Crimes Commission, including Canada, Poland and Czechoslovakia, are reevaluating their position.

Meanwhile, the JTA learned that the Secretary General, in view of the new developments, opened consultations with members of the War Crimes Commission to determine whether a new policy on the files should be declared.

Israel has inspected, after receiving permission from the Secretary General, more than 300 files on suspected Nazi war criminals, including the file of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, the former UN Secretary General.

STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS U.S. WILL SUPPORT ACCESS TO UN WAR CRIMES FILES By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA) -- The United States "will support broader access" to the files on Nazi war criminals and collaborators now held by the United Nations, the State Department said Thursday.

But, Department spokesman Charles Redman stressed that the U.S. was still studying how and to whom this should be done.

"We do believe that governments should continue to play a role in determining who should have access to the files," Redman added. "We're now reviewing the appropriate modalities that would be employed in the process."

The U.S. is one of the 17 members of the war Crimes Commission which turned the files over to the UN after the creation of the world body. Redman noted that when the UN Secretary General receives a request to examine the files he must first receive permission from the commission members.

Israel has been seeking the right to look at the files. But Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has so far only allowed it to examine 300 of the some 40,000 files because of objections from commission members.

JEWISH SETTLERS RAMPAGE THROUGH WEST BANK ARAB TOWN AFTER A BOMB ATTACK ON AN ISRAELI VEHICLE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 7 (JTA) -- Several dozen Jewish settlers led by Gush Emunim activists rampaged through the Arab town of Kalkilya in the West Bank before dawn Wednesday in reaction to a gasoline bomb attack on an Israeli vehicle Tuesday afternoon which caused no injuries or damage.

The incident increased tension in the area and exposed a deep rift in the Gush Emunim leadership between moderates and hardliners. Daniella Weiss, secretary general of the Gush Emunim, was questioned by police Thursday about her role in the assault. She refused to answer questions, refused to sign police documents and refused to be finger-printed.

The settlers broke through lightly staffed army barricades at the entrance to Kalkilya, which had been declared a closed military area. According to initial accounts, they hurled bottles through shop windows and burned tires in the main street. The few Israel Defense Force soldiers on duty did not stop them and no arrests were made.

Police said Thursday that no damage was caused to shops or buildings in the town. But differences smoldering within the Gush Emunim for more than a year came to light. Moderates deplored the violence while militants began organizing "patrols" to walk the streets of Kalkilya in a "show of Jewish force." The town was put under military curfew Wednesday.

Gush Moderates Express Concern

Gush Emunim moderates have been complaining for some time that the movement was being diverted from its initial goal of more Jewish settlements in the territory to such issues as pardons for convicted members of a Jewish underground terrorist network and, more recently, violence against the Arab populace. Weiss, who speaks for the militants, acknowledged there were differences but claimed a majority of the Gush Emunim supported her.

Minister-Without-Portfolio Yosef Shapira of the religious Party Morasha, a member of the Gush Secretariat, criticized vandalism against Arab property and expressed surprise that "central figures in the Gush Emunim were responsible for these acts."

Other moderates urged Jews to avoid Arab towns and refrain from business relations with them. Kalkilya, a market town near Kfar Saba, draws hundreds of Israeli shoppers daily, especially on Saturdays when shops in Israel are closed.

Tension has been running high in the area since an Israeli woman from the nearby settlement of Alfe-Menashe was killed last month in a gasoline bomb attack on her car.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin met Wednesday with Chief of Staff Gen. Dan Shomron, central sector commander Gen. Ehud Barak and Police Inspector General David Kraus to consult on how to prevent conditions from deteriorating.

Abdul Rahman Abu-Sneineh, the Israel-appointed mayor of Kalkilya, said Wednesday that if the situation continued he could no longer control his people.

POLITICAL STORM OVER REPORTS OF A SECRET ISRAEL-JORDAN AGREEMENT

JERUSALEM, May 7 (JTA) -- Reports of a secret accord under which Israel and Jordan would exercise joint control in the West Bank and Gaza Strip pending a final peace settlement touched off a political storm Thursday.

Likud fiercely denounced the alleged deal as surrender and betrayal by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his senior aides who ostensibly negotiated it with Jordanian officials. Although the account first appeared in the Labor-affiliated

newspaper Davar, Labor Party sources said it was wholly inaccurate.

They blasted Likud for "continuing its efforts to torpedo the peace process by publishing unfounded reports." Likud Liberal Minister Yitzhak Modai, at a Herut rally Wednesday night, waved what he said was a copy of a secret agreement between Peres and King Hussein of Jordan. He charged that Peres has "in fact already sold out" the West Bank to Jordan.

Another senior Likud source accused Peres of abandoning any claim to Israeli sovereignty in the territory. The alleged agreement also reportedly provides for Jordanian police in East Jerusalem, a freeze on Jewish settlements in the West Bank and an Israeli flag on the Western Wall.

According to Davar's political correspondent Aliza Wallach, the agreement was preliminary to and separate from the agreement said to have been reached between Peres and Hussein on procedures for convening an international conference for Middle East peace, to be followed by direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan.

Wallach named Avraham Tamir, Director General of the Foreign Ministry as the official who negotiated the preliminary accord.

The matter sharply escalated tensions between Labor and Likud as Peres prepared to present his peace plans to the Inner Cabinet next Monday. The coalition partners are also at loggerheads over Premier Yitzhak Shamir's charge Wednesday that Peres and the Labor Party are "ready to negotiate with the PLO." Peres denied this and accused Shamir of "inventing Labor positions and then arguing with them."

"Labor has said clearly that it is against inviting the PLO (to peace talks) and it will not agree to the PLO's participation," Peres said.

Labor Party sources, meanwhile, welcomed a remark by Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidki on a visit to Amman Thursday to the effect that peace negotiations could take place without the Palestine Liberation Organization representing the Palestinians.

Sidki said the PLO should be invited, but unless it renounces violence and accepts Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, Egypt would favor an alternative Palestinian representation.

PALESTINIAN WANTED IN ISRAEL ARRESTED AT JFK AIRPORT

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) -- A member of the Palestine Liberation Organization who is a naturalized United States citizen was arrested Wednesday at Kennedy International Airport here for his role in attacking a bus in Israel last year. In the attack, the bus driver was killed and two passengers injured.

The man, Mahmoud Al Abd Ahmad, 33, was held on an extradition warrant by the Israeli government and was to be arraigned Thursday in Federal District Court in Brooklyn. He is charged with murder and attempted murder in the attack on an Egged civilian bus in Beit Arie near Latrun on April 12, 1986. Israeli authorities filed a complaint for Ahmad's arrest yesterday, according to the FBI.

Ahmad was identified by an F.B.I. spokesman, Joseph Valiquette, who said Ahmad was taken into F.B.I. custody in Caracas, Venezuela, after Venezuelan authorities arrested him recently on immigration charges. Valiquette said Ahmad entered Venezuela illegally and was expelled from the

South American country Wednesday. He arrived in New York at 3 p.m. aboard a Pan Am flight and was taken to F.B.I. headquarters in New York.

According to Barukh Binah, Israel press consul in New York, Ahmad is accused of taking part in the attack in which two of the passengers of the bus were wounded and the driver, Shlomo Hatuka, was killed. The bus was enroute from Shomron to Tel Aviv.

Binah said that "the attack was with a burst of gunfire and a Molotov cocktail. There were two people, one caught on the spot, and the other fled." Two organizations took responsibility for the attack, El Fatah and Abu Nidal.

When Israel learned Ahmad was in Venezuela, it applied through its Washington Embassy for his detention pending an official extradition request, which Israel must file in 60 days, based on the extradition treaty between the U.S. and Israel, Binah said.

Ahmad became a U.S. citizen in Puerto Rico in 1982, but the FBI said it doesn't know where he has been living since then.

Valiquette said that although bail is normally set, in this case there is no bail. He remains in custody of the U.S. Marshall at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan pending Israel's formal extradition request.

HADASSAH TO FUND CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS IN THE NEGEV AND ARAVA

JERUSALEM, May 7 (JTA) -- Hadassah will fund construction of dams in the Negev and Arava deserts to contain the regions' meager rainfall for agricultural use, it was announced by the organization. It will provide about \$2.5 million of the \$3 million cost of the new dams.

The projects are being undertaken in partnership with the Jewish National Fund at Sde Boker, south of Beersheba in the Negev, and at Nahal Hayun near Paran, a moshav in the Arava half way between the Dead Sea and Eilat.

The Arava dam is under construction at the narrowest point of Nahal Hayun where JNF is currently filling the valley between two hills with approximately 112,000 cubic yards of earth to create a retaining wall 200 feet wide, 394 feet long and 56 feet high.

At the Negev site near Sde Boker, JNF equipment is moving 170,000 cubic yards of sand to create a dam with a capacity of more than 112,500 gallons of water. Both dams will replenish the underground aquifers in the desert regions to increase the year-round supply of water for irrigation of crops and, in the Negev, grazing lands for cattle.

The water supply for the Arava region is especially critical to Israel's economy. The 19 settlements in the 110-mile-long valley receive only about two inches of rainfall annually, but cultivate enough crops to become known as Israel's "winter produce basket."

Hadassah is the largest single organizational supporter of the Jewish National Fund and their partnership in land reclamation and development spans 50 years of major projects.

* * *

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A bomb explosion in Kiryat Gat Thursday caused slight injuries to four people. Police detained 40 local Arabs for questioning in what they said was apparently a terrorist attack.

ADL REPORT TRACES INDIA'S OSTRACISM OF ISRAEL OVER SEVERAL DECADES

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) -- India's reluctance to admit the Israeli Davis Cup tennis team to New Delhi for a tournament in July is the latest example of that country's "condemnation and ostracism" of Israel over several decades, according to a report made public Wednesday by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Noting that India "has already hinted its unwillingness to allow Israeli players," Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its International Affairs Division, said "few countries outside the Arab world have been so unrelentingly hostile to Israel."

The ADL report, titled "India's Campaign Against Israel," pointed out that "the New Delhi government, showing disdain for international agreements of both a political and non-political nature, long ago established a pattern of selective discrimination by denying Israeli government officials, scientists, athletes and others the right to attend and participate in international gatherings held on Indian soil."

The report stated that in the past year alone, Israeli architects, academics and athletes have been barred from five international events in New Delhi and listed a total of 17 instances of exclusions of Israelis since 1980. Included were two incidents last February -- the denial of visas to Israeli delegates to a conference sponsored by the International Association of Chambers of Commerce, and the exclusion of members of the Israeli table tennis team from an international competition.

Urges World Community To Respond

"It is time for the international community," Foxman declared, "to let India know that unless it ceases to inject its anti-Israel politics into events aimed at furthering the spirit of international cooperation and goodwill, it will be forced to forfeit its role as host nation."

The Israeli team, after its upset victory against Czechoslovakia, won the right to play India in the Davis Cup quarter final matches in New Delhi July 24-26. Should India go ahead with its exclusion of Israel, it would risk forfeiture of the competition.

"That India is considering barring Israeli participation even in the face of forfeiture," Foxman said, "is merely the most recent evidence of New Delhi's historical pattern of hostility toward the Jewish State."

Noting that India pledged in 1982 to be "second to none" in what it called "exposing Israel," the ADL report said that New Delhi has carried out the pledge through "its rhetoric, its actions and its frequent disregard for the minimum standards of civility and law required among nations."

India Is Historical Foe of Israel

While India permitted Israel to open a consulate in Bombay in 1951, the promise of full diplomatic relations has never been kept -- and India does have full diplomatic relations with every Arab country. The Israeli vice consul in Bombay operates in virtual diplomatic isolation. Travel restrictions in effect since 1965 prevent the consular staff from leaving the Bombay area and no Israeli diplomat has been received by any

government officials in New Delhi since that time. The report noted that India's diplomatic opposition to Israel has exceeded in severity even such historic foes of Israel as Pakistan. In the United Nations, India's record of voicing against Israel and in cosponsoring anti-Israel measures has matched those of some Arab nations.

The report said that Indian hostility to Israel predates the founding of both states some 40 years ago. The Indian National Congress adopted anti-Zionist positions prior to independence and this became Indian government policy when in 1947 New Delhi voted against the United Nations Palestine partition plan that led to Israel's creation.

UIA SETS UP NEW STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE JEWISH AGENCY

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) -- A new standing committee on the Jewish Agency, under the chairmanship of Edgar Cadden of Chicago, was created at the recent 61st annual meeting of United Israel Appeal, it was announced by UIA chairman Henry Taub of Englewood, NJ. Taub appointed the new committee, whose chairman and members were approved by UIA's Board of Directors.

Taub said the committee had been created in response to rising interest, on the part of Jewish communities throughout the U.S. in the activities and operations of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI). He said that over the last four years, some 28 local Jewish Federation committees on the Jewish Agency were formed and that more were in the process of being established.

Recent Reform movement demands, coupled with greater participation in Jewish Agency affairs, helped to vitalize local committees, whose official institutionalization was encouraged by the chairman of the Agency's Board of Governors and the Council of Jewish Federations, Taub said.

He said that the local Federations now select UIA's 119 delegates to the annual Jewish Agency Assembly in Jerusalem, which is the Agency's constituent voting body. Local Federation committees on JAFI review current issues before the Agency and discuss resolutions to be presented at the Assembly.

In 1986, 18 such resolutions were passed by the Assembly for implementation by the Agency's Board of Governors. A report on implementation will be presented at the 1987 Assembly in June. Some 25 pre-Assembly briefing sessions will be held throughout the country this month. Local Jewish Agency committee chairpersons will be consulted with a view toward local involvement in the allocation of funds process.

Taub said the new standing committee will be responsible for providing information, planning missions to Israel and helping to involve local JAFI committees in decision-making on allocations.

CORRECTION

In the May 4 Bulletin, the JTA inadvertently reported that members of Congress videotaped messages from Soviet Jews and smuggled them out of the country. In fact, members of the Coalition to Free Soviet Jewry and private individuals made the tapes and smuggled them out in April on the occasion of U.S. Congressmen's visit to Moscow.

**JEWISH LEADERS FROM 26 COUNTRIES
ARE HOLDING A CONFERENCE IN HUNGARY**
First Such Gathering In A Soviet Bloc Country
By Edwin Eytan

BUDAPEST, May 5 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders from 26 countries, from both East and West, gathered here Tuesday for the opening Wednesday of the first major Jewish conference to be held in a Communist bloc country since the end of World War II.

The two-day meeting of the enlarged executive of the World Jewish Congress will symbolically examine the issue of Soviet Jewry and East-West relations.

The delegates will also gather at the foot of the statue erected for Raoul Wallenberg to lay a wreath in honor of the man who risked his life to save tens of thousands of Jews during the last days of the Nazi occupation of the city.

An Optimistic Atmosphere

The conference is opening in an optimistic atmosphere with delegates and WJC officials stressing that the meeting could probably not have taken place in a socialist country without at least the tacit approval of the Soviet Union.

Several delegates told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the conference's location "must be seen as a proof of the change in atmosphere." WJC officials also stressed that the Hungarian authorities went out of their way to facilitate the holding of the meeting and granting delegates all possible facilities.

WJC president Edgar Bronfman said Tuesday upon arriving in Budapest, "I am optimistic that under the new leadership (in Moscow) there are signs in the Soviet Union, straws in the wind, that bode well for Soviet Jews."

Says Life Becoming Better For Soviet Jews

Bronfman said that "life is becoming increasingly better for Soviet Jews" and added that he believes that Soviet Jewry might participate in WJC activities in the near future.

The WJC president said that Soviet Jews "will obviously first have to organize and this cannot be done without the Soviet government's approval." He said, "If all goes well they could participate in our activities, like Jews from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Hungary do, in three to five years from now."

Bronfman, who was greeted at the Budapest airport by the Hungarian Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs, Barnada Sarkadi Nagy, said that during his recent trip to the Soviet Union (together with Morris Abram) "I was given promises besides the promise that they (the Soviet leaders) will examine all the issues we would put to them."

Reaction to U.S. Decision On Waldheim

Asked about America's decision to put Austrian President Kurt Waldheim on a "Watch List," Bronfman stressed that "this was the decision of the U.S. government, based on the documentation it has--not ours."

When pressed by the large Austrian and West German press contingent present for the meeting, Bronfman added: "I have seen enough of Wald-

heim's initials and signatures on various documents to know that he was part and parcel of the Nazi killing machine."

A Large Israeli Delegation Present

A large Israeli delegation arrived in Budapest to attend the conference without encountering the slightest difficulty although most of its members, as well as the Israeli journalists accompanying it, arrived without Hungarian visas. Local observers said this was a clear indication of the government's willingness to ease matters and provide the meeting with all possible courtesies.

The Budapest State Opera is opening its doors for a gala reception for the delegates, the city's mayor is giving a party in their honor, and the Minister for Religious Affairs Imre Miklos will address a plenary meeting Wednesday afternoon. All these receptions and addresses are held publicly and openly with the press invited. "The Hungarian authorities have chosen to give the entire affair a high profile," a WJC official told the JTA.

Thursday morning, the 92 delegates will attend the ceremony at Wallenberg's statue. It is not yet known whether the Hungarian government will be represented. Officials here say that Wallenberg's name clearly appears inscribed at the foot of the statue with the following Latin quotation translated into Hungarian: "While good fortune stands by your side, friends are plenty, but when grey clouds gather you are left alone to withstand the storm."

In addition, Moscow Chief Rabbi Adolph Shayeveich is due to arrive here Wednesday. He probably will attend the World Jewish Congress in an observer capacity, marking the first time that a Soviet Jew will attend a major Jewish meeting. The rabbi was invited to attend the graduation ceremony of the Jewish Theological Seminary here, of which he is himself a graduate, and the ceremony will coincide with the opening of the congress.

**ISRAEL INTERESTS SECTION IN
WARSAW HAS OFFICIALLY OPENED**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 5 (JTA) -- The Israel interests section in Warsaw, the first Israeli diplomatic presence in Poland since that country broke relations with Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War, opened officially Tuesday morning.

The head of the section, Mordechai Paltzur, told Israel Radio in a telephone interview that the opening was a "private, internal" ceremony attended by a few invited guests, including members of an American United Jewish Appeal women's delegation visiting Warsaw en route to Israel.

The only diplomat present was The Netherlands Ambassador to Poland whose country represented Israel's interests there since 1967. Paltzur said he held a large Independence Day reception at his home Monday attended by a number of Polish officials.

According to Paltzur, his small staff was "earning its salary" even before the official opening. He said the office has had many Polish visitors seeking information about Israel and some

applying for visitors' visas. Poland is opening its own interests section in Tel Aviv.

The opening in Warsaw coincided with the fifth World Congress of Polish Jewry which convened in Tel Aviv Tuesday evening. A delegation from Poland, comprising five Jews and one non-Jew, is attending. The head of the Polish interests section in Tel Aviv will make his first public appearance at the Congress.

The delegation from Poland is headed by Shimon Szurmiez, a member of Parliament and director of the state-subsidized Yiddish Theater in Warsaw. He told Maariv in an interview that there are about 15,000 Jews in Poland and Jewish cultural clubs are active in 15 cities.

CHIRAC ASKS FRENCH SCHOOL SYSTEM TO CONDUCT SPECIAL CLASSES ON THE PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN FRANCE IN WWII

PARIS, May 5 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has asked the French school system to conduct special classes on the persecution of Jews under the collaborationist Vichy regime during World War II, to coincide with the trial of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie which opens in Lyon next week.

Referring to the "black pages of history," Chirac told a press conference Monday that the lessons would focus on the mass deportations and other measures taken against Jews by the pro-Nazi Vichy government headed by Marshall Philippe Petain and Pierre Laval.

"I hope that young people will be informed of a certain number of facts that occurred and which were so profoundly opposed to human rights and respect for human beings," Chirac said.

Barbie, who has been in French custody since January 1985 when he was expelled from Bolivia, was known as the "butcher of Lyon," the city in east central France where he was gestapo chief. He has been charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity for the murder and torture of civilians and resistance fighters and the mass deportation of Jews, including children.

S. AFRICAN JEWISH LEADERS MULL CHOICES IN PERIOD OF TURMOIL

JOHANNESBURG, May 5 (JTA) -- The South African Jewish community stands at a moral crossroads, according to Prof. Michael Katz, newly elected president of the South Africa Jewish Board of Deputies, the central organization of the South African Jewish community.

Katz no doubt was referring to the ever-increasing turmoil in his nation over the racist policy of apartheid. The Board of Deputies has gone on record in opposition to apartheid as well as to the imposition of economic sanctions on South Africa to force policy change.

The battle over apartheid seemed to be the unmentioned theme at the Board's biennial 34th National Congress held here April 4, according to a report by Peta Krost in The Zionist Record and SA Jewish Chronicle.

"Today more than ever we must recognize the tides of great change," said Mockie Friedman, chairman advocate of the South Africa Zionist Federation. "The Jewish community must be prepared and ready to ride them . . . In South Africa today, where perceptions of peace and survival are conditional by the polarization between white and non-whites, the Jewish community because of its special unique character has an

added degree of vulnerability." He noted that the Jewish concepts of justice and equality could form a basis for an acceptable solution of its problems. "The voice of organized Jewry must be heard," Mock said. "We must forge real and profound links with all population groups, must understand their aims and aspirations, in turn they will understand us and Israel, lest it be said, as is being said, that the voice of Jewry remains silent at this critical stage."

RIGHTWING POLITICIANS HOLD ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY RALLY IN WEST BANK

TEL AVIV, May 5 (JTA) -- Rightwing politicians denounced the idea of an international conference for Middle East peace at an Independence Day rally in the West Bank settlement of Ariel Monday. Gush Emunim activists marched around Jericho and vowed to "swallow up" the Arab town with a Jewish settlement on the ancient site.

But apart from those events, politics were temporarily shelved on Israel's 39th Independence Day while most Israelis enjoyed the sun at beaches and picnic grounds.

Ariel was selected for the Likud rally apparently because Laborite Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin remarked a week ago that it and another West Bank settlement, Alfe-Menashe, were of no security value to Israel. Speakers included the Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon and Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy.

Both inveighed against an international conference on grounds that it represented a mortal danger to Israel. They were joined by Yigael Hurwitz, a former Likud Finance Minister whose one-man Ometz party is now affiliated with Labor.

The Gush Emunim chose Jericho for their demonstration because it is located close to the Jordan border and has been mentioned over the years as a possible bargaining chip in negotiations with Jordan.

"In the future we will swallow up Arab Jericho as Tel Aviv has swallowed up the Arab town of Jaffa," a Gush Emunim spokesman told Israel Radio.

The Gush Emunim had scheduled a demonstration at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus but were prevented by soldiers from reaching the site to avoid friction with the local Arab populace.

POLL SHOWS AMERICANS' POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL WAS NOT SERIOUSLY ERODED BY IRAN-CONTRA SCANDAL OR THE POLLARD SPY CASE

NEW YORK, May 5 (JTA) -- Americans' positive attitudes toward Israel have not been seriously eroded by the Iran-Contra arms sales scandal or the Jonathan Pollard spy case, according to the latest opinion poll on the subject conducted by the Roper Organization for the American Jewish Committee, the AJC reported this week.

Similarly, the majority of Americans do not think any less of American Jews because Pollard, an American Jew, was caught spying for Israel and another American Jew, Ivan Boesky, was involved in Wall Street's inside trading scandal, the poll found. It was conducted in February and the results are consistent with the later New York Times/CBS News poll, reported in the Times

on April 12. Roper found that a near majority, 48 percent of the respondents, continues to sympathize with Israel in the Middle East conflict. In a poll conducted in 1986, 53 percent sided with Israel. Sympathy with the Arab cause was eight percent, unchanged from 1986.

A virtual majority, 49 percent of respondents, continue to view Israel as a reliable ally of the United States, compared to 41 percent for Egypt and 44 percent for Jordan. A majority of 61 percent does not see Syria as a friend of the U.S.

Only five percent thought Israel was "most to blame" in the Iran-Contra affair, compared to 47 percent who blame President Reagan's advisors, 43 percent who blame Reagan himself and 21 percent who blame former National Security Council employee Col. Oliver North.

The Roper poll found that 49 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement that "Most American Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the United States. Only 24 percent agreed. The comparable figures in 1986 were 46 percent and 24 percent.

No more than one percent of the respondents attributed Boesky's malfeasance to his "Jewish background." The most frequently cited factors were "personal greed and avarice," "lack of ethics in business" "insufficient governmental regulation and enforcement" and "the moral decline of society."

Other noteworthy findings by Roper were: Better educated people and people reporting higher household incomes were more likely than others to be favorable toward Israel and American Jews; whites were more likely to be favorable toward Israel and American Jews than Blacks; Republicans somewhat more than Democrats or independents were favorable toward Israel and American Jews; Protestants and Catholics differed little in their attitudes in the subject.

EXPERT SAYS DEMJANJUK PHOTOS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY 'OF THE SAME MAN'

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- Details of a recent photograph of suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk superimposed over a disputed photo on an SS identification card allegedly issued to him in 1942, leave no doubt that the pictures are "of the same man," an expert witness testified for the prosecution in Jerusalem district court Tuesday.

The faces are "identical," according to Patricia Smith, a professor of physical anthropology at the Hebrew University. She utilized a sophisticated comparison technique, similar to one described in court last week by Reinhard Altmann, head of the fingerprints and photographic criminal identification bureau of the West German police.

Altmann concluded after his own examination of the photographs that there was a "very high probability" that the picture on the ID card is that of the defendant. The card was issued at the Trawniki camp where the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, a German prisoner of war, allegedly was trained for guard duty at Treblinka. Demjanjuk claims the card, obtained from the Soviet Union, is a KGB forgery.

Smith demonstrated her findings in a video presentation in the courtroom after the three-judge panel overruled objections by the defense.

The recent photo of Demjanjuk, made in his prison cell, and the ID card photo were divided vertically and the halves of one were superimposed over the corresponding halves of the other in a feature-by-feature comparison. The features corresponded even though Demjanjuk, 66, was 24 when the ID photo was made, Smith said.

Meanwhile, representatives of the prosecution and defense are preparing to go to West Germany shortly to question three witnesses, some or all of them former SS men who claim to remember the defendant from Treblinka but are unwilling or unable to come to Israel to testify. The court rejected an appeal by Demjanjuk to be allowed to accompany them.

SHAMIR AND PERES AGREE TO POSTPONE CABINET DEBATE ON PERES' PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON MIDEAST PEACE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, bitterly divided over the peace process, agreed at a 50-minute private meeting Tuesday to postpone a Cabinet debate over Peres' proposal for an international conference for Middle East peace to serve as the framework for direct negotiations.

Peres intended to present his plans Wednesday to the Inner Cabinet, the government's top policymaking body comprising five Labor and five Likud Ministers. He will make his presentation next Monday, instead.

Israel Television reported Tuesday that the U.S. has sent a 19-point position paper to Israel which Labor Party sources said is highly supportive of Peres' position on negotiations through an international conference. Sources at Premier Shamir's office confirmed receipt of the document over the weekend but would not comment on its contents.

The television report said the American paper pledged U.S. support for Peres' conditions for Soviet participation in an international forum. These are a re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel and a change of policy toward Soviet Jews and Jewish emigration.

The Americans also reportedly said they would see to it that a conference leads to direct negotiations between the parties and would not be permitted to impose solutions.

Sources here said Tuesday that the delay of Cabinet debate on Peres' plan might provide an opportunity for Labor and Likud to work out a compromise to preserve their coalition which has governed Israel since 1984. However, it appeared that Peres would postpone his brief to allow for the return from abroad of two members of the Inner Cabinet who he expects to support his position.

Apparently he can count on Ezer Weizman, a Laborite Minister-Without-Portfolio, and possibly on Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, a Likud Liberal. Sources close to Peres believe that Nissim and Housing Minister David Levy would go along with Shamir if, in order to save the unity government from collapse, he agrees to enable Peres to pursue his policies.

That would leave Likud hardliners Ariel Sharon and Moshe Arens in the minority in an Inner Cabinet vote.

TELEVISION INSTITUTE FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS BEEN FORMED

NEW YORK, May 5 (JTA) -- A television institute for the Jewish community has been formed to "provide support for the production and dissemination of high quality Jewish educational, cultural and religious programming in the United States and Canada," it was announced by Aaron Etra, a New York attorney and philanthropist.

Laurel Vlock, a prominent television personality and cofounder/director of the Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University, said the programming of the Jewish Television Institute (JTI) will be disseminated by various means, including satellite service currently delivered by the National Jewish Television Network (NJTN) to 350 cable systems in 200 communities in North America. She said programming production is scheduled to begin this fall.

"As a people increasingly dispersed geographically, and faced with the triple threats of assimilation, intermarriage and disaffiliation, television uniquely, can provide the mechanism to reach out, educate and unify," Vlock said. "Our aim is to create a Jewish 'global village'."

Some Of The Proposed Programs

Among the programs the JTI proposes to support are a weekly live news and public affairs presentation. The series will include a live link-up with Israel as well as Europe and other major centers of the diaspora, Vlock said. Weekly features will include reports on the trial of John Demjanjuk, plans for the David Ben Gurion centennial, progress and news of Project Renewal, religious/secular conflicts, newsmakers of the week and issues of the week.

A second major project proposed for JTI support will be aimed at youngsters in Hebrew and day schools. The programming will be delivered via satellites to especially equipped classrooms throughout North America. "Once again a link with Israel will be stressed, creating a bond between North American Jewish young people and their counterparts in Israel," Vlock said.

Another program series for young parents will demonstrate the "how-to" of celebrating Jewish holidays, family preparation for Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and other Jewish religious and secular activities.

Joel Levitch, who pioneered the use of satellite technology for Jewish broadcasting and who is to be JTI Board chairman, explained that the programs assisted by JTI "would complement efforts of Jewish Federations and other established Jewish organizations in various communities and that funds for this new effort were coming from independent efforts." Levitch said the JTI has already received major support from a number of business firms in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

In addition Vlock said that a number of Israeli and American Jewish personalities have endorsed the JTI undertaking, including Israel's Education Minister Yitzhak Navon, Knesset member Abba Eban, Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel, Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith General Counsel Arnold Forster, and Rabbi Wolfe Kelman.

Vlock said the days and the time of the JTI programming will be coordinated with the NJTN in the various communities.

CANADIAN TO BE HONORED BY ISRAELI AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, May 5 (JTA) -- Paul Ivanier, a Canadian steel tycoon who founded the Center for Robotics Research and Management at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba, will be honored by the Canadian and Israeli governments here on May 12.

An honorary degree will be conferred on Ivanier by Ben Gurion University president Chaim Elata, under the sponsorship of Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Premier Yitzhak Shamir of Israel, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Premier Robert Bourassa of Quebec.

The ceremony will be part of Ben Gurion University's Centennial Academic Convocation, the first ever to be held outside Israel. It marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion.

Ivanier, son of Jewish immigrants to Canada, is president and chief executive officer of IVACO, an industrial giant of nearly 60 steel mills and metallurgical plants in Canada, the U.S. and Australia. It ranks sixth among steel-makers in the Western world.

Ivanier is a firm believer in the importance of the Negev for Israel's future development. More than half of the subscribers to the project he launched at Ben Gurion University are non-Jewish. He maintains that with a small population and a dearth of natural resources, Israel must master the science and technology of robotics if it is to become economically self-sufficient and competitive on the world market.

"Ultimately, Israel will have to live by the 'sweat of the brow' of its trained manpower, constantly on the new frontiers of the galloping high-tech revolution," Ivanier said.

He stressed that Negev industries in arid, sparsely populated surroundings must become the most modern, dynamic and competitive industries if they are to contribute to Israel's national goals.

The Paul Ivanier Robotics Research and Management Center will include departments of electrical, computer, mechanical and industrial engineering and management. It is expected to attract top experts from all over the world. Through international conferences, symposia and the publication of learned papers in many languages, its influence will extend beyond Israel's borders, Ivanier predicted.

NOVEL IDEA FOR CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, May 5 (JTA) -- Chalom Schimman, Israel's Consul General in Montreal, has a novel idea. He suggests that all Jewish couples who were married in 1948 celebrate their 40th wedding anniversaries in Israel a year from now when Israel marks the 40th year of its independence.

Schimman presented greetings on behalf of the Israel government to more than 2,000 people at an Israel Independence Day celebration in the Montreal amphitheater Monday night marking the 39th anniversary of the Jewish State.

David Azrieli, national president of the Canadian Zionist Federation, said aliya is the first priority of the Zionist movement in Canada in the years ahead.

LYON IS TENSE AS BARBIE TRIAL BEGINS

By Edwin Eytan

LYON, May 11 (JTA) -- A temporary museum of the Holocaust was formally opened here Monday to stand for the duration of the trial of Klaus Barbie as a reminder of the horrors of Auschwitz, Treblinka and other death camps where French Jews were deported 45 years ago on the orders of the then Gestapo chief known as the "butcher of Lyon".

The inauguration was by 44 Jewish school children representing symbolically the 44 Jewish children from an orphanage in the village of Izieu, southeast of Lyon, arrested by Barbie's Gestapo agents and deported to Auschwitz. The ceremony was attended by Mayor Michel Colomb of Lyon, former Premier Raymond Barre and members of the Jewish community, and about a half dozen government ministers.

The steel and canvas structure, standing opposite the city hall, contains hundreds of drawings of scenes from Auschwitz and other death camps. It was built at the initiative of the French Jewish writer, Marek Halter, author of the international best-seller "The Book of Abraham", and by local Jewish community leaders.

The inauguration was timed to coincide with Barbie's departure from his cell in St. Joseph Prison for the Palais de la Justice where his trial for "crimes against humanity" opened Monday morning.

Security Is Tight And Visible

The 73-year-old Nazi is transported to and from the court in a convoy of armored cars. Security is strict and highly visible in Lyon in view of mounting threats by neo-Nazi and right-wing extremists against prosecution lawyers and witnesses. Reporters from the Israeli media and Jewish correspondents have been given special protection. Plainclothes detectives are on 24-hour duty outside their hotels.

An additional 300 police were rushed to Lyon Sunday and several hundred more were due Monday as a precaution against street violence when the trial gets under way.

Neo-Nazis demonstrated here Saturday and Sunday. A group of black-shirted youths marched past the Joan of Arc monument shouting slogans demanding Barbie's release. They passed out leaflets claiming the Holocaust never occurred.

Police Chief George Bastelica is concerned. "Two weeks ago I was not worried but now I am. I am afraid of extremism," he said.

Jewish community leaders have asked the Jewish citizens of Lyon to maintain a dignified presence and give no provocation.

BARBIE TRIAL OPENS WITH TWO SURPRISES

By Edwin Eytan

LYON, May 11 (JTA) -- The long-awaited trial of Klaus Barbie, the wartime Gestapo chief in Lyon, opened here Monday with two surprises.

Barbie, replying to the first question by the presiding magistrates, identified himself as "Klaus Altmann, a Bolivian businessman." He admitted that his father's name was Barbie and that he

was born in Bad Godesberg, Germany. Altmann was the alias under which Barbie lived in Bolivia for nearly 40 years until his expulsion in January 1983. Legal experts believe he gave that name in court in furtherance of one of the defense strategies of his lawyer, Jacques Verges.

Verges contends his client cannot be legally tried in France because he was never extradited to this country but taken into French custody when he was forced to leave Bolivia. Verges has used the word "kidnapped."

The second surprise was the fawning courtesy with which the accused, once known as "the butcher of Lyon," was treated by the court. The presiding judge addressed him invariably as "Monsieur Barbie" or even "sir."

Again, according to the same experts, the politeness is due to the court's determination to observe all of the legal niceties to avoid any possible appeal on technical grounds or claim of bias against the defendant. The trial began immediately after the jury of five men and four women was sworn in. The first legal action was rejection by the court of a motion by a lawyer for a Holocaust survivor, one of Barbie's victims, to reinstate the death sentence imposed on Barbie in absentia by a French court in 1952.

The State Prosecutor opposed the motion on grounds that the war crimes for which Barbie was originally sentenced are covered by the 20-year statute of limitations. The maximum penalty now is life imprisonment.

SOVIET CANCER PATIENT REFUSENIK DIES AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN VIENNA

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, May 11 (JTA) -- Soviet cancer patient Yuri Shpeizman died Sunday in Vienna. The ten-year refusenik succumbed to cardiac arrest immediately after his arrival in Vienna after being released from the Soviet Union.

Shpeizman was en route to Israel with his wife, Nelly, to be reunited with their daughter, Rita Levin of Jerusalem, who campaigned for her father's emigration. She never got a chance to see her father again. She has been living in Israel for 10 years.

Shpeizman, 55, who was ill with lymphosarcoma, suffered a heart attack March 11 at the Leningrad OVIR emigration office where he had been told his much-refused application was incomplete, lacking a new photograph. Almost two weeks later, Soviet emigration authorities finally granted the Leningrad engineer permission to leave. At the time, he was too ill to be moved.

Nelly Shpeizman had been unusually active in past months trying to publicize the plight of her husband and other refuseniks. She was among eight signatories to a telegram sent to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev saying they were tired of waiting to emigrate, and also joined a three-day fast by a group of hunger-striking women refuseniks during commemoration of International Women's Day. Yuri Shpeizman's heart attack came one day after his wife concluded her hunger strike.

Dr. Gerald Batist, a Montreal research oncologist who founded the International Cancer

Patients Solidarity Committee and was constantly in touch with Shpeizman and his family, told JTA, "For me, this is a confirmation of the pattern begun with Michael Shirman (brother of Inessa Fleurova) and Inna Meiman, who have all been victims of the Soviet Union. There is no question in my mind that the delay in their emigration contributed to their deaths. The Soviets will only let a person leave when it is too late, and then they will benefit from positive public relations and not be asked to account for the emigres' deaths."

The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry mourned the death of "our good friend Yuri Shpeizman. This is the true face of 'glasnost.' The Kremlin is continuing its policy of either forbidding the release of many ill refuseniks or permitting some to emigrate only when they're about to die."

The National Conference for Soviet Jewry said, "Once again, as in the case of the valiant Inna Meiman, a courageous refusenik waiting so long to be repatriated to Israel but prevented by Soviet officials from doing so, even though desperately ill with cancer, has died with the Promised Land almost literally in sight. Inna Meiman and Yuri Shpeizman were denied even their last wish: to live in freedom and dignity in Israel."

Shpeizman will be buried in Israel.

CLOSED DOOR INNER CABINET MEETING DEBATES PERES' PROPOSALS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST PEACE CONCLAVE

JERUSALEM, May 11 (JTA) -- The Inner Cabinet met behind closed doors Monday to debate Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' proposals for an international conference for Middle East peace and a counter-plan by Premier Yitzhak Shamir based on the Camp David accords.

The outcome is likely to determine the fate of the Labor-Likud unity coalition government. No word of the deliberations emerged from the Inner Cabinet which comprises five Labor and five Likud Ministers. Peres told reporters before the meeting that he had no deadline for a decision but hoped the debate would not be drawn out.

Meeting Sparsely Attended

While the Ministers were closeted in their session, Labor and Likud fought the issue in the Knesset, which was in the first day of its summer session. Mutual recriminations were hurled by those members present. But the session was so sparsely attended that acting Speaker Meir Cohen-Avidov of Likud adjourned it early in the day.

Meanwhile, Leo Tindemans of Belgium, the current President of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) who is visiting Jerusalem, sought to influence Israeli opinion in favor of an international conference.

Tindemans told reporters that both Egypt and Saudi Arabia envisaged a joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team at an international forum. He noted that officials in both those countries which he has just visited had not insisted specifically that the Palestine Liberation Organization must represent the Palestinians.

In fact, the Saudis explicitly endorsed the condition Jordan imposed on the PLO -- renunciation of violence and acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 by the PLO.

KIRKPATRICK: MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE WOULD ISOLATE ISRAEL AND THE U.S.

NEW YORK, May 11 (JTA) -- An international peace conference on the Middle East, as construed by the Soviet Union and the Arab states, would be a "recipe for disaster" for both Israel and the United States, Jeane Kirkpatrick declared.

The former U.S. Ambassador to the UN addressed a capacity crowd of 3,000 people Tuesday night as the guest of Rabbi David Kahane of the Sutton Place Synagogue in the opening program of the congregation's seventh annual "Jewish Town Hall" series.

"I am profoundly dubious about the prospects for a conference in which the permanent members of the Security Council would play a major role," she said, adding: "No Israeli government could submit itself to arbitration by such a group. It would result in the isolation of Israel and the U.S." Kirkpatrick, who served at the UN during Kurt Waldheim's tenure as Secretary General, indicated that the recent decision to bar the Austrian President from entering this country was arrived at "carefully, prudently and judiciously." She characterized Waldheim as "an organization man who adopted the ethos of the Nazis," rather than a major war criminal like Adolf Eichmann.

At the same time, she urged that the world body's archives on Nazi war criminals should now be made public. "There are some crimes so terrible that no statute of limitations can be applied. The Holocaust is such a crime," she said.

Prospects Of Soviet Jewish Emigration

On prospects of increased Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union as a result of Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of "glasnost," the former UN envoy indicated that she thinks the recent changes in the USSR are real, but that they may not bring about a substantial increase in the number of Jews who are permitted to leave. She said: "We must keep up the pressure on human rights." She added:

"While Gorbachev has staked his political future on modernizing the Soviet economy and other liberalizing reforms, it is important for us to understand that this does not mean turning Russia into a Western-style democracy."

Assessing the potential long-term effects of the Pollard spy case and Israel's role in the Iran-Contra affair, Kirkpatrick said that these incidents "do not strike at the base of the U.S.-Israel relationship." That relationship remains strong, she said, "because Israel is a good friend, a fellow democracy, a very important strategic ally and a state that has deep political and moral meaning for anyone who has lived in our century." The former diplomat expressed doubt that the Jonathan Pollard spy case would raise the specter of "dual loyalty" charges against American Jews. "We are all hyphenated Americans. America is a pluralistic society -- and that is our glory."

Kirkpatrick agreed with Kahane that Israel is judged by a double standard. "Holding Israel to such unusual and unrealistic standards is a compliment Israel can well do without," she declared.

As a prime example of this tendency, Kirkpatrick cited the Zionism-is-Racism resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 1975. She termed the resolution "an obnoxious and gross insult," and charged that it was part of a continuing campaign orchestrated by Arab states to delegitimize Israel.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

UNLOCKING UN WAR CRIMES FILES

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, May 11 (JTA) -- Yad Vashem researchers who have examined 300 files from the United Nations War Crimes Commission (UNWCC) archive have discovered a significant body of new information on the Holocaust, including lists of people who ran the camps, official reports previously unknown detailing Nazi policy on European Jewry and the camps, and new information on Nazi medical experiments.

Yad Vashem researchers also noted that the files are especially valuable to English-speaking researchers because they are a rare source of first-hand information on the Holocaust in English.

The researchers concluded that maintaining the current level of confidentiality of the files seriously hinders research, publication and dissemination of this information and consequently impedes a more accurate record of the Holocaust and Nazi era.

Greater access to the files would also assist government agencies seeking to locate and prosecute Nazi war criminals by providing new legal documentation and new evidence, the Yad Vashem researchers found.

Despite the findings which indicate the immense historical value of the archive, its 40,000 files on suspected Nazi war criminals and witnesses remain closed to the public, press and historians because of the UN Secretary General's reluctance to amend the access rules set down four decades ago.

Legal And Moral Questions Raised

The archive first came to the attention of most Jewish organizations and the Israeli government after the World Jewish Congress (WJC) revealed last year that one of the files charged then Austrian Presidential candidate Kurt Waldheim, the former UN Secretary General, with war crimes.

Since this discovery, legal and moral questions about barring public access have been raised while others have puzzled over how this vital source of war crimes evidence escaped notice for so many years.

In spite of demands by the Israeli government and Jewish groups to open up the archive, the UN Secretariat and legal advisors have decided to maintain limited access for UN member governments only. The regulations keep the files effectively closed to researchers, journalists and historians, locked away in a Manhattan basement that houses the UN Archives.

Origins Of Confidentiality Explained

The Swedish UN Chief Archivist, Alf Erlandsson, who has been caretaker of the UN Archives since 1971, explained the origins of the confidentiality over the war crimes files.

About 80 percent of the material in the UNWCC archive has never been secret and is available to the public, Erlandsson said. The unrestricted part includes the memos, minutes and general descriptions of the commission's work from 1943 to 1948.

The other 20 percent of the archive holds some 40,000 charge files on individuals, 25,000 of whom the commission accused of war crimes and recommended be prosecuted. It is this slice of the

pic which became the subject of controversy in the spring of 1986.

Before disclosure of the Waldheim file, Erlandsson said, there was a minute amount of interest in the archive or rules governing it. But that changed with the publicity over Waldheim.

When the UN became custodian of the archive in 1949, the then Secretary General Trygve Lie and his legal advisors decided that the sensitive charge files should be available for "UN purposes only," which came to be interpreted as for UN member governments only. Access for private persons or groups was strictly prohibited.

No Time Frame For Declassification

Unlike most UN material which became declassified after 20 years, the UNWCC charge files have remained secret for 38 years. Erlandsson explained that because the commission did not set a time frame for declassification when it deposited the material, it remained classified indefinitely.

The Israeli government has asked the current UN Secretary General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, to grant public access.

"Whom does this confidentiality protect?" asked Eyal Arad, a spokesman for Israel's UN Mission. "The worst criminals in history. There was an international consensus that these people should be prosecuted."

UN legal advisors and international law experts agreed that the Secretary General has the authority to alter the access rules. It was, after all, his predecessor, Lie, who laid down those rules in 1949.

UN Senior Legal Advisor Alexander Borg Olivier said, "The Secretary General definitely has the power and authority to change the rules . . . But he has to consider the political consequences and respect the views of those most interested."

Reasons For Confidentiality Still Valid

Oscar Schachter, professor emeritus in international law at Columbia University and a former UN legal counsel, concurred. "It is certainly within the UN's authority to meet unforeseen conditions in general keeping with its objective to make the (UNWCC) materials available to people and bodies they are relevant to," Schachter said.

There is some reluctance because, according to Olivier, the reasons for confidentiality cited in 1949 are still valid. One reason, Olivier said, is that the majority of the persons accused in the charge files have never been brought to trial nor undergone a judicial review. Most do not even know of the charges against them.

Olivier added that the commission returned the bulk of evidence used in its evaluations to the member governments that provided it. For these reasons, "It would be most unfair to make the information public," he said.

But UN legal advisors also considered the public interest in the archive. They reasoned that enough time had passed to declassify the materials, Olivier said.

Also, a master list of names of persons in the charge files and their UNWCC rating (war crimes suspect, accused, witness) is publicly available in the U.S. And finally, Olivier said, "Why restrict access to the public if governments already have it?"

Faced with Israel's request, de Cuellar called a meeting of the 17 countries represented origin-

ally in the UNWCC although many of the governments involved are radically different from the governments that made up the commission some 40 years ago. Regardless of this historical gap, the 17 representatives met last October 28 at the United Nations in New York to discuss a possible revision. The vote, according to Olivier, was 15 against, one for moderate revision, and only one, Australia, in support of Israel's request to abandon the confidentiality.

Last week, the United States, Holland and Yugoslavia reversed their positions and are now supporting Israel's request, according to Israel's UN Mission.

"The governments cannot understand why there is this demand to open it," Olivier said. "There is a consensus that it would do more damage than good. After all this time it's more important to protect the innocent than uncover matters that have not come up before. The information is available to governments."

The Real Question

But for many, the real question is how and why this vital source of information on Nazi war crimes went unnoticed for four decades.

Erlandsson pointed the finger at the governments who knew about the files and the existence of the archive, the same governments that sent representatives and evidence to the UNWCC.

"The War Crimes Commission was not involved in prosecuting," Erlandsson said. "Especially the requests from Czechoslovakia and Poland to extradite people went unanswered because the cold war had already started and the West was reluctant to send anyone over to the East," he said.

Both Arad and Olivier agreed there was a significant loss of interest in prosecuting war criminals on the part of the international community, and thus the archive escaped the attention it merited.

Although the Waldheim case has brought the attention of the Western world back to the Nazi era, it may be too late for justice in many of the cases. Israel has requested 2,000 additional charge files. Erlandsson, who prepared the 300 files for Israel, said he estimated that about 80 percent of the people named in the charge files have died.

"It's a bit of a tragedy that only now the archive is being discovered," Erlandsson said. "Twenty years ago, it would have been of considerably more value."

AWARD-WINNING ISRAELI-BORN ARCHITECT HONORED BY MONTREAL JEWISH COMMUNITY By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, May 11 (JTA) -- Moshe Safdie, an award-winning Israeli-born, Canadian-trained architect, was honored by the Jewish community here Sunday night and praised by visiting Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem for his work in modernizing Israel's capital.

A gathering of more than 500 persons at Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue raised over \$1.3 million (Canadian) to establish a chair in urban studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in memory of Safdie's father, Leon.

Safdie, a McGill University graduate, has just completed the new National Gallery in Ottawa and is working on the Museum of Civilization in Quebec City. Kollek hailed his accomplishments in Jerusalem, for which he has received the Hebrew University's Scopus Award for exceptional

service to the city of Jerusalem and the State of Israel.

Kollek stressed the importance of Safdie's concept of linking the old sections of Jerusalem to the new by commercial malls. He spoke specifically of the transformation of the old Maamilah Road into a modern mall.

A Challenge To The Young Generation

Safdie responded that the solution of urban problems presents a challenge to the young generation. The main challenge, he said, is "to make Israel more attractive and competitive for talented people afraid to settle there because of relatively modest opportunities."

He said that his Jewish upbringing and the influence of his native Haifa's architectural style inspired his new forms and shapes for human habitation.

Twenty years ago, at "Expo-67" in Montreal, Safdie was honored for his innovative architectural housing design known as Habitat. Safdie, who once presided over Harvard's urban design program, is now about to change the face of New York City as the architect in charge of the \$1 billion redevelopment of the Coliseum site at Columbus Circle.

KOLLEK RUNS -- BUT NOT FOR OFFICE

MONTREAL, May 11 (JTA) -- Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek joined some 22,500 Montrealers Sunday in the annual "March to Jerusalem," a 15-mile run to raise money for Israel.

Kollek and the runners passed through downtown Montreal stopping at rest points named for Israeli sites including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Safed and Masada. The run ended at the Allied Jewish Community Services headquarters.

The oldest runner was Max Coblentz, an 80-year-old Montreal lawyer. Sponsors donated more than \$150,000 in this year's march, according to Manny Spinner, the coordinator.

DEBATE OVER COMPENSATION TO WARTIME VICTIMS OF PERSECUTION

AMSTERDAM, May 11 (JTA) -- A conference attended by 60 psychiatrists and medical internists in Utrecht last week unanimously rejected a recent report by two of their colleagues who would deny material benefits to wartime victims of persecution unless they could prove their current medical problems stemmed directly from their treatment at the hands of the Nazis.

The report was written by two psychiatrists of Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Willem Schudel and Louis Pepplinkhuizen. They maintained that medical complaints 40 years after World War II should not automatically be linked to suffering under the Nazis or Germany's wartime ally, Japan. Unless there is "overwhelming evidence to the contrary," persons with such complaints are not entitled to government compensation for war victims, they said.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An explosive charge detonated in a trash bin in Kfar Saba Sunday morning causing no injuries or damage. Several Arabs were detained for questioning. Kfar Saba is adjacent to the Arab town of Kalkilya just across the demarcation line in the West Bank, where tensions have run high lately between Jewish settlers and the Arab populace.

TERRORIST FIREBOMB KILLS ISREALI WOMAN AND BURNS HER HUSBAND, THEIR THREE CHILDREN AND A FAMILY FRIEND
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 12 (JTA) -- A terrorist firebomb which killed an Israeli woman and severely burned her husband, their three children and a family friend in their car on a road in the West Bank Saturday night raised tensions to a fever pitch between Jewish settlers and the local Arab population. It triggered a new confrontation between settlers and security forces, with possible political repercussions for the shaky Labor-Likud unity coalition government.

The victims were Ofra Moses, 35, who was trapped in the car and burned to death; her husband Avraham, 37, their children Tal, 5, Adi, 8, and Nir, 14 and their friend, Yosef Lallo, 14, all of whom were hospitalized with first-degree burns.

The bomb struck the car on the way from the Moses' home settlement of Alphe-Menashe to Petach Tikva. Shortly afterwards, furious Jewish settlers descended on the largest nearby Arab town, Kalkilya, smashing windows and vehicles, stoning the mayor's home and setting fire to fields and orchards. The settlers justified their attack on grounds that the security forces failed to protect Jews.

A curfew was imposed on Kalkilya, Hable and another small village in the area Saturday night and remained in effect until late Sunday afternoon when Ofra Moses was buried in Petach Tikva.

Three rows of citrus trees were uprooted by military bulldozers Sunday on the road where the attack took place. The official reason given was to clear away a possible ambush site. The citrus grove was apparently owned by Arabs.

History Of Peaceful Relations

Kalkilya, normally a bustling market town of 23,000, has had a long history of peaceful relations with nearby Jewish towns and settlements in Israel and the West Bank. It attracts thousands of Jewish shoppers daily and especially on Saturdays when Jewish businesses are closed. Thousands of Arab workers there find jobs in adjacent Jewish population centers.

According to Israeli authorities, the Arabs of Kalkilya have a vested interest in law and order and if there are anti-Israel sentiments, they are low key.

The town is governed by Mayor Abdul Rahman Abu-Sneineh, who was appointed by the Israeli civil authorities and is apparently popular with the townspeople. There were no indications that the terrorists who attacked the Moses' car came from Kalkilya or had any connection with the town.

But the Jewish settlers struck at it nevertheless. According to Mayor Shlomo Katan of Alphe-Menashe, "the local residents would not have had to take the law into their hands if the security forces had done their job."

The attack was the latest and the worst of many incidents of unrest in the administered territories during the past week. Recent rioting

and stone throwing by Arabs in East Jerusalem and the West Bank was linked to a hunger strike by some 3,000 Arab security prisoners demanding better conditions.

Mayor Abu-Sneineh of Kalkilya told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Sunday that the Jewish rioting in his town would not improve the situation between Arabs and Jews.

BANK LEUMI SUING ITS FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO RETURN THE \$4 MILLION HE GOT IN SEVERANCE PAY
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 12 (JTA) -- The Bank Leumi is suing its former chairman and chief executive officer, Ernst Japhet, to return the \$4 million severance pay he received when he was forced to resign almost a year ago.

Two prominent lawyers representing the bank, Haim Zadok and Michael Heshin, filed suit in Tel Aviv district court Thursday arguing that the sum paid Japhet was the result of a private deal he made with one or two of the bank directors without the knowledge of senior board members, and therefore illegal.

Japhet, who is living in New York, has not replied to the suit. But he has let it be known he intends to fight it and will insist that the bank pay his legal expenses.

The suit also demands that Japhet repay the \$30,000 monthly pension money he received up to the time payment was stopped by a new directorate that took office at Bank Leumi late last year. The court was asked to fix a reasonable sum for severance and pension for the former bank executive.

Japhet was forced to step down after a state commission of inquiry found him and the heads of four of the other largest banks culpable in the bank shares scandal which precipitated a financial panic in 1983. The heads of the banks were held responsible for inflating the price of shares to mislead investors, resulting in severe financial losses for thousands of shareholders when bank stocks collapsed.

The disclosure of the amount of severance and pension money awarded Japhet led to the resignation of the Bank Leumi board last year.

SOLON SAYS CONGRESS AND U.S. JEWS MUST SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION IF IT DECIDES ON JACKSON-VANIK WAIVER
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 12 (JTA) -- Congress and the Jewish community must assure the Reagan Administration of support if the Administration decides on a one-year waiver of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment because it feels that the Soviet Union will allow "substantial emigration," Sen. Carl Levin (D. Mich.) urged last week.

"If they reach the conclusion that substantial emigration will be sustained," Administration officials must be assured they "will find support, not opposition," Levin told a Capitol Hill luncheon concluding an all-day briefing for the new National Advisory Council of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ).

He stressed that if the Administration is expected to take "political risks" and raise the issue of Soviet Jewry at the highest levels of the Kremlin, then they must be assured of support and not "disunity and discord."

Levin said that neither Secretary of State George Shultz in his meetings in Moscow next week nor President Reagan in his expected forthcoming summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev should be expected to return with a written agreement on Soviet emigration.

He said if they come to the belief that emigration will be increased it will be a "personal conclusion" based on Soviet deeds and words and perhaps even "body language or silence."

Levin said he believed an opportunity may have been lost in 1979, the peak year for Jewish emigration, when the Carter Administration decided against a one-year waiver of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment because it feared the political repercussions.

The Amendment which links U.S. trade credits with increased emigration "is not just a symbol that we care, it is the creation of leverage that we can create something, that we can move something," Levin said.

He said that there were two "pluses" working now for the cause of Soviet Jewry. One is there is "new leadership in the Soviet Union which at least seems to be wanting to do something different," he said. He said the other was the agreement by Western leaders to raise the issue of Soviet Jewry with the Soviet government.

Morris Abram, NCSJ's chairman, agreed with Levin, urging a united Jewish community "without turf battles, without strife." He said the Administration and Congress must be assured that "if they take political risks, they will find resounding support in the Jewish community."

TWO JEWISH GROUPS PROTEST BOLIVIA'S MOVE TO GRANT PLO DIPLOMATIC STATUS

NEW YORK, April 12 (JTA) -- Two international Jewish organizations have lodged strong protests with the Bolivian government for granting diplomatic status to the Palestine Liberation Organization which has had an office in La Paz since 1982.

Israel Singer, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress, and Seymour Reich, international president of B'nai B'rith, expressed shock, concern and disappointment over the move which they saw as a dangerous precedent for other Latin American countries. According to the WJC, the Israel Embassy in La Paz and the local Jewish community have also objected vehemently.

Singer, in a telegram to the Bolivian Ambassador, Fernando Illanes de la Riva, said "Our protest in this regard arises from the nature of the PLO which has not renounced terrorism and whose violent history is all too well known."

Reich said in a statement issued in Washington that "There is little question that this move will be taken by the terrorist organization and its supporters as an endorsement of their extremist and violent activities which they claim to perform in the name of justice." He said B'nai B'rith urges the Bolivian government to reconsider its move.

Singer noted that the WJC has always had respect for Bolivia, particularly since it expelled Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie in 1983. He is now in the hands of the French authorities and awaiting trial.

ANTI-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHOR WARNS AGAINST BREAKING TIES WITH S.A.

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 12 (JTA) -- J. M. Coetzee, the outspoken anti-apartheid South African author, warned here that breaking ties with the Pretoria regime would be counter-productive for countries hoping to use their influence to bring about changes in South Africa.

Coetzee, who was awarded the Jerusalem Prize at the International Book Fair in Jerusalem last Thursday, said at a press conference that he believed that in general, foreign countries should try to influence South African policies while retaining contacts with the country. He said he was not sufficiently informed to comment on Israel's relations with South Africa.

"I think pressure should be exercised, but I think it would be unfortunate if pressure was exercised in such a way that the power and ability of Western countries to exercise pressure were cut off by their own acts," Coetzee said.

"That is to say, if country X were to terminate all relations with South Africa, and that termination were to end the ability of country X to continue to influence affairs in South Africa, it seems to me not a particularly wise procedure," the author explained.

He spoke of the impact of apartheid on white youths and children in his country. "I think it comes to children as a moment of profound shock in their personal psychological development at the instant they realize there are, in fact, two kinds of people in the world," Coetzee said.

Asked why the South African authorities have not censored his vehemently anti-apartheid novels, Coetzee said they probably decided that authors have no political influence.

NJCRAC WELCOME MOVES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID REGIME

NEW YORK, April 12 (JTA) -- The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) welcomed Israel's March 18 declaration that it intends to refrain from entering into new defense contracts with South Africa. "We are further gratified that Israel has announced its intention to continue reducing its ties to South Africa and to consider additional measures," NJCRAC said in a statement.

The national umbrella organization also called upon the seven governments that were identified in a State Department report earlier this month as having circumvented the United Nations arms embargo against South Africa "to immediately begin the process of disengaging from military relations with South Africa." The seven named are France, Italy, Israel, West Germany, Great Britain, The Netherlands and Switzerland.

Noting that NJCRAC has since 1966 condemned apartheid and "the oppression of 14 million non-whites in the Republic of South Africa by a totalitarian government," and has supported the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Acts of 1985 and 1986, the statement added:

"We join with others in the community of conscience to insist that all nations, including those Arab states which provide South Africa with the petroleum which fuels the apartheid regime on a daily basis, act now to press the government of South Africa to abandon the odious policy of apartheid and move quickly toward non-racial democratic government."

ISRAEL LOOKS AHEAD THE REALITY PRINCIPLE

By Murray Zuckoff

(Part Five Of A Five-Part Series)

JERUSALEM, April 12 (JTA) -- Israelis pride themselves on being realists, on understanding the reality principle. But recently the country has suffered from several unexpected developments that have traumatized many Israelis.

The developments -- the Jonathan Pollard spy case, Premier Yitzhak Shamir's urgings that the U.S. end the refugee status of Soviet Jews who are allowed to leave, and the case of John Demjanjuk -- are unrelated. But each one, unfolding at the same time, has combined to induce a level of anxiety in the national psyche by revealing the extent to which Israel remains vulnerable to the forces of history.

Israelis were dismayed at the inept and doltish way in which their government tried to extricate itself from what it insisted was a "rogue operation" by Pollard, without any authorization from the government. Israelis across the political board agreed that Pollard was a "mizkain" (poor soul) who got caught in an illegal operation but deserved some punishment, along with those in Israel who had elicited his help.

But what really upset Israelis was the life sentence Pollard got. Many felt that the punishment didn't fit the crime. After all, they contended, Pollard did not spy for an enemy country and did not pass on any intelligence secrets that could compromise or endanger American national security.

Pollard ostensibly passed on data to Israel dealing with nerve gas in the hands of the Iraqis and Syrians, armed strength of Arab countries, Soviet fleet movements, status of nuclear weapons being built by Pakistan with Saudi, Libyan and other Arab funds, and PLO-planned activities against Israel. This information was allegedly withheld from Israel by U.S. intelligence sources despite the U.S.-Israel Exchange of Intelligence Agreement of 1983.

A Message Rather Than a Deserved Punishment

Israelis felt that Pollard's life sentence was more of a message to Israel than a deserved punishment. Privately, and eventually publicly, Israelis said the message was that Israel should not strive for a level of arms self-sufficiency that would make it relatively independent of American arms supplies and not to undertake any precipitous military actions based on Pollard's intelligence data which might embarrass the U.S. or compromise its interests in the Mideast.

Self-sufficiency in arms production would mean the loss of millions of dollars in sales by U.S. arms-producing industries, Israelis pointed out. They noted, for example, that Israel's success in manufacturing its own Lavi fighter plane prompted the U.S. to pressure Israel to forego further production in favor of buying American fighter planes.

Some Israelis felt that Pollard was caught in a "sting" operation to provide some elements in the Reagan Administration and Congress with a rationale for selling highly sophisticated weapons to Arab countries, a gesture that would not go unappreciated.

Samuel Winston, an international trustee of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, wrote a paper in which he stated: "Consider the facts. State-of-the-art

weapons and ammunition worth \$600 million are currently being offered for sale to Saudi Arabia, including 13 Blackhawk troop transport helicopters, 15 Bell 406 choppers armed for ground attack with machineguns, rockets and anti-tank missiles, and electronic countermeasures (ECM's) to enhance the 170 Saudi F-5s and F-15s. Also, the Administration plans sales of high-penetration, super-hard anti-tank shells from depleted uranium to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan."

Winston noted that Sen. Arlen Specter (R. Pa.) has warned that this ammunition has not been sold previously to any foreign country and could jeopardize the deterrent abilities of Israel.

Dismay Over Shamir's Soviet Jewry Stand

Shamir's request of the Reagan Administration that it end the refugee status of Soviet Jews dismayed Israelis across the political spectrum. It also intensified their ambivalence toward Soviet Jews for immigrating to countries other than Israel once they leave the Soviet Union ("nosh-rim.")

At issue was not simply whether Soviet Jews had a right to determine where they wanted to live after leaving the USSR, but that an Israeli leader should appeal to a "goyish" government to impede the free movement of Jews who had suffered for their wish to leave.

It appeared to Israelis that Shamir was acting in the manner of the "shtadlanim" (court Jews) in Europe before World War II. They viewed it as offensive for a Prime Minister of Israel to ask the American government to direct and enforce the movement of Jews who did not find Israel an attractive place to go to.

Eliahu Salpeter, writing in Haaretz, stated that the problem of Soviet dropouts is "first and foremost an Israeli, and not an American one. The problem is not that many Russian Jews want to emigrate to America The problem is that today only a tiny fraction want to come to Israel. That is our failure"

Salpeter continued by asserting, "It is simply inconceivable that aliya to Israel should be posed as a matter of compulsion or punishment. Israel is not a prison, and it would be better if we stop abasing ourselves with exercises that only go to show that Jews are not coming to Israel of their own free will, but must be forced to do so."

Louis Rapoport, writing in The Jerusalem Post, noted that Shamir's position and those who agree with him is that primary importance is being given to the destination of Soviet Jews and not to getting them out. But many Israelis also observed that because the dropout rate is so high, Israel should not become a "travel agency" for Soviet Jews who only want to go to another diaspora in the U.S.

Strange Alliance In The Knesset

A strange alliance coalesced in the Knesset over the issue. Both Mapam's Elazar Granot and Shas' Shimon Ben-Shlomo claimed that Shamir's position endangered the emigration of Soviet Jews. The Israel government was not the government of the entire Jewish people and had no right to determine the fate of those Jews who were not Israeli citizens, both argued. "Don't we have an obligation to help all Jews in trouble?" Ben-Shlomo asked.

But Avner Sciaki of the National Religious Party expressed a view widely held in the Knesset, that help was due first and foremost -- and perhaps exclusively -- to Zionist Jews who wanted

to settle in Israel. Other considerations emerged in the national debate on this issue. How many Soviet Jews can Israel realistically be expected to absorb, given the precarious economic situation of the country? Where will they be settled? Can the national budget be restructured to meet a massive influx without debilitating other national needs and goals? These same issues have also confronted the recent Ethiopian Jewish immigrants, many of whom are still awaiting answers and who in the meantime have become resentful and frustrated with the government's stonewalling.

Impact Of Demjanjuk Trial

The Demjanjuk trial opened many old wounds among Israelis who suffered through the Holocaust and opened the eyes of many other Israelis--post-war sabras and Jews from North Africa and Asia -- who had only heard about or read about the Holocaust.

During the first few days of the trial in Jerusalem, few people came to the small courtroom in Jerusalem. The initial reaction was one of general indifference. And there were questions in the minds of many Israelis: how can we be certain that Demjanjuk is really the sadistic "Ivan the Terrible?" What if he isn't and we've put the wrong man on trial? What effect would it have in ferreting out Nazis who are still alive?

But a week after the trial began, ever more Israelis -- young and old, Holocaust survivors, sabras and Sephardim -- began to attend the proceedings. To accommodate the increasing numbers, swelled by reports in the press, radio and TV, the venue had to be moved to larger quarters.

The appearance of young sabras and North African and Asian Jews at the trial added a new dimension to the proceedings. Sabras had in the past tended to feel that European Jews had not fought the Nazis with the same kind of zeal and determination they themselves displayed against the enemies of Israel. And North African and Asian Jews were only in the recent past engaged in daubing anti-Ashkenazi and Nazi-like slogans on public buildings in Jerusalem.

The evidence presented at the trial by people who said they were victimized by Demjanjuk, their stark testimony of the wanton, savage and pathological cruelty not only of one man but of an entire system of destruction seared the hearts and minds of Israelis.

The reality of barbarism was no longer just in textbooks, in history lessons, on the arms of former concentration camp inmates, in words and phrases of parents or grandparents. The enormity of the crime and the tragedy that had in the past defied words was now nakedly present.

It united -- and frightened -- Israelis by driving home the meaning of total vulnerability and helplessness, of total aloneness in the face of a relentless behemoth. And it reminded Israelis that the world did little to help the victims at a time when help was desperately needed. And Israelis wondered: could this happen again, and to them?

Anxiety Over Yerida

Meanwhile, another source of anxiety over the vulnerability of Israel was that of "yerida" (emigration from Israel). Although this has been going on for many years, this phenomenon became aggravated by the large number of Soviet Jews who were dropping out. Each evoked the same question in the minds of many Israelis: what's

wrong with our country that so many are leaving and many others are avoiding it?

Many Israelis concede that yerida is a painful phenomenon but say they don't know how to stem the tide. Various reasons are offered for the continuing emigration: not enough housing for young couples, not enough opportunities, the attraction of the U.S. as a land of opportunity, anxiety about Israel's besieged condition, military service that disrupts lives and businesses, inflation, terrorism, loss of objectives, and the loss of Zionist consciousness.

Most Israelis who discuss this problem tend to focus on the fact that the idealistic dreams and pioneering spirit that motivated the early "chalutzim" (pioneers) to come to Palestine are gone. The "dor hamidbar" (desert generation) is no more. Many blame the established political parties for having failed to imbue a Zionist consciousness in the minds of the new generation.

For many Israelis, Zionism was an organizing principle to mobilize Jews to come to Palestine to build a State, but no longer necessary to maintain it. Pragmatism has replaced Zionism as the ideology of Israel. The contributions of the early pioneers and ideologists have been neglected or relegated to the dustbin of history, or have become nothing more than slogans, shibboleths trotted out for appropriate commemorations and debates.

Talk of Zionist ideology is usually greeted by younger Israelis with the derisive expression of "tzionut" (signifying sermonizing). When Andy Warhol, the American pop artist and iconoclast, died in February, a group of Israelis sat in a cafe in Jerusalem and bemoaned his passing. Told that the veteran Socialist Zionist pioneer and one of the founders of the State of Israel, Meir Yaari, had also just died, there was silence and blank stares.

In the country that was founded on the principles of Zionism, the language of Zionism is now seldom understood or spoken.

2 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED, 2 WOUNDED IN AN AMBUSH IN SOUTH LEBANON

TEL AVIV, April 12 (JTA) -- Two Israeli soldiers were killed and two were wounded slightly in an ambush in the south Lebanon security zone Friday. The dead, Cpl. Ilan Haziza of Raanana and Sgt. Ronen Ayalon of Kiryat Motzkin, both 20, were buried Sunday at cemeteries near their homes.

According to a military spokesman, the ambush occurred near Kantara village about eight kilometers from the Israel border and was carried out by a squad of Hezbollah, the extremist Shiite group. They opened fire on an Israel Defense Force patrol with machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades.

The Israeli unit returned the fire and is believed to have caused casualties though no bodies were found in the vicinity. Reports from Lebanon said the attack was followed by extensive Israeli air bombardment, artillery and tank fire which killed several villagers. IDF attack helicopters strafed villages in the area all day Saturday, the Lebanese reports said.

CORRECTION

The Daily News Bulletin dated Friday, April 10 should have been No. 69, not 66.

**SLEPAK ENDS HIS 17-DAY FAST WITH
APPEAL 'DO NOT FORGET OUR FIGHT'**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- "Do not forget our fight, that is the message to all no matter what is your religion."

This was the appeal made by Alexander Slepak Sunday as he ended a 17-day fast on the steps of the Capitol in support of the struggle of his parents, Vladimir and Maria Slepak, and other Jews to leave the Soviet Union.

Slepak ended his fast at a ceremony on the Capitol steps, one day before the 17th anniversary of his parents' application to emigrate from the USSR. He lost 20 pounds during the fast.

More than 100 persons attended the ceremony and heard similar appeals from Elie Wiesel, the writer and Nobel Peace Laureate; Jeanne Kirkpatrick, former United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union; and representatives of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, and the U.S. Committee to Free Vladimir Slepak.

They stood behind a banner which quoted Vladimir Slepak as saying: "If you turn your eyes from us, even for a moment, we will cease to exist."

Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, stressed that "nothing is so terrifying to a prisoner or to an exiled person than to feel that no one cares."

"We Want Deeds And Not The Words"

Slepak, a 35-year-old medical student at Temple University, Philadelphia, said that "with all my heart I want to believe" in Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's promises of democratization and "glasnost" (openness). But, "we want the deeds and not the words," he declared.

He noted that his father, who had also fasted in front of the Soviet Presidium in Moscow, was attacked by Soviet police Saturday and told he was under house arrest and would be beaten and arrested if he tried to leave his apartment. But on Sunday, he was allowed to leave the apartment.

The elder Slepaks are scheduled to attend a seder at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow Monday night where they are expected to meet with Secretary of State George Shultz. The Secretary visited briefly with Alexander Slepak last week and took pictures of his two children to show the Slepaks who have never seen their grandchildren.

Kirkpatrick said that "We would be concerned with the Slepaks if they were the only Soviet citizens denied their rights . . . They are not unique."

She said glasnost "has still not altered the plight of the Jewish community" which is denied Jewish schools and Jewish history books and the right to freely practice its religion. She said the Soviet Union still imprisons Hebrew teachers, attacks Zionism and continues to lead the effort in international forums to brand Zionism as racism.

"If it (the Soviet Union) uses its great force against its own citizens . . . how can we possibly expect that it will not use that force against any people, any country that is weaker

than it," she said. She added that no one who is "concerned" about peace and arms control cannot be concerned about the Soviet violations of human rights.

Openness Contradicted By Restrictions

Micah Naftalin, executive director of the UCSJ, also noted that "a nation that makes war on its innocent citizens, a nation that cannot keep its solemn international agreements even in human rights, can hardly be trusted to keep any other kind of agreement. So it is a measure of how fearful our own society can become when we hear expressions of hope and relief based only on soothing Soviet propaganda and the release of a handful of our enslaved brethren."

He stressed that while there is talk of openness, "restrictions on the right to emigrate are ominously being expanded."

Wiesel asked if the Slepaks are being denied exit visas because they were among the first to seek emigration and now the Soviets demand "they should be the last."

Slepak said his parents have suffered enough, noting that they were 43 when they first applied and are now 60 years old.

Mark Levin, the NCSJ's Washington representative, said this is "not an end, not a beginning, but a continuation" of the struggle for the Slepaks and other Soviet Jews. He expressed the hope that the traditional ending of the seder, "Next year in Jerusalem" will mean for Soviet Jews "This year in Jerusalem."

The event on the Capitol steps Sundays was led by Nathan Levinthal of the Committee to Free Slepak, which presented Shultz last week with a petition signed by some 10,000 persons urging him to make a personal appeal for the Slepaks to Gorbachev. Shultz has promised to do so as well as for other Soviet Jews, including those suffering from cancer who want to be reunited with their families.

In addition to his meeting with Shultz, he also met with House Speaker Jim Wright (D. Texas), who is leading a Congressional delegation to the Soviet Union this week.

**PROFOUND CHANGE SEEN IN
GREECE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL**
By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, April 13 (JTA) -- The 100th anniversary of the birth of David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, was celebrated here last week at the City Hall. The prominence of those attending, no less than the rank and position of the organizers of the centennial event, reflected a profound change in the attitude of Greece toward Israel, a country with which it still does not have full diplomatic relations.

The 500 guests included representatives of the government and Parliament, the Greek Orthodox Church and the foreign diplomatic corps. The government was officially represented on the occasion by the Minister of Culture, the world famous film actress Melina Mercouri, who, diplomatic observers noted, has "come a long way" since she embraced Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat in the Athens Stadium in

1982. The Socialist-led government too has come a long way. Part of the ceremony was broadcast by Greek Television, which could not have been done without the express approval of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

The entire event was under the auspices of Athens Mayor Miltiades Evert whose father, as chief of police during the Nazi occupation of Greece, saved the lives of many Jews by issuing them false identification papers. The committee which arranged the centennial celebration was headed by a former President of Greece, Konstantinos Tsatsos. Its chairman was the Deputy Mayor of Athens, Zachos Xadjifotiou.

The keynote speaker was Angelos Vlahos, a retired diplomat, now a professor at the University of Athens, who served for two years as Greek diplomatic representative in Israel. He shared the platform with Israel's diplomatic representative here, Moshe Gilboa, who holds the rank of Ambassador.

BACKGROUND REPORT SOUTH AFRICA REACTS MORE IN SORROW THAN ANGER TO ISRAEL DECISION TO CURTAIL RELATIONS WITH S.A. REGIME

JOHANNESBURG, April 13 (JTA) -- Israel's decision last month to curtail its relations with South Africa, including a halt to new military contracts, was greeted more in sorrow than anger here. Strong resentment was expressed against the United States which President P.W. Botha accused of "bullying" Israel into reducing ties with South Africa.

Editorial comment was generally along those lines. Understanding was expressed for Israel's dependence on the United States for economic and military aid and even sympathy for its being in such an equivocal position.

Anti-Semitic backlash, most of it from anonymous quarters, was reported in the daily press. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies issued a careful statement, noting that Israel "takes decisions having regard to the necessity to protect its own sovereign national interests . . . In this regard it is noted that Israel has been subjected to significant pressures from the United States."

The statement went on to reaffirm the Board of Deputies' opposition to "sanctions and disinvestment on the ground that it undermines the ability to create conditions in which steps can be taken toward the achievement of an apartheid free and just society . . ."

Differing Views By Parliamentarians

Harry Schwarz, a Jewish member of Parliament for the opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP) sent telegrams to Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel stating that he could understand the pressures being brought to bear, but that as a country itself subject to sanctions and boycotts it should appreciate that such measures were often counter-productive.

Another Jewish parliamentarian of the PFP, Helen Suzman, an outspoken foe of apartheid, told a Jewish women's meeting here -- reported in the press -- that Israel had to make up its own mind in its own interest. "It is unlikely the position of Jews in South Africa would affect the mind of the Israeli government" in this matter, she said.

The newspaper, The Star, commented on March 20, two days after the Israeli decision was

announced, that "the news that Israel is being coerced into the 'enemy' camp will be greeted more in sorrow than anger in South Africa where the realities of strong-arm international politics have been well understood of late."

The paper cited Israel's need to win back friends in Black Africa and for support at the United Nations on Palestinian issues. "Even the stoutest friends have felt compelled to condemn apartheid. When the chips are down they are being asked to stand up and be counted -- or suffer the consequences," The Star said.

Die Vaderland of the same date stated editorially, "We notice with disappointment but also with understanding that Israel had to succumb to American pressure and side with the sanctions campaign . . . There is also understanding that Jerusalem didn't want to sour its relationship with Washington any more after the Pollard spy incident."

Israel's Plight Is Not Envable

The Sunday Times observed that "The plight of Israel is not enviable. Unlike South Africa it is not a repository of vast mineral wealth: it is a poor country which relies heavily on the wit of its people, the quality of its industry and the generosity of its benefactors -- primarily the United States. A decision to support sanctions was thus inevitable."

The effects of Israel's decision on the South African Jewish community was examined by Patrick Laurence writing in the Weekly Mail for March 20-26. He found South African Jews to be in "an awkward situation" caught between Pretoria and Jerusalem. According to the writer, "Anti-Semitism per se is no longer part of mainstream Afrikaner thinking. But when Israel adopts a belligerent stance to South Africa, hostility towards Jews can surface."

Business Day reported that "Swastikas have been drawn on mail from SA to Israel and the Israeli Embassy in Pretoria has received telephone threats after Israel's decision to impose limited sanctions. The Nazi symbols were drawn on several air mail packages mailed via Israel's El Al airlines to private individuals . . . Telephone callers have cursed, shouted anti-Israel slogans and made threats to the Embassy in Pretoria for the past few days . . ."

Die Afrikaner reminded Israel on March 25 that "the Jewish community in South Africa is one of their largest benefactors" and that the South African government, during the 1973 Yom Kippur War "allowed hundreds of thousands of Rands to leave this country freely (for Israel) and that this still continues."

President Botha, in a speech in Lichtenburg, reported in The Citizen on March 26, also indicated that billions of Rands in aid for Israel had been at stake when it made its decision. For the U.S. to apply pressure of this kind against Israel was nothing less than "bullying," Botha was quoted as saying.

The newspaper Beeld said, "In the past the power of the Jewish vote in America was able to prevent pressure being brought to bear on Israel. These days American Jews like all other Americans are being caught up with great success against us. Luckily we as well as Israel already have well developed arms industries. A termination of military cooperation should therefore not be crippling to anyone. Cooperation in other areas will hopefully still continue." S.E.D. Brown, a rightwing extremist known for his anti-Semitic

views, wrote in the March 1987 issue of the South African Observer that "Thanks to Mr. P. W. Botha and his radical leftist revolutionaries, South Africa today is firmly on the road to the kind of 'nonracial democracy' for which every liberal, communist, Zionist and international financier has assiduously been working since the end of World War II . . . South Africans have yet to learn, and learn fast, firstly that Zionism is racism pure and simple and secondly, that wherever Western man happens to be he is in a racial war . . . with the forces of world Zionism, which teach not only their own 'racial superiority' but whose aim is control and dominion over all other races of mankind."

CROWN HEIGHTS TENSIONS MOUNTING; POLICE TRYING TO KEEP SITUATION COOL

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) -- Police in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn "are doing their utmost to ensure that it will be a comfortable, peaceful summer" following tensions which have been heightened there in recent weeks over incidents between Blacks and Hasidim, according to a police spokesman who spoke to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency following a march Saturday by Black protesters through the Crown Heights neighborhood.

Problems in Crown Heights reached a crescendo because of a firebombing February 26 of a Black woman's house in the neighborhood, in which a witness claimed to have seen two white men dressed in what looked like Hasidic garb fleeing the scene. The woman whose home was firebombed claimed to have heard them say, "Burn, burn, burn," before allegedly vanishing into the dormitory of a nearby yeshiva.

Police, the spokesman said, are being educated there on the "ethnic awareness of both groups," and there is constant communication between the police community affairs department and community clergy and political leaders of Crown Heights, he said.

The local clergy informed their congregants not to participate in Saturday's march, the spokesman said. The local Hasidic leaders cooperated with the police in ensuring that the masses of Hasidim would not be lined up along the route of the demonstration.

The police were notified of plans for the march over two weeks ago at a church meeting called by a local Black political figure, according to the police spokesman.

Media Reports Rebutted

Jewish spokesmen in the Brooklyn neighborhood that is home to the world headquarters of the Chabad Lubavitch movement rebutted on Sunday recent media accounts of ethnic tensions in their community, which focused on a march on Saturday afternoon of Blacks through the streets of the ethnically mixed neighborhood.

Although the number of protesters in Saturday's march was estimated to be between 400-500, police said the number varied between 200 and 500 depending on the time of the march. One police spokesman said it was difficult to give an exact number of those joining the protesters, as it kept changing as the marchers swung to different streets and passersby or residents of the houses along the route joined them or left.

The spokesman in the police community affairs department said there is definitely tension

in the area on both sides, adding that "the complaints that we get in the police department are exactly the same from both sides of the fence."

Crown Heights is a racially, ethnically mixed neighborhood where it is estimated that presently about only 10 percent of the neighborhood is Jewish. The Lubavitcher Hasidim have lived in the neighborhood since the early 1940's, when the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, came there from Europe.

There are also small numbers of other Hasidic groups living in the neighborhood, although the Chabad Lubavitch Hasidim outnumber them in the Jewish community.

Some 2,000 helmeted New York officers lined the route and a police helicopter hovered slowly above, as the demonstrators staged a noisy but peaceful march Saturday in response to what they claim is police bias toward the Jewish community.

Charges And Counter-Charges

Chanting "No Justice, No Peace!" the demonstrators drew attention to a private security patrol run by the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, as well as to the firebombing, but enlarged their claims to embrace a host of issues in the torn Brooklyn community. Among the placards carried was a banner saying "We Lost, We Lost, We Lost," referring to the deaths of several Black and Hispanic individuals killed in what they claim are incidents of police aggression.

The Jewish community, on the other hand, has protested the deaths of two Hasidim in what appears to have been ethnically-motivated incidents.

Black anger has been directed at the private security force run by the Lubavitch community, which Blacks claim is a vigilante group. It is composed of only Hasidic members, "Lubavitch-paid, not trained by police, and perform to the best of their ability, sometimes crossing over what might be called the valid legalities," the police spokesman said.

"They've made arrests, held people at times," the spokesman said, adding that "some have been valid, some have been inappropriate. In this precinct, we have an organized civilian patrol through the police department. We've urged the Hasidic patrol to sign up with the police department and patrol their own area. They'd have radio contact with the police. A handful has signed up with the police," he said, "but the majority are independent. They communicate within their own group, telling a resident to call police emergency when necessary. Nobody admits to being armed."

The march, occurring on Shabbat, stopped briefly at the 770 Eastern Parkway Lubavitch headquarters, where the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, celebrating his 85th birthday, was addressing a crowd reported to number 10,000. The demonstrators were kept a block away from the building. No incidents or arrests were reported.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Thirty-one immigrants from the Soviet Union arrived in Israel late Sunday night, aboard a specially-chartered Austrian Airlines plane hired by the Jewish Agency to bring them here in time to celebrate the Passover seder with relatives and friends. The newcomers, from Moscow, Leningrad and Kharkov, included two long-term refuseniks -- Daniel Fradkin and Anatoly Chechik.

LIBYAN JEWS TO SEEK INDEMNIFICATION OF PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY PROPERTY

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) -- The first international convention of Jews from Libya will be held in Manhattan June 6-7, it was announced here Thursday.

Raffaello Fella, founder and president of the Association of Jews from Libya, said in a press conference at the American Jewish Committee (AJC) that the convention is timed to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the forced departure of the Libyan Jewish community in the wake of the 1967 Six-Day War. Almost the entire Libyan Jewish community of 4,500 was forced to leave, including Fella, a businessman who now resides in Italy.

During the conference, to be held at the Shearith Israel (Spanish-Portuguese) Synagogue on Central Park West, legal experts will seek ways to address Libyan Jewish personal and communal property claims against Libya.

Fella explained that in 1970, Col. Muammar Qaddafi's revolutionary regime nationalized the property of Jews who had left Libya indefinitely, promising indemnification in 15 years. In 1985, when payment became due, the Libyan leader failed to fulfill his promise, Fella charged.

Noting that since the establishment of Israel in 1948 and following pogroms with the outbreak of any new Mideast war, about 40,000 Libyan Jews left, most of them to Israel. Fella estimated that the total claims of Libyan Jews against the Libyan governments are "some billions of dollars."

Other events at the up-coming conference, Fella said, include the premier of a documentary film on the Jews of Libya, an exhibition of photographs of Libyan Jewry and religious objects from the Beth El Synagogue in Tripoli and a history symposium relating to the Jews of Libya.

According to Fella, whose father was murdered in a 1945 pogrom in Tripoli, only "five-and-a-half Jews" are presently living in Libya. The half, he explained, is a result of a mixed marriage between an Arab and a Jew.

The convention, scheduled to be attended by hundreds of Libyan Jews from Israel, Italy and the United States, is jointly sponsored by the Association of Jews from Libya, the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

MAX ETRA DEAD AT 83

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) -- Funeral services for Max Etra, noted attorney and communal leader who served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University for nearly a quarter of a century during the institution's greatest period of growth and development, were held Thursday at congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in Manhattan.

Etra, who served as president of the congregation for 29 years, was found dead in his home Wednesday morning. He was 83 years old.

Senior partner in the New York City law firm of Etra and Etra, Max Etra served as chairman of the university's board from 1953 to 1977 and was then named chairman emeritus of the Board of Trustees. Etra, who was a benefactor of

the university, was honored on March 25 by the undergraduates of the institution at a special centennial celebration. In addition to his chairmanship of the Board of Trustees, Etra served as a member of all of the university's affiliated Boards, including the Board of Trustees of the University's affiliated Rabbi Elchanan Theological Seminary, the Board of Directors of the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, and the Board of Governors of the Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

Prominently identified with leading local and national religious, educational, health, and welfare organizations, Etra received many honors and tributes.

He was honored by the Rabbinical Council of America, the United Jewish Appeal-Federation, and the Jewish Welfare Board. He received the Shofar Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

Etra was honorary president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, vice president of Beth Israel Hospital in New York, a founder of the Ramaz School and chairman of the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee, and a member of the American Jewish Historical Society.

Etra was born in Rymanov, Poland, the son of Aaron and Sarah (Goldman) Etra. He was brought to the United States at the age of four. He graduated from City College of New York in 1924, and earned his law degree from Fordham University Law School in 1928.

JWV SENDS RUSSIAN-HEBREW HAGGADOT TO NINE SOVIET JEWISH REFUSENIKS

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- The Jewish War Veterans of the United States has mailed Russian-Hebrew Haggadot to nine Soviet Jewish refuseniks who are veterans of World War II.

At a press conference on the steps of the Capitol this week, Edwin Goldwasser, the JWV's national commander, appealed to the Soviet government to allow delivery of the Haggadot in keeping with recent promises to allow dissemination of religious material.

Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R. NY) read an appeal to Soviet authorities, which noted that it was sending them one of the Haggadot. "We hope that reading it will assist you in understanding the great desire of Soviet Jews to practice their religious heritage and be repatriated to their historic homeland, Israel."

The refuseniks who were sent Haggadot are: Lev Ovsischer, Naum Rabinovitch, Benjamin Lifshitz, Arkady May, Leonid Menes, Solomon Inditsky, Semyon Yantovsky, Lev Elbert and Mark Belenkov.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- East European publishers, participating for the first time, attracted the most attention at the 13th International Book Fair here last week. They are among more than 1,000 publishers from 40 countries displaying over 100,000 books on all subjects.

Crowds gravitated to the Polish stand where 300 books on display included many works of Judaica. Some dealt with the destruction of Polish Jewry in the Holocaust. Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia are also well represented at the book fair.